

Name and Address of Owner.	No. of Sheep.
Mowatt, K. C., Middlehurst	14,600
McMahon, P., Kaikoura	120
McRae, P. R., Blairich	23,000
McDonald, Starborough	200
McCallum, A., Blenheim	300
Murray, Spring Creek	450
Murphy, C., Spring Creek	600
McCallum, J., Blenheim	76
McCallum, D., Blenheim	72
McDonald, George, Wairau Valley	72
Murphy, S., Spring Creek	60
Matthews, R., Pelorus	240
Newman, John, Kaituna	500
Neale, —, Picton	50
O'Leary, J., Blenheim	40
Otterson, H., Mount Gladstone	6,781
O'Donnell, James, Kaikoura	480
O'Sullivan, L., Kaituna	150
O'Donnell, J. L., Kaikoura	75
O'Dwyer, P., Spring Creek	176
O'Dwyer, C., Spring Creek	200
Pike, W., Blenheim	60
Peoples, P., Kaikoura	320
Peoples, John, Kaikoura	100
Parsons Brothers, Kaikoura	1,100
Parker Brothers, Blenheim	745
Powick, —, Tua Marina	80
Paul, E., Moorlands	1,452
Phillips, —, Blenheim	52
Reeves, Mrs., Spring Creek	150
Redwood, —, Vernon	22,640
Rogerson, —, Kaikoura	220
Renwick, Thomas, Delta	5,542
Renwick, —, Dumgree	12,150
Rose, John, Blenheim	130
Richmond, A. J., Richmond Brook	16,704
Rutland, —, Pelorus	120
Reamington, —, Kaituna	450
Randle, —, Kaituna	200
Redwood, J. J., Kaikoura	60
Rousin, J., Kaikoura	270
Rorison, J. L., Kaikoura	50
Redwood, Thomas, Burley	3,400
Redwood, Charles, Riverlands	1,750
Seymour, A. P., Meadowbank	21,277
Sheat, Joseph, Blenheim	48
Sutherland, W. A. D., Spring Creek	130
Sullivan, D., Kaikoura	145
Spencer, J. H., Kaikoura	200
Soper, William, Spring Creek	300
Storey, George, Renwick Town	400
Standen, James, Picton	240
Sinclair, J., Blenheim,	63
Shroder, Mrs., Kaikoura	450
Smith, W., Kaikoura	5,330
Smith, W. G., Kaikoura	250
Smith, W. D., Kaikoura	200
Stafford and Hodson, Fairfield Downs	11,200
Stafford, H. H., Upton Fells	24,000
Soper, R., Spring Creek	60
Selmes and Barnett, Tua Marina	868
Tinline, R., Kaikoura	2,500
Taylor, R., Kaikoura	400
Teschemaker, C., Avondale	13,545
Trolove, F. W., Clarence	6,043
Terrell, F., Blenheim	50
Thompson, James, Picton	457
Thomas, —, Picton	102
Ward, Joseph, Kaikoura	44,375
Ward, Felix, Wreskin	630
Wallace, J., Kaikoura	5,130
Weston, J., Picton	450
Williams, H. D., Birch Hill	21,988
Watt, C. F., Lansdowne	7,435
Whedon, —, Blenheim	100
Wilson and Reader, Pelorus	150
Western, C., Queen Charlotte Sound	138
Webster, Picton	6
Warner, R., Picton	150
Wallace, W., Kaikoura	1,000
Watson, S., Renwick Town	80
Wyatt, John, Blenheim	80

707,100

Sheep Inspector's Office, Christchurch.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward a report upon the state of the flocks in the Sheep District of Canterbury for the year ending 31st December, 1878.

The approximate number of sheep on that date is 3,350,000. Of these, 1,750,000 were depastured on freehold land and 1,600,000 on runs, against a return of the previous year of 1,411,510 on freehold land and 1,837,738 on runs.

The following statement shows the comparative increase and decrease from the year 1864 to 1878 :—

Year.	No. of Sheep.	Increase.	Decrease.
1864	1,433,644
1865	1,735,416	301,772	...
1866	1,930,322	194,906	...
1867	2,041,318	110,996	...
1868	2,123,776	82,458	...
1869	2,367,280	243,504	...
1870	2,452,058	84,778	...
1871	2,503,745	51,687	...
1872	2,595,950	92,205	...
1873	2,813,601	217,651	...
1874	2,954,850	141,249	...
1875	2,954,105	...	745
1876	3,249,248	295,143	...
1877	3,307,711	58,463	...
1878	3,350,000	50,000	...

The returns disclose the fact that, out of the large number of sheepowners in the Sheep District of Canterbury, nearly three-fourths own a less number than 500 sheep, the proportions of ownership being as under :—

1,437 persons own	500 sheep and under.	
95	500	1,000
51	1,000	1,500
26	1,500	2,000
78	2,000	5,000
62	5,000	10,000
53	10,000	20,000
28	20,000	40,000
8	40,000	90,000

During the past twelve months the number of sheep imported into the Sheep District of Canterbury has been 24,636—viz., by sea, 716; and by land, from Nelson, 1,974; from Otago, 21,543; and from Westland, 403; against an importation of 28,444, in the previous twelve months.

The flocks in the district continue free from scab; and I have every hope that with due watchfulness they may remain so; but the extreme length of the northern boundary, and the state of the flocks in a considerable portion of the Amuri Subdivision, is a constant source of anxiety. Considerable danger may at any time arise should sheep purchased in Canterbury be taken to the Amuri for the purpose of stocking country north of the Waiau-au River, as their tendency will be to make back to the country on which they were bred. With respect to this, I may mention that the Amuri Inspector has received the strictest instructions to exercise the greatest vigilance in carrying out clause 46 of "The Sheep Act, 1878," which provides that no sheep shall be driven through any infected run.

I regret to say that a considerable number of the long-woolled sheep are more or less affected with lice, but I trust that, with the power given under clause 68, "Sheep Act, 1878," and which is being exercised by the Inspectors, I may be able to report more favourably in this respect next year.

Attention is again drawn to the large area of Crown lands alienated in the past twelve months, from which cause a large increase in the number of sheepowners may be looked for, and also to the division of many estates into properties of smaller size, which necessitates an increase of work to the staff of Inspectors.

The lambing has been a fair one, but the extreme severity of the past winter in the back country will