



THE

Hawke's Bay Government Gazette.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY).

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JOHN DAVIES ORMOND, Superintendent.

VOL. XI.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1870.

No. 2.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF SHEEP.

Inspector of Sheep Office,
Napier, Jan. 13, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward a report on the condition and state of the flocks in this province, and other matters under my supervision.

I have inspected or passed through nearly all the flocks in the southern district of this province, and have much pleasure in reporting their continued freedom from scab.

I regret to have to report that a number of small flocks confined in paddocks in the low-lying districts of Meanee, Papakura, and Waitangi, are affected with foot rot. Nearly all the sheep so affected are merinos, chiefly old ewes, which were brought from hilly country last autumn, and sold at the Meanee sale yards to the graziers of that and the adjoining districts. These sheep were turned on to the low wet paddocks, and no attention whatever given to their feet; from the very nature of those lands there can be little or no wear of the hoof; it grows long, and, unless pared with the knife, soon overlaps the sole, and from continual pressure on this lengthened wall or crust, inflammation ensues, the foot becomes hot and sensitive, the animal limps slightly; in a short time the crust of the hoof splits or breaks, the sensitive parts of the foot are exposed, dirt enters, ulceration commences, and the foot becomes one mass of disease. From the highly contagious

nature of this disease, the whole flock quickly become affected in a greater or less degree; and when the disease is permitted to reach this stage, a cure is almost hopeless, at least, the cost of effecting a cure, where labour is high and sheep so low, would probably be more than the sheep are worth. I have invariably recommended the owners of sheep in this advanced stage of the disease to get rid of them by boiling down those which were at all fat, and feeding pigs with those which would not pay to boil down; and I am pleased to state that by many this course has been pursued. It cannot be too strongly urged upon those who graze sheep on low lands, the necessity of going through their sheep carefully, say every two months, during the winter and spring, and paring the hoofs of those in the least elongated. Where this elongation is pretty general in a flock, it is highly desirable, where practicable, to remove them after paring, to a drier situation, or to drive them occasionally over any gravel or stony country which may be available. The sheep, also, on the Karemu lands should, I think, have their feet looked to at least once or twice a year, say the end of autumn and the beginning of spring. I trust those owning sheep affected with foot rot will do their utmost to eradicate it this summer, or get rid of them in the way I have before indicated, and guard against a recurrence of it next winter; and that it may not again figure so prominently in the Inspector's Report. For it will be found a very troublesome disease if it once gets into a

flock, and one which will entail, in many ways, a serious pecuniary loss to the proprietor.

I will now advert to a subject of vital interest to the sheep farmers of this province, namely, the slow, but not the less certain, spread of Scab in the flocks of the Whareama and East Coast. This disease has advanced, since the date of my last Report, a little nearer to the southern boundary of this province, in other words, there is one clean flock the less between us and a scabby district. About four months ago I received a communication from the Inspector of Sheep for the Whareama and the East Coast, to the effect that this disease was on the increase in that part of the Wellington province and that Messrs. Maunsell's flock had become scabby. After consulting with your Honor on the subject, I at once proceeded to the Whareama, and saw Mr. Telford, the Inspector, who courteously gave me all the information I required, as to what flocks were scabby, and which were doubtful, and described the appearance and nature of the country inland of the Whareama and Mataikona rivers, and the state of the flocks in those localities, and the probability of certain flocks mixing. He informed me that the country inland of Mataikona was very much altered, owing to extensive bush fires, to what it was many years ago, when I knew it; that sheep were now kept as far back as the lower slopes of the Puke-toe range; that possibly, in the course of a few years, there would be no rough country or other boundary to prevent sheep straying or mixing with Sutherland's or Featherstone's inland flocks. From these, and other inquiries which I made, I found that the idea of securing the Mataikona block for a cattle station, and removing all sheep from it, which I suggested in my last Report, would have to be abandoned. On my return, I endeavoured to open negotiations with the Messrs. Speedy, of Wainui, for them to clear all their sheep from their run, and turn it into a cattle station, and to shepherd well the boundary of the province, which is also the south boundary of their run. This run is well adapted for the purpose desired, from the almost interminable forest which encircles their run, and comes down wedge-shaped to the coast. It is extremely improbable that sheep from the Akiteo run would ever work through it at the back to the clear country on the Porangahau range, or the head of Mangamaire valley; while the beach, and coast-line, if carefully shepherded, would effectually prevent sheep from straying coastwise to the Tautane flocks. As the Messrs. Speedy were not prepared to state their terms, without further consideration of the subject, they subsequently sent me a statement of the terms on which they were prepared to carry out what was required of them. The terms being considered much too high, I again, in conformity with your Honor's instructions, proceeded to the southern boundary, to examine the country about the Waimata stream, and back into the bush, to ascertain if a good line could be found for the erection of a sheep proof fence, and also to ascertain if a modification of the terms proposed by

the Messrs. Speedy could not be obtained. I was, in some measure, successful in both these efforts. I will now state, as briefly as I can, the Messrs. Speedy's terms; they want £270 per annum, and their flock of sheep, numbering about 4,500, purchased of them by the province at 3s. per head; the sheep to be delivered at their yards, in good travelling condition, up to 1st March next; if after that time, a reasonable allowance to be made for growth of wool; this offer to remain open in all 1870, duration of proposed agreement, seven years. They, on their part, would undertake to keep no sheep on their run (except a few wethers for home use, to be kept in a secure paddock) and to shepherd the Waimata and Wainui boundaries, keeping back the Akitio and Tautane sheep; and would fence the Wainui boundary, if they were permitted to cut timber for this, and other fencing, on the Crown lands of the surrounding bush. I must not omit to state that Mr. Herbert has some 200 acres in this block, abutting on the Wainui river; it is fenced off into paddocks, but he keeps sheep in them.

I will now proceed to Scheme No. 2, viz:—the erection of a fence, on or near the boundary line of the two provinces. Accompanied by Mr. W. Speedy, I examined the country about Waimata; found it would be impossible to fence close to either side of the creek; found a very good line on the south side of the creek; starting from the beach, it runs over about three miles of tolerably clear hills, thinly studded with burnt timber, it then enters the bush, and runs about a mile, and terminates at a gully running into the Waimata creek. This gully is not impassable for sheep, and it is to be regretted that no better termination to a fence presents itself anywhere near this line. There are no difficulties in the way of erecting a fence on this line, and I think sufficient totara timber could be procured within a moderate distance of the line to supply posts. I saw a good many mobs of wild cattle on this line which would I expect play up with a fence for the first few months until they became accustomed to its restraint. If this scheme is determined on, it would, I conceive, be necessary to keep a careful and trustworthy shepherd on the line, whose sole duty it would be to walk the line, and keep the fence in repair, and keep sheep back a good distance from either side of the fence. If scab got into the Akiteo flocks, if not actually necessary with a shepherd permanently on the line, it would certainly be safer to have a double line of fence to effectually guard against contagion, and a few chains of returning fencing at various places in the bush, which would tend to baulk sheep in attempting to travel along the line. I think I have gone into the main details of this measure, and will now shortly review the merits and respective cost of the two schemes. The Wainui run ensures us about four miles of a coast boundary between the two provinces, with a dense bush at the back, a bush so extensive, as almost to preclude the possibility of sheep finding their way through it. The coast hills are broken or divided by two creeks, which form obstacles to

the rapid travelling or straying of sheep from the Waimata to the Wainui river; and if it was certain that the Wainui boundary would be fenced, it would make assurance doubly sure, while the trustworthy character of the Messrs. Speedy would be a guarantee that the boundaries would be well looked after. On the other hand, the fact of Mr Herbert keeping sheep in his paddocks, and the possibility of them getting out and straying, might be a source of anxiety. This is an improbable contingency, but I think it only fair to give it a passing notice. This scheme would cost the Province £270 a year, commencing from the present year with a possible small loss on sale of the Wainui sheep; while on the one hand, the scab might spread across the few intervening clean runs into this province in an incredibly short space of time, it may again be years before it advances much nearer our frontier. The fencing scheme, if carefully shepherded, would, perhaps, prove quite as formidable an obstacle to the spread of scab as the first scheme, and presents the following advantages—that it could be erected at a few month's notice if the necessity for so doing became imperative. The cost of this scheme would, at a rough calculation, be as follows:—Cost of fencing say double line with eight wires best stout galvanized strand wire, eight miles at £140 per mile, £1120; interest of which at 10 per cent. £112; shepherd's wages and rations, £70; total, £182 per annum.

Such is a brief and impartial outline of the two schemes to which I invite the consideration of those settlers in this Province (and they are not few), who have a practical knowledge of the insidious nature of this disease, and the ruinous consequences its presence entails. I do not presume, unaided, to express a preference for either of those schemes, the adoption or rejection of which will, I opine, rest with the settlers themselves. I cannot, however, close this subject without impressing upon the settlers that all our efforts may prove futile unless the utmost vigilance is exercised to guard against the chance introduction of scab in the clothes, &c., of shearers, and other station hands, from scabby districts.

There have been only 83 sheep imported since the date of my last report (Feb. 26, 1869.) The exports of fat sheep to the Auckland market during the same period have been about 15,000 as against 30,000 for the previous year; this falling off is mainly attributable to the large number of fat sheep exported to Auckland from Wanganui. The number of sheep slaughtered at the Hawke's Bay Boiling-down establishment, from commencement of operations up to 1st October last, was 23,267. I am indebted to the manager of the company for the foregoing statement.

By the returns of last May, there were about 320,000 wethers and rams, and about 444,000 ewes, making a total of 764,000 sheep in the province at that date, which, with the addition of the last spring lambing, will raise the number to about 900,000 sheep in the province at the present time.

I have not for many years seen the sheep in such good condition as they are this season; indeed, it could not be other-

wise, with such a favourable season for feed. The clip of wool is above the average and of unusually good quality, as there has been no scarcity of feed since last summer. It is gratifying in these depressed times to note the enterprise displayed by Mr. Gollan and Mr. Purvis Russell, in the erection of warm water and spouting apparatus on their stations, for washing their sheep this year. The arrangements appeared to me very complete, and will, I believe, produce results both satisfactory and remunerative to the spirited proprietors. I am pleased to hear that on many of the stations, some attention is being devoted to culling the flocks, in anticipation of getting them fattened for the melting pot. This is a step in the right direction. Off with all the old ewes and other worthless animals which constitute a third or more of the majority of the flocks. From the present time up to the month of June, or later, we may safely calculate upon a large proportion of the sheep on every station in the province being fat, and, I hope to see the Boiling-down Establishment, at West Clive, in active operation during that time. I still adhere to the opinion expressed in my last report that boiling-down should be carried on on distant stations, on however small or primitive a scale. I can cite an instance of a gentleman occupying a small station on the coast, who, during last autumn, boiled down the most of his surplus stock in a large tri-pot, procured from an old whaling station. His plan was simple enough. He cut up as many sheep as his pot would hold; filled up the pot with water; put a cover on it, with a weight on top to prevent the escape of steam; firewood was plentiful, and he boiled the contents for 36 hours; skimmed the fat off into casks, melting the inside fat separately, and mixing it in a liquid state with that obtained from the carcase. The nett proceeds from this rather primitive method was 3s. 6d. per sheep, exclusive of skins. My informant says the sheep were not in prime condition, many of them being old ewes, only half fat. If the sheep thus operated upon had been driven to Napier to be boiled down, they would, owing to the long drive and rough barren road to be travelled, have arrived in poor store condition; and, what with driving expenses, cost of paddocking and boiling down, the proceeds to their owner would have been *nil*. I mention this (and I dare say those who have tried the experiment will endorse my opinion), that it will not pay to drive sheep a long distance to be boiled down; they may be tolerably fat when they leave the station, but they turn out very different sheep when they reach their destination, and are slaughtered. I think the stations within a reasonable distance of West Clive will have more than enough fat sheep this season to keep that establishment actively engaged. It would surely pay the settlers in the Waipukurau district to establish a boiling down place at or near Waipukurau, which presents unusual facilities for such an undertaking. It is the centre of many of the largest stations in the province, and has wood and water in abundance. Another, on a smaller scale, might with equal benefit be set up at Blackhead. These suggestions must

assume a practical form sooner or later, and I believe most of the sheepfarmers will agree that the sooner the better; indeed it is to be regretted that those wants were not provided for ere this, as this summer has proved so favourable for fattening, and boiling down or meat-preserving must be resorted to; for it is no use blinking the fact that three-fourths of the runs are overstocked; the bare pasture in winter in past seasons, and the starved appearance of the sheep in early spring has proved this beyond controversy. Auckland, with the high freight, and the numerous small charges on sheep, does not prove a profitable market; and, even if it did, it is not available for stations any distance inland, as the long drive to Napier, and subsequent voyage, reduces the condition of the sheep considerably.

I am under no apprehension for the safety of the flocks towards the northern boundary of the province, but will, as soon as possible, extend my examination in that direction.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. PEACOCK.

Inspector of Sheep.

His Honor the Superintendent,
Napier.

Inspector of Sheep Office,
Napier, Jan. 22, 1870.

SIR,—I am in the receipt of advices from Mr. Telford that the Scab has appeared in the flocks of Mr. V. Smith and Mr. Sutherland, of Mataikona, and that neither of those stations have, at present, either material or appliances for dipping their sheep; that the probability is that it will spread all through their flocks before such measures can be taken to arrest its progress. Such being the case, I should say that the state of the Oahanga flocks, which mix with Sutherland's sheep, are either doubtful now, or will soon be so, and that the danger of its spreading to this province is imminent, I would therefore suggest that a meeting of the sheepfarmers of the province, or at least of those more immediately interested, be at once convened, to consider what preventive measures can be taken to guard

against the spread of this disease into this province, I shall have great pleasure in co-operating with the settlers in carrying out any measures receiving the support and approval of the Government. The expense of carrying out any such measure could probably be met, at least in part, by the surplus funds now accruing from this department. I am aware that, in the early years of this province, when there were few sheep, the income from this department did not meet its expenditure; but the province has probably been recouped, by this time, for any loss then sustained. However, the case is urgent, and I trust it will receive that earnest consideration, and zealous co-operation of your Honor, and the settlers of the province, which its importance, and the large interests involved, entitle it to.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. PEACOCK,

Inspector of Sheep.

His Honor the Superintendent,
Napier.

PROCLAMATION.

By JOHN DAVIES ORMOND, Esq., Superintendent of the Province of Hawke's Bay, in the Islands of New Zealand.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Provincial Council of the Province of Hawke's Bay, Session 12, No. 1, it is amongst other things enacted that the Superintendent may from time to time, by proclamation, appoint Pounds and Poundkeepers at such places as he may think fit, and at any time to annul such appointments and make others—

Now, therefore, I, John Davies Ormond, Superintendent of the Province of Hawke's Bay, do hereby proclaim that the Stockyard erected on portion of Suburban section No. 53, Meanee, shall be a Public Pound, and do hereby appoint Cornelius Dempsey Poundkeeper of the said Pound.

Given under my hand and seal of the Province of Hawke's Bay, this second day of February, One thousand eight hundred and seventy.

JOHN DAVIES ORMOND,
Superintendent.

CROWN GRANTS.

THE undermentioned Deeds of Grant, having been duly executed, are now ready for delivery at this office, under the authority of the "Crown Grants Act, 1866."

A fee of sixpence is chargeable on each Crown Grant, for every month during which it shall remain in this office after the expiration of three months from the date of this notice.

No. of Grant	Grantee.	Locality.	Contents.		
			A.	R.	P.
1720	J. Stuart	West Clive	1	0	0
1721A	W. E. Baxter	West Clive	2	3	8
1722	S. and W. Caldwell	West Clive	2	2	1
1723	S. and W. Caldwell	West Clive	1	1	1
1724	S. and W. Caldwell	West Clive	1	0	14
1725	M. Boylan	West Clive	1	2	22
1726	A. Giblin	West Clive	2	0	0
1727	M. Boylan	West Clive	2	0	23
1728	E. Lyndon	West Clive	1	0	0
1729	E. Boddington	West Clive	1	0	0
1730	J. Bray	West Clive	3	0	9

J. C. LAMBTON CARTER,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office,
Napier, January 28, 1870.

Printed under the authority of the Government of the Province of Hawke's Bay, by JAMES WOOD, Printer for the time being to such Government.

RETURN showing the Land Sold, and Deposits on Runs, received at the Crown Lands Office, at Napier, during the month of September, 1869.

Date.	Mode of Sale.	Name	Particulars	AREA OF LAND SOLD.			CASH			Rate per Acre	Deposit on Run	Military Settlers Land Orders exercised.	REMARKS.
				Town	Suburban	Country	Town	Suburban	Country				
1869 Sept 15 27	1847	Elizabeth F. Mackay Josiah and James Howard	North Ruataniwha Whakarara District	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	10s.	£ s. d.		
				...	...	40 0 0	...	...	20 0 0	...	25 0 0	...
			Totals	...	...	40 0 0	...	...	20 0 0	...	25 0 0	...

RECAPITULATION.

	AVAILABLE.	UNAVAILABLE.
Land Sales—cash	20 0 0	...
Deposit on Runs ... ..	...	25 0 0
	20 0 0	...
Deduct salary of Receiver of Land Revenue	6 5 0	...
Nett Balance	£13 15 0	25 0 0

Crown Lands Office,
Napier, Oct. 8, 1869.

J. C. LAMBTON CARTER,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

