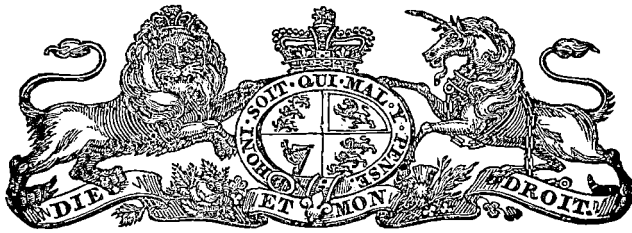


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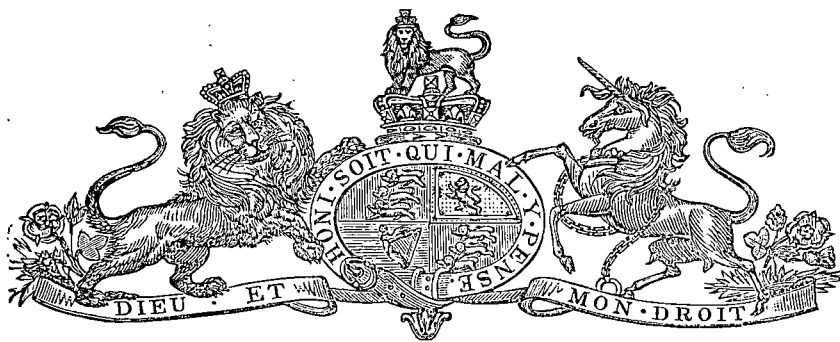
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CALIFORNIAN THISTLE ACT:

REPORT FOR 1888-89.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



CALIFORNIAN THISTLE ACT.

REPORT BY CHIEF INSPECTOR.

Office of Inspector of Sheep, 30th June, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish my Report upon the working of The Californian Thistle Act for the season 1888 and 1889.

Since furnishing my Report of last year, little good has been effected so far as applies to the extermination of this noxious weed. Californian thistles will continue to extend so long as the law remains as at present framed, and does not compel eradication.

The Inspectors unanimously report a small but steady increase in the area of thistles; not that this has been by the agency of the seed, but from the fact that patches of thistles are constantly being ploughed and harrowed through by tenant farmers, who have no interest in destroying the pest, but who cultivate every available acre, whether thistle land or otherwise, so as to harvest as much produce as possible. By this means agricultural farms troubled with the pest are annually decreasing in value to the owner.

Owing to the past unusually dry season, the difficulty experienced in keeping the thistles from blossoming has not been so great as in a wet year. From this fact few prosecutions have occupied the attention of the Magistrates at the different Police Courts.

In several districts attempts are being made to eradicate the Californian thistle. In Glenorchy alone seven holders are treating one hundred and three acres of infested land for its total extermination. The Inspector for this district cannot at this early date express a decided opinion as to the complete success in one season of the efforts being made; but it shows clearly that industrious and far-seeing agriculturists are alive to the benefit they will ultimately derive by extermination of the weed, to say nothing of immunity from annoyance caused by Inspectors' examinations at inopportune times.

The following particulars show the estimated area of Californian Thistles in Tasmania, as furnished by the Inspectors, also the infested districts:—

District.	Properties, 1888-9.	Area, 1888-9.	
		Acres.	Rods.
Westbury.....	3	3	13
Oatlands.....	14	9	14
Glamorgan.....	6	1	8
Spring Bay.....	2	0	87
Sorell.....	55	33	79
New Norfolk.....	44	172	3
Brighton.....	99	523	151
Clarence.....	44	939	120
Glenorchy.....	72	392	2
New Town and Queenborough.....	64	6	0
Richmond.....	69	56	62
Green Ponds.....	11	11	15
Bothwell.....	11	25	94
Hamilton.....	2	1	0
Deloraine.....	3	0	122
Port Sorell.....	3	5	83
Huon.....	53	157	108
Selby.....	1	0	20
Kingborough.....	8	0	3
George Town.....	1	0	5
TOTAL.....	566	2339	29

In my Report to the Government for the year 1886-7 I suggested that the present Californian Thistle Act should be amended; and I again beg to draw the attention of the Government to those suggestions, which are as follows:—

MEMO. proposed Amendments in "Californian Thistle Act," 47 Vict. No. 17.

I BEG to suggest that clauses be inserted with the view to exterminate the Californian Thistle. The following is an outline of the proposal; viz.—

An owner or occupier shall have issued to him an order or licence to destroy all thistles upon his property within two seasons, without payment of any fees.

The order or licence to date from 1st September, and end on 31st May following.

Failing to destroy the thistles within the required time,—viz., two years,—an order or licence shall be issued for one season at the following rates:—

	s.	d.
For patches (on any one farm) up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre	14	0
" " " from $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre and not to exceed 1 acre	10	0
" " " from 1 acre and not to exceed 5, per acre.....	6	0
" " " from 5 acres and upwards, per acre	3	0

The destruction not being then attained, a renewed order or licence shall be issued for one more season, at the same rates as those named above. If a further renewal is required the rate shall be increased as under:—

	£	s.	d.
For patches (on any one farm) up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre	1	1	0
" " " from $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre and not to exceed 1 acre ...	0	15	0
" " " from 1 acre and not to exceed 5, per acre.....	0	7	6
" " " from 5 acres and upwards, per acre	0	3	9

Renewals of order or licence will be issued for one more season at the above rates.

If a further renewal is required, the above rates be increased 50 per cent. for the two first-named areas, and 25 per cent. for the two last named—and so to be increased every two seasons. Seeing the great benefit that owners of infested properties would derive from the extermination of the Californian Thistle by increased value of the land and rents, I submit that the owners of such properties shall contribute $\frac{2}{3}$ of the cost of exterminating the thistles, and the tenant $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost, and that the same proportion be paid by owner and tenant for licence fee.

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.