

according to McKinley, and 4s. 6d. according to the manager of Mount Pisa), 360 hoggets, and 1,040 dry sheep. The usual mortality of above is 10 per cent. The probable loss by the snow the lessee would not venture to guess beyond saying that it would be heavy.

Morven Hills; Dalgety and Co.; 340,000 acres; 72,000 sheep: This run caught the storm very severely throughout its immense extent. It appears to have been covered to a depth of from 12 in. to 24 in. and the snow remained without a break for four weeks. The lower flats seemed to retain the snow quite as long as the higher country, the winds prevailing in other parts appearing to pass down the Clutha Valley on the other side, clearing that, but leaving the snow untouched on the Lindis side. On account of this the faces cleared very slowly, so that sheep remained without feed for practically a month. A great many were hand-fed, but with such a large flock it was impossible to keep up the supply to more than a small percentage. In addition to this the crops throughout this portion of the district were unusually poor, so that feed was scarce even among the farmers in the neighbourhood. On this account but little hay or straw was available either from the homestead paddocks or by purchase from the farmers. The number fed at various places and for a limited time only was about 12,000, at a cost of £500. The feeding was only to the extent of keeping them alive, as fodder became exhausted very quickly. The balance of the flock had an exceedingly bad time of it. The ewe-flock between the homestead and Dunstan Creek—14,000—appeared to have fared fairly well; the balance of the ewes, although on apparently safer country between Lindis and Northburn, did not escape so well. The hoggets—10,000—were on the country which appeared to have the least snowfall, and they have escaped as well as could be expected for young stock. The balance of the dry flock suffered very greatly—to what extent it is impossible to say, as the extent of the run prevents it from being inspected throughout so far. Mr. McWhirter is of opinion that the loss may not be quite so great as that of the storm of 1895, where the loss was 52 per cent. of the flock, or 55,000. It will be seen from the number now on the run as compared with that of 1895 that the country is now understocked. The sheep were therefore in first-class condition, and consequently able to withstand the severity of the weather and loss of feed. Had it not been for this the loss would have been much greater.

Spain, lessee of Cairnmuir Block of Earnsclough Run; 4,700 sheep: Mr. Spain turned out the above number of sheep, a considerable portion of which were bought at the end of the season, and were neither strong enough, nor acclimatised, or settled on the country. The flock is composed of the following: 260 wethers, 1,300 lambs (hoggets), and 3,140 ewes. Of the lot, 1,800 ewes were bought as above (that is, the poorest class of sheep) at the various sales. This leaves, say, 1,300 ewes accustomed to the country at the time the snow fell. Of the first lot placed on the ground the approximate cost would be at the rate of over 4s. This year's purchase of 1,800 cost a little more than the price of previous year. The previous year's hoggets are beginning to die rather badly, and the same remark will apply to the ewes still alive. Mr. Spain estimates the loss at not less than 40 per cent. Of course, the ordinary mortality with the class of sheep on the run would not be less than 10 per cent., probably a good deal more. Loss of sheep last year, about 25 per cent.

Charles Bros.; part of Earnsclough Run; 3,600 sheep: Ewes, 2,400; lambs and two-tooths, 1,200. Of above, 1,700 ewes were bought this season, principally from Morven Hills. Culls at 3s. and sales effected of the poorest of these and others bought, leaving altogether about 1,200 of the original flock. Mr. Charles appears to think that the young sheep will suffer as much as the old, as, unfortunately for him, they were on the low ground at the time the snow fell, and on this part the grass was practically eaten out, and the snow lying so long prevented them from getting a bite of anything. It was found impossible to drive them up the hill to the feed. They had, therefore, to remain standing in the snow without anything to eat. No feed was grown for winter supply or emergency. The number of lambs last year was only 50 per cent. The percentage of loss was 17 per cent.

Butler, lessee of Pastoral Run; 7,000 acres; 2,800 sheep: The country occupied by Mr. Butler was covered to a depth of 16 in. on the lowest parts, and to a greater depth on the high lands. As in other runs, the faces did not "bare" for upwards of four weeks. He was able to hand-feed about 300 of the whole. Of these a certain portion died. No attempt was made to move the balance of the flock, as the low country, being bare of grass or tussock, was worse than the high lands, where sheep had a chance to get at a little scrub. The number and classes are as follows: 1,600 breeding-ewes and 1,000 hoggets and dry sheep (500 hoggets and 500 wethers and two-tooths). The hoggets will suffer more than the other sheep. The lessee anticipates a loss of not less than 20 per cent. (ordinary mortality, 7 per cent.). As in other cases, he expects a substantial loss of ewes and lambs at lambing-time.

Galloway Station; R. Campbell and Sons; carrying-capacity, 25,000: The snow around the homestead on the lowest part of the run lay to the depth of 9 in. and on the back country about 24 in. The frontage of all this run is practically bare of tussock, so that even at the least depth all the country was completely covered. The flock consists of 11,600 ewes, 4,300 hoggets, and 9,100 dry sheep. The first of these were, fortunately, in the middle block, away from the bare front country, where there is still some tussock. When they became somewhat exhausted a portion of the flock and the weakest, about 3,000, were brought out to Little Valley Woolshed Block and the homestead frontage and fed with hay; the others had to weather it as best they could. The strong dry sheep were on the back blocks, and had the benefit of snow-grass tussock. The hoggets were on Little Valley and Mount Campbell Blocks, and had rather a bad time. The flock upon the whole fared as well as possible under the circumstances, and with the care of the weaker ewes the results may not prove so bad, although the manager anticipates a substantial loss.

Mrs. Donnelly has 700 sheep, a hundred of which have already died, besides an anticipated future loss. No doubt a certain number of these would be on freehold, the balance on leasehold.

J. Pitches holds among the family acres, with a carrying-capacity of 2,000 mixed sexes and ages. He anticipated a great mortality, as he was unable to look near them for upwards