

Name and Address of Owner.	Freehold.	Run.	Hundreds.	Commonage.	Total.
Turnbull, George, Dunedin	32	...	...	...	32
Turnbull, Robert M., Linburn	108	23,700	...	...	23,808
Tubman, Edward, Moa Flat	400	...	...	...	400
Tweedie, William, South Tokomairiro	216	...	...	...	216
Vaughan, D., Riverton	350	...	...	...	350
Waddell and Cameron, Tuturau	3,500	...	...	...	3,500
Walker, William, Stewart Island	80	...	...	...	80
Wallace, David, Clinton	238	...	...	...	238
Warden, Charles T., One-Tree Point	31	...	...	...	31
Waters, Andrew, North Taieri	300	...	...	...	300
Watson, Walter, Outram	50	...	...	...	50
Watt, James, North Tokomairiro	112	...	...	...	112
Watt, John, Kaihiku	640	...	...	...	640
Waugh, William, Teviot	550	...	...	...	550
Wayne, Frederick, Milton	2,377	...	...	...	2,377
Webster, George, Josephville	8,000	...	...	...	8,000
Webster, G. M., Kakanui	10,800	200	...	...	11,000
Webster, G. M., Windermere	800	...	...	...	800
Westcott, William, Moa Flat	45	...	...	...	45
White, James, Canada Bush	200	...	...	...	200
Williams, Peter, Maheno	60	...	...	...	60
Williamson, Peter, Waiholā Gorge	65	...	...	...	65
Willocks, James, Inch Clutha	150	...	...	...	150
Wilson, George, Otago Heads	1,200	...	...	...	1,200
Wilson, James, Balclutha	155	...	...	...	155
Wilson, James, Oteramika	39	...	...	...	39
Wilson, John, Papakaio	600	...	...	...	600
Wilson, J. and S., Papakaio	2,700	...	...	...	2,700
Wilson, Robert, and Co., Wairaki	3,000	3,000	...	...	6,000
Wisely, Alexander, North Tokomairiro	200	200	...	...	400
Withers, John, Queenstown	...	12,000	...	...	12,000
Wohlers and others, Ruapuke	2,100	...	...	...	2,100
Wright, Andrew, Goodwood	455	...	...	...	455
Wright, John, Kaihiku	103	...	...	...	103
Wyper Brothers, Peninsula	130	...	...	...	130
Young and Dalgetty, Omarama	...	48,250	...	...	48,250
Young, David, Waipahi	220	...	...	...	220
Young, James S., Palmerston	135	...	...	...	135
Young, William, Porakanui	100	...	...	...	100
Young, William, Waiholā	150	...	...	...	150
Youngson, Alexander, Warepa	240	...	...	...	240
Total	1,348,949	2,109,289	12,703	11,722	3,482,663

Sheep Inspector's Office, Dunedin.

SIR,—Referring to my letter, No. 79/149, forwarding the annual return for 1878, and to the large decrease in the number of sheep in the Otago Districts since the previous year, I have the honor to submit for your information the following statement, from which it will be seen that, although the sheep depastured on runs do not double the number on freeholds, the losses on runs are more than seven times those on freeholds:—

			1877.	1878.	Decrease.
Depastured on Freeholds	...	...	1,401,310	1,348,949	52,361
„ Runs	...	...	2,494,579	2,109,289	385,290
„ Hundreds	...	...	22,875	12,703	10,172
					447,823
„ Commonages	...	...	9,736	11,722	Increase 1,986
			3,928,500	3,482,663	445,837

Taking into consideration that an annual decrease—governed by the amount of land alienated from the Crown and becoming freehold—must take place on runs, yet even with this allowance the decrease of last year on the waste lands has been enormously heavy, especially as a less quantity of land was taken from the areas of runs during 1877–78 than in years previous.

The losses on freeholds are to be accounted for by the severe snow-storms followed by floods in the spring; but the fact is only too apparent that, where the country is most infested with rabbits, there, the greatest loss has taken place.

To exemplify this, Southland Subdivision (in which, so far as I can ascertain, no portion of the runs have been taken for sale or settlement under the Deferred-Payment or Agricultural Lease Regulations since 1876–77) is far worse infested than any other part of the district, and there, out of an aggregate of 768,000 in 1876–77, very little more than 600,000 are returned for 1877–78, or a loss of 150,000, leaving the remaining loss of 300,000 for the other subdivisions of Otago out of 3,000,000.