

## 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, &amp;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.