

*Run No. 79: Glenmore Station.*

This run comprises 53,000 acres, of approximately one-third high country and two-thirds downs country. This is a well-grassed run, and will make two excellent runs. The safe winter facings are well proportioned on the two runs. There is at present a line of fence dividing the run at the correct place where it should be divided. This would mean a very small outlay at the beginning for the new settler. The sheep-carrying capacity is about 13,000 to 14,000, and I think a fair rental would be £360 per annum. There is plenty of good ground fit for growing hay and turnips on both blocks. These divisions I can guarantee to make two excellent safe runs.

*Run No. 81 and Run No. 82, known as Balmoral Station.*

This comprises 69,000 acres. A fourth of this country consists of high rough ranges, and the balance long flat slopes, with mostly a southerly aspect. The safe winter country on these two runs is what is known as the "Jollie River facings": it is very good, warm, and generally safe country, but the proportion to the summer country is small. The other winter country is at the other end, near to the Balmoral Homestead, and, although very good, is not in proportion to the summer country. These two runs can be cut into three runs with a certain measure of safety. Given a fair proportion of summer country with the Jollie River facings, that would make one safe run; given what is known as the "Old Man Range facings" and all the country to the south of these facings, including the present home, that would make another safe run; given a block out of the centre of these, say about 20,000 acres, to the present lessee of Tekapo Run, as his preferential block, that would be the third division. My reason for recommending this is that, besides being the lessee of Tekapo Run, he also owns a freehold farm of 1,500 acres of first-class agricultural land on the Braemar country adjacent to this Balmoral country; and with his agricultural land he could farm this block of country with a greater degree of safety than any other person. By doing this we should get an extra settler in the district, which is, of course of primary importance. The only other way to deal with this block would be to lease it on the fourteen-years tenure for summer grazing only. There is plenty of land to grow hay and turnips all over the country. The rental should be about £400 per annum.

*Run No. 83: Mount Cook Station.*

This comprises 25,000 acres of very rough country, with some good warm winter facings. It is impossible to subdivide it, and it should be leased again as one run. The sheep-carrying capacity is 6,000 sheep. A fair rental would be £200 per annum. This is, on the whole, a very safe winter run.

*Run No. 89: Glentanner Station.*

This comprises 58,000 acres of high, steep country, with a fair amount of good flats and swamps. Nearly all of this country lies beautifully to the sun, and it is probably one of the most safe runs in a bad winter, if not the safest run, in the Mackenzie Basin. It will carry easily 10,000 sheep, and should certainly be divided in two; it will make two excellent safe runs. Very little fencing will be needed to make the divisions. A fair rental would be £350 per annum.

*Run No. 86: Simon's Pass Run.*

This comprises 30,600 acres, consisting of a low well-grassed range and a large partially barren flat. It is very seldom that the snow gives any trouble on this run. The worst trouble is the drought. Except in very dry years, the sheep will do well on this country, and generally there are good lambings. There is plenty of good ground for growing hay and turnips, and with a little of this ground under cultivation every year this station may be considered safe from snowstorms. One drawback to this run is the large proportion of poor flats; and, unfortunately, there is a grub that has been gradually killing out the silver tussock on this run for the last twelve or fifteen years. There are thousands of acres with hardly any vegetation left. The same applies to other Mackenzie poor flats, only in a lesser degree. (I shall refer to this grub later on.) This run can be divided in two, and make two absolutely safe runs. The present Government Rabbit Agent's homestead (which, I understand, is to be abandoned at the end of the present leases) would make a homestead for the second tenant. Taking into consideration the ravages of the grass-grub, I think the present rental is quite sufficient. The sheep-carrying capacity is 10,500.

*Run No. 85: Wolds Station.*

This comprises 42,300 acres, consisting of a long, low, well-grassed range of safe winter country, with a great deal of beautiful, safe, broken downs on the shores of Lake Pukaki. The only bad, cold country on this run is the Tekapo River flat. Right through this run are excellent blocks of land, well suited for growing hay and turnips. This land should certainly be divided into three runs; and, if a small portion of the agricultural land on each of these blocks is utilized as it should be, each run will be absolutely safe in any snowstorms. I may add that it is only on very rare occasions that this station gets a heavy fall of snow. The rental of this run should be £500, and its carrying-capacity is about 17,500.

*Run No. 84: Irishman Creek Station.*

This comprises 23,500 acres, consisting of a long narrow strip of country from Pukaki Lake to Tekapo River. The safe winter country on this run is the slopes and downs on the lake-side. About half this run, next the Tekapo River, is cold country, with a southerly aspect. This run could not very well be divided in two, owing to the winter country being all at the one end. To distribute the winter country for two runs would entail a great deal of fencing, and then it would be unsatisfactory for one of the tenants, particularly for a homestead-site. I would recommend that it be dealt with as one run. It has a sheep-carrying capacity of about 7,000, and a fair rental would be £250 per annum.