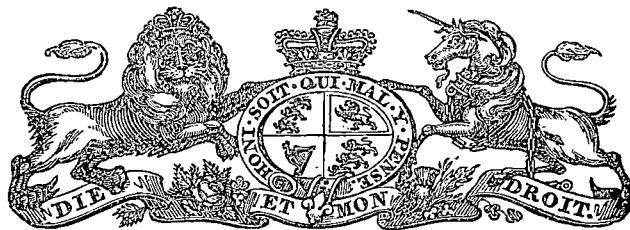


(No. 134.)



1886.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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MARIA ISLAND:

PRODUCTION OF WINE AND PROGRESS OF SERICULTURE:  
RETURNS.

*Return to Order, Legislative Council, October 5, 1886. (Mr. Crosby.)*

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Laid upon the Table by Dr. Agnew, and ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, October 14, 1886.



*RETURN furnishing Particulars as to production of Wine and Progress of Sericulture on Maria Island, also the Number of Cattle and Sheep depasturing on the Island.*

### 1. VINES.

Number of Vines planted to 1st October, 1886—		Ages.
13,000	Cabernet Sauvignon.....	4 years.
4000	{ Golden Chasselas } .....	4 „
	{ White Hermitage } .....	
	{ Black Hamburg } .....	
3000	{ Muscatel } .....	3 „
	{ Reissling } .....	
30,000	{ Chasselas } .....	1 „
	{ Tokay } .....	
	{ White Hermitage } .....	
	{ Burgundy } .....	
	{ Sauvignon } .....	
<hr/> <u>50,000</u>		

☞ 30,000 Vines are intended to be planted in 1887 and every following year until 1895.

### 2. WINE.

Estimated annual product during the first five years and succeeding five years of the Lease—

1887 .....	1700	gallons.
1888 .....	5400	„
1889 .....	13,900	„
1890 .....	25,000	„
1891 .....	52,000	„
1892 .....	67,000	„
1893 .....	82,000	„
1894 .....	97,000	„

☞ No wine can be produced before the third year of planting.

### Remarks.

There are at present employed upon the Island thirty men, of whom fifteen have been engaged in Tasmania. These include members of a family from Orford and a family from Okehampton, who are learning vineculture; and for them 10,000 vines are being reared for transplanting on the mainland.

The number of persons resident on the Island and dependent upon the works there, including their families, is one hundred.

The amount spent in wages upon the Island to the present time is nearly £4000.

### 3. MULBERRY TREES.

After searching all through the Colonies, there were secured 400 plants of the *Morus Alba*, which are now three years of age. They are thriving, and appear likely to become strong healthy trees.

The mulberry leaves are not adapted to silk culture until the trees reach their fifth or sixth year, before which age they do not contain enough saccharine or silky fibre.

The plantation is being steadily increased from cuttings.

*Remarks.*

The numbers of trees now growing would alone be amply sufficient to test this industry on a large scale; and, so far as Signor Bernacchi's experience in Tasmania has gone, he is of opinion that it will succeed. The growth of the trees confirms him in the opinion; and the climate is especially favourable, there being no hot winds to contend with, as in Australia, and not too much moisture.

4. SERICULTURE.

No silkworm eggs have yet been imported, as it would be useless to do so before the mulberry trees are of the required age; but arrangements have been made for a supply of the best silk eggs from Lombardy as soon as the food is ready. It is impossible to estimate the number that will be reared. The eggs imported will number millions.

5. CATTLE, 220, comprising—

170 two and three years.  
50 dairy cows and bullocks.

SHEEP, 300—

133 breeding ewes, Shropshire.  
140 crossbreds.

*Remarks.*

Between 400 and 500 sheep are purchased annually for killing purposes, as Maria Island will not fatten sheep or cattle; and fifty head of the young cattle are now being sold in order to reduce the stock, owing to want of grass.

A. G. D. BERNACCHI.

Hobart, 12th October, 1886.