

(No. 44.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CALIFORNIAN THISTLE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 6, 1870.



Municipality of Clarence, 25th June, 1870.

To His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania in Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY AND HONORABLE COUNCIL.

THE Municipal Council of Clarence beg most respectfully to bring under your notice the result of a Public Meeting held in this Municipality on the 18th instant, on the subject of devising some means to prevent the further spreading in this Colony of a species of thistle, locally known as the American or Californian Thistle, which is of so injurious a character as threatens to take possession of the cultivated land of the Colony and render it unfit for the growth of grain, as it is propagated both by seed and by lateral roots, and has hitherto defied all attempts to eradicate it.

The Municipal Council believes that if Your Excellency's Government would introduce a Bill to the Parliament to prevent the persons on whose land those thistles are located allowing them to go to seed, it would in a great measure prevent the evil, and confer a great benefit on the Colony at large.

On behalf of the Council,

HENRY DAWSON, *Warden, Clarence.*

Bellerive Council Chambers, 12th July, 1870.

SIR,

MR. SOLLY having informed me that you have appointed Friday next, the 15th instant, at noon, to receive a Deputation of Clarence Council with reference to the spread of the American Thistle, I have now the honor to forward you a letter signed by myself on behalf of this Council.

I beg to inform you that I have personally inspected several farms infested with the thistle referred to, which is a very different plant to the Scotch Thistle. If something is not soon done to prevent the seeding of the American Thistle several portions of the Colony will be ruined, as it has made its appearance at the East Coast, New Town, Glenorchy, Richmond, and Lower Pittwater, and Sorell. It is supposed to have found its way here in grain imported from California, where thousands of acres of the best land are rendered quite useless by the spreading of the thistle referred to, and which threatens such destruction to the land here.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient Servant,

HENRY DAWSON.

To the Hon. J. M. WILSON, Esq.

Bellerive Council Chambers, 21st July, 1870.

SIR,

I NOW have the honor, agreeably to your request, of supplying you with some further information in reference to the American Thistle, the botanical name of which, as given by Mr. Abbott of the Royal Society's Gardens, is *Caniculus arvensis*.

Speaking of this District from reliable data supplied by several of the inhabitants located at opposite points, I feel quite certain in saying that there are not more than 12 farms free from the thistle: Cambridge is the stronghold. I have ascertained that there are three farms having together more than 20 acres of this pest; and when I tell you that Mr. S. Evans has expended between £30 and £40 in trying to eradicate some few rods, you may imagine what it would cost to clear acres.

The Warden of Richmond informs me that in his District the following estates have the thistle :—
Campania, Laburnum Park, Stockdale, and Penrice; and he says in distinct terms that unless this scourge is met with energy it will ruin the District.

I have communicated with Sorell, Lower Pittwater, Bream Creek, Carlton, New Norfolk, Glenorchy, New Town, Brighton, and the Huon: all the Districts mentioned have the thistle more or less over their whole area.

I can assure you that many persons having this pest on their farms are afraid to admit the fact, as in the event of it being known, they would be unable either to let, sell, or raise money on their properties.

Should you require any further information, if it is in my power, I shall be glad to supply it.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
HENRY DAWSON, *Warden, Clarence.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 22nd August, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that "the subject of devising some means to prevent the further spreading in this Colony of a species of thistle locally known as the American or Californian Thistle," brought under the notice of the Government by the representations of the Clarence Municipal Council, has received careful consideration, and a measure will be introduced into Parliament during the approaching Session calculated to meet the requirements of the case.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES MILNE WILSON.

The Worshipful the Warden, Clarence.