

(No. 112.)



1878.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

OUTBREAK OF SCAB:

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SHEEP.

Return to an Order of the House. (Mr. Pillinger.)

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, October 18, 1878; and ordered
by the House to be printed, December 20, 1878.



RETURN to an Order of the House of Assembly, on the Motion of MR. PILLINGER.

THE Order is as follows:—

“*Ordered*, That the Chief Inspector of Sheep be instructed to furnish to this House a Report of all Proceedings taken by the Scab Department in connection with the recent outbreak of Scab in the flocks of Mr. W. Kermode and Mr. T. Savage, together with an account of all Fees, Fines, and Charges inflicted in each case, and the loss of sheep sustained by each owner during the dipping operations carried on by the Officers of the Scab Department.”

The terms of the above Order assume that a recent outbreak of Scab took place in sheep owned by Mr. Kermode.

The assumption is not borne out by facts, as my letter of the 18th July last, addressed to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, and forming part of a Paper, No. 49, ordered to be printed by the Legislative Council, sufficiently shows.

There was no outbreak of Scab in Mr. Kermode's sheep; but an infected sheep of Mr. Thomas Savage's having got into Mr. W. Kermode's flock at Interlaken, it became necessary, as a measure of precaution, to dip the flock; and the appended Return from the Council Clerk of the Ross Municipality discloses that, on the 9th July last, the Ross Bench awarded Mr. W. Kermode £100 for damage done to his sheep, and £22 4s. for the cost of dipping the said sheep.

I think it is to be regretted that Mr. Pillinger, when framing this Notice of Motion, did not specifically state the locality where it is alleged a flock of Mr. Kermode's had recently broken out with Scab.

The Order of the House of Assembly will very probably be referred to in newspapers all over Australia and New Zealand; and any reader may assume the alleged outbreak took place at Mona Vale, where Mr. W. Kermode's stud flock is depastured,—thus tending to inflict upon that gentleman very serious pecuniary loss.

In making these observations, I desire to do so with the greatest respect to the House of Assembly; a body which I feel assured would not intentionally make any Order calculated to inflict a serious pecuniary loss on a private person utterly without any means of defence.

It will be seen from Mr. C. G. Wood's letter, and return of deaths, that about 130 of Mr. Thomas Savage's sheep were found dead after dipping. But it must also be observed that Mr. Wood is of opinion that the whole of the loss was not attributable to dipping, but to poverty, severity of weather, and want of food.

The run of Mr. T. Savage's, called “Jinks' Look-out,” referred to in the appended Return, adjoins “Bell's Run,” with only the River Clyde between, which is not a fence.

The flock on this run, also the property of Mr. T. Savage, was found to be infected some time after the prosecution at Ross.

An appended Return from the Council Clerk at Bothwell shows that Mr. Savage was prosecuted and fined, with costs, £93 18s. 6d.

In addition to the Return furnished by the Bench Clerk of Ross, there is a further sum of £63 which Mr. Savage will have to pay for the cost of cleansing the flock at “Bell's Run.” This amount has not yet been paid, to my knowledge.

The amount adjudged against Mr. Savage by the Bothwell Bench he has been allowed until the 31st December to pay.

I have no return of any sheep of Mr. Kermode's that died after dipping; but have reason to believe that, as they were strong sheep, very few actually died from the effect of dipping.

JAMES WHYTE, *Chief Inspector of Sheep.*

16th October, 1878.

Launceston, 12th October, 1878.

SIR,

I DIPPED 1460 sheep from "Bell's Run" the first time, and 1412 the second time,—leaving 58 short, of which I found 33 dead; and, as I never found any more, I put the 58 down as dead: that was up to the 16th June. From that date to 18th September we found 30 more dead,—making 88: some I found myself, others I had to take Mr. Savage's and the shepherd's word for. On the 18th September we gathered the sheep for Mr. Savage to take his ewes away. We mustered 1267; and, as we only went over the run once, we could not expect to get all the sheep, as they were very poor and the ewes very heavy in lamb. We found that day seven ewes dead, that had got in a ditch and could not get out, being so poor.

The young sheep on "Jinks' Look-out," first time of dipping 1544, the second time 1530,—leaving 14 short up to 12th August. On 24th September I got in 1482 for Mr. Wilson to look at,—leaving 62 short of the first dipping. We only found 15 dead ones; but, as it is impossible to find all, I put them down at 30; and I think that is in excess of the deaths. I think that the severe frosts and snows had more to do with the deaths than the dipping; and, from what I have heard, several sheep-owners further up the lakes have had heavier losses, who have not had their sheep dipped. In fact, Mr. Savage's ewes at the Soldier's Marshes were dying off very fast when I left the lakes, for want of grass.

It is impossible to give a certain return of deaths, for the runs are so large and rough that you cannot find all that die, so I have sent a Return as near as I can get it.

Deaths—100 Ewes, Lambs, and Rams on "Bell's."
30 young Sheep on "Jinks' Look-out."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Hon. JAMES WHYTE.

C. G. WOOD.

RETURN of Deaths of Mr. Savage's Sheep at the Lakes, from 4th June to 24th September, 1878.

	DEATHS.
1460 Ewes, Lambs, and Rams	100
1544 young Sheep	30
	130
	130

C. G. WOOD. (*In charge.*)

MEMO. of Fines, Awards, and Costs in Cases "TABART v. SAVAGE," under "The Scab Act," heard and determined before a Bench of Justices at Ross, 9th July, 1878.

(To be paid by the Defendant.)

	FIRST CASE.	SECOND CASE.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fines	10 0 0	* 31 5 0
Awarded to Mr. Kermode	100 0 0	
To Mr. Kermode, Expenses of dipping, &c.....	22 4 0	
Witnesses' Expenses.....	1 10 0	1 1 0
Court Fees	1 0 6	0 10 6
		32 16 6
		134 14 6
TOTAL	£167 11 0

* Being 6d. per head on 1250 Sheep.

In addition to above, for issuing Distress Warrant in each case, 2s. 6d.; Bailiff Fee, 7s. 6d.... £ s. d.
0 10 0

W. E. WARNER, *Council Clerk, Municipality of Ross.*

12th October, 1878.

MEMO.—There is a further sum of £63 to be paid by Mr. Savage, under Section 2, Scab Act, 1877, for expenses incurred in cleansing his flock at "Bell's Run."

JAMES WHYTE.

*RETURN of Costs in the Case of "WILSON v. T. H. SAVAGE," under "The Scab Act, 1877,"
tried at Bothwell Police Office, on 21st September, 1878.*

	£	s.	d.
Complaint and Summonses, Principal and Witness	0	8	6
Inspector Wilson's personal Expenses in attending Court	5	0	0
Expenses awarded in seizing, removing, and cleansing Sheep.....	13	10	0
Fine of 1s. per head on 1500 Sheep	75	0	0
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	£93	18	6
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M. ROBINSON, *Council Clerk.*

THE Bench at Bothwell gave Mr. Savage until the 31st December next to pay the Fines.

JAMES WHYTE.
16. 10. 78.