

1890.

NEW ZEALAND.

INSPECTION OF STOCK.

(ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1890.)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

SIR,—

Sheep Inspector's Office, Auckland, 3rd April, 1890.

I have the honour to furnish herewith the annual report for the Auckland District for the year ended the 31st March, 1890.

The Kaiawa flock at Miranda is now the only one on the infected list in my districts, Auckland, Waikawa, and Miranda. These Kaiawa sheep will be mustered for inspection next week, and I quite expect to find them clean and to give them a clean certificate.

The sheep in the rest of the provincial district are free from serious disease, but those in the immediate vicinity appear to be very much infested with lice.

The condition of stock has been seriously affected by the long-continued dry weather.

There were about 2,500 sheep exported to Fiji and Samoa, and 7,104 sheep frozen and exported by the "Duke of Westminster" and "Tainui."

I have, &c.,

E. CLIFTON, Inspector.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands (Stock Department), Wellington.

NAPIER DISTRICT.

SIR,—

Sheep Inspector's Office, Napier, 1st May, 1890.

I have the honour to make my report on this district for the year ended the 31st March, 1890.

Sheep.—The past year has been most favourable for the flocks in the district. Owing to the fine winter last year, there was comparatively little loss among the hoggets, though it was anticipated that the loss would be considerable, owing to the dry autumn and scarcity of feed.

The lambing was good, averaging about 75 per cent. The weather since the winter has been exceptionally good, and consequently the sheep have thriven well, and been in good condition all the summer and autumn; in some parts of the district they have suffered a good deal from staggers. The clip of wool was in fine order and condition. During the year there were 279,081 sheep exported frozen and 14,400 boiled down and preserved. The number frozen would have been increased considerably had there been more shipping available. There have been no exports or imports of sheep, but 145,000 have gone from this district into other districts.

Cattle.—I have nothing particular to say on this head. Sub-Inspector Thomson (of Gisborne) reports that he saw a few cows near Opotiki that he was pretty sure had tuberculosis, and he advised the owner to kill them.

I have, &c.,

R. C. PASLEY, Inspector.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands (Stock Department), Wellington.

WELLINGTON-WEST COAST DISTRICT.

SIR,—

Sheep Inspector's Office, Wellington, 30th May, 1890.

I have the honour to furnish my report for the year ended the 31st March, 1890.

Scab.—I am glad to state that this district is now free from this disease.

Lungworm.—There is still a considerable mortality from this cause amongst some flocks, owing in a large measure to want of proper management, good feed, and frequent change for young stock.

Lice.—The practice of dipping at least once a year, now very generally adopted on the larger holdings, is keeping lice within reasonable limits; but on smaller holdings, where this precaution is neglected, lice still continue to be more or less prevalent.

General Health of Stock.—This has been fairly good during the year, but, owing to scarcity of feed during the summer of 1889, in some parts of the district there was a considerable increase in the death-rate. I am of opinion also that this fact is likely to interfere with the growing clip and next lambing.

There have been 55,489 sheep introduced into this district by land from Hawke's Bay. Of these, 21,839 went into the Wairarapa, and 33,650 to the West Coast. Some of these have been used for stocking new country, and the remainder for slaughter. I am, however, unable to give the proportions.

There were imported during the year: From England, six rams and one dog; from Australia, one ram and twenty-five dogs. There were exported during the same period: To Australia, thirteen horses, twenty-five dogs, three cattle.

There have been 238,583 sheep frozen, 37,723 preserved, and 43,200 boiled down: a total of 319,506.

I have, &c.,

J. DRUMMOND, Inspector.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands (Stock Department), Wellington.

MARLBOROUGH-NELSON DISTRICT.

SIR,—

Sheep Inspector's Office, Blenheim, 19th May, 1890.

I have the honour to furnish my annual report upon the district under my charge for the year ended the 31st March, 1890.

In August last a slight outbreak of scab was reported from the Lake Run, the flock being mustered and dipped with all convenient speed, and a clean certificate granted in the following February. Several cases of lice have also been reported, and the flocks dipped.

Mount Patriarch and adjoining blocks have been stocked, and will be mustered this month, when I feel satisfied that this flock will then be removed from the infected list. A gang of men, varying in number from three to eighteen, have been employed since September last scouring the bush and unoccupied Crown lands in the Tophouse country; and, although they have killed 1,009 wild and marked sheep, not a scabby one has been seen. The returns of sheep on the 31st May, 1889, showed an increase of about 30,000 over the previous year, there being an increase in all subdivisions except the Awatere, which shows a decrease of 1,896 sheep: this I attribute to the number of sheep sent south in the autumn of 1889.

From inquiries made I find the wool-clip and lambing have been equal to that of previous years.

There are no frozen-meat works in the district, but during the year 19,470 sheep have been boiled down or preserved. No disease has shown itself in either cattle or horses. I am not aware of any stock being imported or exported in this district except coastwise.

I have, &c.,

T. G. RICHARDSON, Inspector.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands (Stock Department), Wellington.

CANTERBURY-KAIKOURA DISTRICT.

SIR,—

Sheep Inspector's Office, Christchurch, 26th April, 1890.

I have the honour to forward my annual report for the year ended the 31st March, 1890.

The past year having been unusually favourable for all classes of stock, they have been remarkably free from disease. The Kaikoura district has been declared free from scab, and no further trouble is anticipated from this disease. The wool-clip was the best, both as regards length of staple and soundness, that has been known for some years.

Notwithstanding the large number of sheep frozen and boiled down in 1888-89, the returns of sheep owned on the 31st May showed an increase of 26,874, and it is anticipated that, owing to the large lambing, the next returns will show a further increase.

The continued good prices for both wool and mutton, as compared with the low prices for grain, is having the effect of inducing farmers to pay more attention to sheep; this is especially noticeable by the increased demand this season for breeding ewes. It is not probable, therefore, that there will be any difficulty in supplying the requirements of the frozen-mutton trade.

The quality of our frozen mutton has been well maintained: it is to be feared, however, that the present system of freezing the earliest-maturing ewe lambs, which are presumably the best constituted, if allowed to continue, must tend to ultimately deteriorate our flocks.

Dipping is becoming more general, but it would be of great assistance to careful sheep-owners if it were made compulsory to dip all sheep other than adult merinos by the 31st May. This would go a great way towards the eradication of those enemies to the production of wool and mutton—viz., lice and ticks.

The lice clauses of the Sheep Act have been systematically enforced, with beneficial results.

The number of frozen carcasses of mutton exported was 401,788, being an increase of 74,136 on the previous year. The number would have been greater had it not been for the burning of the Belfast Factory. There were also 248 head of cattle frozen. The number of sheep boiled down and preserved was 75,226, being an increase of 42,124 on the previous year.

There were exported to: Calcutta—Horses, 100; dogs, 10. America—Dog, 1. Australia—Horses, 85; cattle, 13; sheep, 35; pigs, 26; dogs, 112. There were imported from: Great Britain—Cattle, 1; sheep, 10; dogs, 4. Australia—Horses, 4; cattle, 1; sheep, 34; dogs, 15. Tasmania—Sheep, 20.

I have, &c.,

R. FOSTER, Inspector.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands (Stock Department), Wellington.

OTAGO DISTRICT.

SIR,—

Sheep Inspector's Office, Dunedin, 8th May, 1890.

I have the honour to forward my annual report on stock in the Otago District for the year ended the 31st March, 1890.

The health of all kinds of stock has been very good. There were no serious floods in the Oreti River this past spring, and only an odd beast or two died at Winton, which indicates that the soiled pastures had something to do with the previous mortality. No further deaths having been reported from Wyndham district, I think the deaths in sheep which occurred last November and December can safely be put down to cutting and shearing operations.

Lungworm and lice are giving very little trouble.

The lambing, with very few exceptions, has been extra prolific, and owing to the dry warm summer the percentage of deaths between marking and weaning has been very small. The clip also was very satisfactory.

Feed has been abundant on the high country throughout the district, but in the central and northern portions both native and artificial grasses have failed from want of rain, and I much fear, should a severe winter follow, that there will be heavy losses of stock. Turnips in many parts are also a failure.

Keas.—These birds are reported as very troublesome in the back portions of Waitaki, Vincent, and Lake Counties.

During the year ended the 31st March, 1890, 278,507 frozen carcasses (being 40,625 more than previous year) were exported from the three ports in this district—namely, Dunedin, Oamaru, and Bluff; 28,572 were preserved, being a decrease of 31,428; and 64,476 were boiled down, being a decrease of 30,871. There were 54 animals imported and 4 exported, as against 124 imported and 50 exported in the previous year.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED DOUGLASS, Inspector.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands (Stock Department), Wellington.

APPENDIX A.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Number of Carcasses of Frozen Mutton exported from the Colony during the Year ended the 31st March.

	Estimate for		1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	On previous Year.	
	1882.	1883.								Decrease.	Increase.
Auckland ..	..	..	7,968	..	18,561	19,913	..	9,697	7,104	2,593	..
Napier ..	..	..	9,003	89,089	132,700	157,800	155,057	208,335	279,081	..	70,746
Wellington ..	..	..	46,803	130,436	137,964	140,302	209,785	229,466	238,583	..	9,117
Pictou ..	..	..	..	15,950	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lyttelton ..	..	..	80,920	121,627	161,462	235,631	316,455	327,652	401,788	..	74,136
Oamaru ..	..	..	..	..	32,250	..	..	63,103	94,415	..	31,312
Dunedin ..	..	..	86,781	..	..	..	..	134,091	146,837	..	12,746
Bluff ..	..	..	16,297	133,364	91,255	153,321	250,229	40,688	37,255	3,433	..
	30,488	173,988	247,772	491,066	574,192	706,967	931,526	1,013,032	1,205,063	6,026	198,057
										Less	6,026
										Increase,	192,031

NOTE.—When the export of frozen mutton commenced in 1882, the number of carcasses shipped was not recorded. The Statistics for 1882, p. 144, show that 15,244cwt. of frozen meat was exported during the year ended the 31st December, 1882, valued at £19,339; and the Statistics for 1883, p. 150, show that 86,994½cwt. of frozen mutton was exported (exclusive of beef) during the year ended the 31st December, 1883, valued at £116,106.

APPENDIX B.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Number of Sheep in the Colony, returned annually under Section 21 of "The Sheep Act, 1878," on the 31st May.

1879	...	...	11,693,911	1885	...	...	14,546,801
1880	...	...	11,530,623	1886	...	...	15,174,263
1881	...	...	12,190,215	1887	...	...	15,155,626
1882	...	...	12,408,106	1888	...	...	15,042,198
1883	...	...	13,306,329	1889	...	...	15,423,328
1884	...	...	13,978,520				

NOTE.—The return of all sheepowners, and the number of sheep and lambs on 31st May, 1890, showing the county in which owners reside and their sheep are depastured, so far as the information is supplied in the Schedule "A" furnished by sheepowners under section 21 of "The Sheep Act, 1878," will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette* as soon as the returns are complete.

APPENDIX C.
NUMBER of OWNERS on the 31st May.

Owning—	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
Under 500 sheep ...	4,727	4,685	5,039	5,422	5,622	6,024	6,247	6,579	7,054
500 and under 1,000 sheep ..	704	844	970	1,033	1,146	1,189	1,139	1,182	1,381
1,000 " 2,000 " ...	500	552	609	672	718	747	723	794	826
2,000 " 5,000 " ...	350	416	467	473	505	532	531	524	597
5,000 " 10,000 " ...	236	225	244	256	270	263	289	287	277
10,000 " 20,000 " ...	201	209	200	211	213	228	221	213	239
20,000 and upwards ...	139	133	149	154	157	166	166	166	151
Totals ...	6,857	7,064	7,678	8,221	8,631	9,149	9,316	9,745	10,525

APPENDIX D.

[Extract from Financial Statement, B.-6, 1890.]

EXPORTS of NEW ZEALAND PRODUCE.

	Wool.	Gold.	Frozen Meat.	Butter and Cheese.	Agricultural Produce.	Manufactures.	Other N. Zealand Produce.	Total.	Manufactures, excluding Phormium.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1875	3,398,155	1,407,770	..	2,522	253,719	40,272	373,406	5,475,844	28,530
1876	3,395,816	1,268,599	..	7,398	374,401	48,177	394,510	5,488,901	29,892
1877	3,658,938	1,476,312	..	40,171	339,393	55,789	507,881	6,078,484	36,963
1878	3,292,807	1,244,190	..	21,479	617,980	44,530	559,522	5,780,508	33,864
1879	3,126,439	1,134,641	..	2,259	708,475	56,954	534,687	5,563,455	49,080
1880	3,169,300	1,220,263	..	10,333	973,008	61,751	667,745	6,102,400	46,134
1881	2,909,760	996,867	..	14,608	1,089,739	87,321	663,955	5,762,250	60,224
1882	3,118,554	921,664	19,339	62,218	1,169,020	121,447	841,108	6,253,350	79,492
1883	3,014,211	892,445	118,328	48,912	1,537,015	121,446	1,122,887	6,855,244	84,635
1884	3,267,527	988,953	345,090	91,667	968,517	104,425	1,176,307	6,942,486	80,950
1885	3,205,275	890,056	373,857	138,129	688,415	120,539	1,175,640	6,591,911	104,223
1886	3,072,971	939,648	427,193	151,194	688,804	109,656	997,216	6,386,682	93,634
1887	3,321,074	747,878	455,870	109,483	588,022	124,382	1,204,372	6,551,081	99,288
1888	3,115,098	914,309	628,800	197,170	905,907	233,383	1,260,461	7,255,128	158,114
1889	3,976,375	785,490	783,374	213,945	1,424,297	569,880	1,288,647	9,042,008	208,698

[Approximate Cost of Paper, —Preparation, Nil; printing (1,550 copies), £2 12s.]

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