

Sheep Inspector's Office, Blenheim.

SIR,—I have the honor to furnish my report for the year ended 31st December, 1878, and enclose return, being the only one which the law at that date required, of the number of sheep actually shorn in the District of Marlborough during that period.

From this it will be seen that the total number of sheep shorn was 707,100, as against a total of 681,144 in the previous year.

I anticipate the returns which I shall forward you under the new Act will show a considerable increase, from the fact that all sheep above three months old will be included therein.

During the year 1878, 14,420 sheep were introduced into the district overland from the Amuri and Canterbury Province, 1,500 were exported to Nelson, and about 25,000 were absorbed by provincial consumption and boiling-down.

The lambing during the year was very poor, and did not exceed an average of 30 per cent.

The principal part of the district being of a nature ill adapted to the surface sowing of English grasses, but little was done hitherto in this respect. A considerable outlay in fencing has been caused, consequent upon "The Sheep Act, 1878," coming into force, which will doubtless have most beneficial results.

The average number of sheep clean during the year would not exceed 50,000, which shows little or no marked improvement as compared with the previous four years.

I have, &c.,  
R. H. JOHNSON,  
Chief Inspector.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

RETURN of SHEEP Shorn in the Sheep District of Marlborough during the Year ending 31st December, 1878.

| Name and Address of Owner.                 | No. of Sheep. |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Atkinson, W., Buntergill and Molesworth... | 8,760         |
| Allport, T. Picton ...                     | 300           |
| Adams, William, jun., Langley Dale ...     | 1,520         |
| Archer, P., Kenepuru ...                   | 150           |
| Avery, W., Fairhall ...                    | 130           |
| Atwood, John, Blenheim ...                 | 816           |
| Allen, Robert, Blenheim ...                | 250           |
| Baillie, Captain, Para ...                 | 296           |
| Brydon, J., Fairhall ...                   | 200           |
| Bowler, S., Tua Marina ...                 | 4,146         |
| Brindle, C., Blenheim ...                  | 440           |
| Brydon, William, Fairhall ...              | 1,200         |
| Baldick, George, Port Underwood ...        | 134           |
| Bell and Son, Erina Run ...                | 3,230         |
| Beaumont, R., Starborough ...              | 39,092        |
| Bown, John, Pelorus ...                    | 850           |
| Bullen, T. and G., Kaikoura ...            | 42,760        |
| Barratt, T., Kaikoura ...                  | 180           |
| Boyd, D., Kaikoura ...                     | 250           |
| Beatson, C. and R., Clovernook ...         | 600           |
| Beauchamp, A., Picton ...                  | 420           |
| Blick, E., Blenheim ...                    | 92            |
| Bonnington, H., Wairau Valley ...          | 150           |
| Bell Brothers, Wairau Valley ...           | 3,230         |
| Clifford and Weld, Flaxbourne ...          | 49,500        |
| Cameron, John, Spring Creek ...            | 200           |
| Chaytor, J. C., Woodbank ...               | 5,810         |
| Creach, Thomas, Pelorus ...                | 100           |
| Cawte Brothers, Mahakipawa ...             | 450           |
| Cullin, W., Mahakipawa ...                 | 2,130         |
| Cooper John, Pelorus ...                   | 200           |
| Clement, C., Kaikoura ...                  | 200           |
| Collins, A. S., Mount Fyffe ...            | 6,000         |
| Curtain, J., Pelorus ...                   | 100           |
| Cameron, John, Kaikoura ...                | 65            |
| Carter, Thomas, Hellesden ...              | 25,230        |

| Name and Address of Owner.                | No. of Sheep. |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Connor, —, Blenheim ...                   | 36            |
| Dillon, P. G., Leefield ...               | 9,623         |
| Dickenson, Thomas, Kaikoura ...           | 880           |
| Douslin, W., Havelock ...                 | 180           |
| Duncan, Alexander, The Grove ...          | 351           |
| Davidson, J., Kaikoura ...                | 270           |
| Doyle, W., Blenheim ...                   | 520           |
| Davis, —, Kaituna ...                     | 120           |
| Dodson, George, Spring Creek ...          | 760           |
| Eaton, George, Kaikoura ...               | 128           |
| Edwards and Co., Kekerangu ...            | 49,378        |
| Edwards and Co., Wantwood ...             | 10,600        |
| Evans, Charles, Kaikoura ...              | 800           |
| Eyles, C., Wairau West ...                | 48            |
| Fairhall, E., Blenheim ...                | 971           |
| Flood Brothers, Port Underwood ...        | 1,300         |
| Footo Brothers, Pelorus ...               | 150           |
| Fidler, R., Tua Marina ...                | 80            |
| Goulter, C., Hawke's Bay ...              | 7,500         |
| Graham, James, Blenheim ...               | 191           |
| Grugh, C., Kaikoura ...                   | 50            |
| Gray, James, Kaikoura ...                 | 30            |
| Gifford, William, Spring Creek ...        | 90            |
| Gibson, A. D., Kaikoura ...               | 900           |
| Gibson, J. W., Kaikoura ...               | 63            |
| Gibson, Henry, Kaikoura ...               | 110           |
| Green, James, Kaikoura ...                | 84            |
| Garratt, James, Kaikoura ...              | 60            |
| Gibson, Walter, Waipapa ...               | 20,560        |
| Gibson, James, Kaikoura ...               | 300           |
| Gooch, E. T., Kaikoura ...                | 1,000         |
| Green, James, Upcott ...                  | 11,780        |
| Gibson, T. L., Kaikoura ...               | 20            |
| Gibson, J. W., Kaituna ...                | 64            |
| Gifford, James, Spring Creek ...          | 152           |
| Gifford, Isaac, Spring Creek ...          | 812           |
| Gane, J., Spring Creek ...                | 500           |
| Gibson, —, Kaikoura ...                   | 63            |
| Godfrey, Charles, Okakuri ...             | 612           |
| Harnett, John, Kaikoura ...               | 112           |
| Hillock, R., Kaikoura ...                 | 500           |
| Horgan, M., Blenheim ...                  | 35            |
| Harris, C. H., Pelorus ...                | 500           |
| Harvey, William, Pelorus ...              | 450           |
| Huges, Messrs., Pelorus ...               | 800           |
| Hippolite Brothers, Pelorus ...           | 250           |
| Hart, —, Picton ...                       | 16            |
| Hailer, W. Kaikoura ...                   | 256           |
| Harvey, Henry, Kaikoura ...               | 300           |
| Hawthorn, —, Kaikoura ...                 | 60            |
| Hodson, J. E., Fairfield Downs ...        | 14,300        |
| Hammond, —, Blenheim ...                  | 200           |
| Hoggard, S., Blenheim ...                 | 103           |
| Hathaway, Mrs., Spring Creek ...          | 355           |
| Hyde, J. A., Mahakapawa ...               | 700           |
| Hailes, Mrs., Ocean Bay ...               | 165           |
| Home, Dr., Wairau West ...                | 225           |
| Healy, J., Tua Marina ...                 | 60            |
| Harvey, William, Pelorus ...              | 450           |
| Hall, Thomas, Queen Charlotte Sound ...   | 634           |
| Ireland, E. T., Valley Field ...          | 500           |
| Ingles and Party, Kincaid ...             | 8,970         |
| Jackson, George, White's Bay ...          | 1,000         |
| Jackson, A., White's Bay ...              | 213           |
| Jones, R., Pelorus ...                    | 100           |
| Jeffries, W., Blenheim ...                | 280           |
| Jellyman, J., Blenheim ...                | 508           |
| Jackson, James, Queen Charlotte Sound ... | 700           |
| Kerby, James, Kaikoura ...                | 200           |
| Kelly, J., Renwick Town ...               | 100           |
| Keene, G. and C., Kaikoura ...            | 5,868         |
| Kinzett, —, Spring Creek ...              | 68            |
| Kennington, —, Kaikoura ...               | 400           |
| Lambert, J. A., Onamalutu ...             | 250           |
| Law, Joseph, Picton ...                   | 610           |
| Litchfield, A. J., Blenheim ...           | 200           |
| Looms, —, Pelorus ...                     | 250           |
| Luxford, J. E., Te Arowhenua ...          | 3,400         |
| Love, —, Queen Charlotte Sound ...        | 1,500         |
| Lancy, —, Picton ...                      | 120           |
| Low, W. A., Bare Fells ...                | 22,000        |
| Landall, Isaac, Queen Charlotte Sound ... | 1,248         |
| McDonald, R., Kaikoura ...                | 300           |
| Maher, Mrs., Kaituna ...                  | 745           |
| Monro, Alexander, Bank House ...          | 13,351        |
| Mills Brothers, Havelock ...              | 1,075         |
| Monro, George, Valley Field ...           | 11,030        |