

AUSTRALIAN

AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

REPORT read at a Special General Court of
Proprietors, held on the 12th October, 1832.

LONDON:

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FENCHURCH-STREET.

1832.

ALPHABETICAL

AGRICULTURAL COMPANY

Report made to a Special General Court of
Proprietors, held on the 13th October, 1882.

LONDON:

Printed by W. SIMMONS, 15, Abchurch Lane.

1882

R E P O R T,

Read at a Special General Court of Proprietors,
held at the Office of the Company,
No. 12, King's Arms Yard, London,
the 12th of October, 1832.

JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P. GOVERNOR,

IN THE CHAIR.

GENTLEMEN,

This Meeting having been convened for the election of a proprietor qualified, in accordance with the Act of Parliament, to supply a vacancy which has occurred in the direction of the Company's affairs, the Directors gladly avail themselves of that opportunity to present a Report of the progress made since the meeting held in January of this year.

The last Report stated, that an expedition had

been despatched to the interior to examine the country about seventy miles to the north-west of the present location.

The Company's Surveyor, Mr. Dangar, has since surveyed those lands, and has reported favourably of them to the required extent of about 600,000 acres, in two separate districts, at a short distance from each other.

Sir Edward Parry left Port Stephens on the 5th of March last, for the purpose of examining them previous to any final decision. On the 16th of April he returned to Port Stephens, and communicated to the Directors the result of his examination in the following words:—" It is now my " gratifying duty to acquaint you, that I consider " the lands surveyed in the neighbourhood or " direction of Liverpool Plains to be admirably " adapted to the Company's principal object, the " maintenance of fine-woolled sheep." In another paragraph he writes,—" I cannot dismiss " this subject without observing, that, in my " opinion, the Company's possession of the " tracts I have selected will entirely alter for the " better the prospects of the Company as relates " to their principal object."

By the returns of Horses it appears, there were, on the 31st of January, of Thorough bred and Cleveland, and the produce of their breeds respectively

106	
Colonial ditto, ditto	142
Welsh and Timor Ponies, and their produce	66
Total of horses	<u>314</u>

Of Cattle, the total number on the 31st of January was, of Durham

18	
Improved colonial	121
Scotch	33
Ditto, crossed with colonial	350
Colonial	2,198
Total of cattle	<u>2,720</u>

In the month May last, 160 bales of Wool, the clip of the Company's flocks in 1831, were received, and were sold by auction on the 8th of June, at prices varying from 1s. 5d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. averaging nearly 2s. per lb. (3d. per lb. above the average of the previous year's clip) and producing, after deducting all charges, £3354 : 7 : 8.

Upon a comparison with the Wools previously imported from the Company's estate, the quality of the 160 bales appears to be generally improved, and it was sent home in better condition.

The first parcel of Hides imported from the Company's estate was received in August last, and having been sold by public auction, has realized, after deducting freight and charges of sale, an average price of 9s. per hide.

The Directors have continued to impress upon the attention of their Commissioner the necessity of introducing into every department of the establishment a rigid system of economy; and the despatches evince, on his part, a full determination to carry into operation the wishes of the Directors: yet, it is the duty of the Directors to state, that, the expenditure of the Company still exceeds their income.

The monies arising from the sale of the wool and hides received from the Company's estate, and from the instalment payable in April last, having been quite inadequate to meet the outlay requisite to set in efficient action the coal-mines at Newcastle, and to defray the necessary current expenses of that and the agricultural

establishment at Port Stephens, the Directors find it necessary to make a call upon the Proprietors of 30s. per share, which will be made payable on the 20th of November next.

The agreements of many of the indented servants engaged in the Company's service at the commencement of the undertaking are to conclude in the present year, whereby the expenses of the establishment will be materially lessened, and other considerable retrenchments were in contemplation.

On the 10th of December last, Sir Edward Parry announced, by an advertisement in the Sydney Gazette, that the Company were prepared to supply the public with Coals, of the best kind, in any quantity required.

The extent of sales to the public, and to His Majesty's Colonial Government, during the three months ending the 31st of March last, was 1170 tons. The late introduction and expected increase of steam-vessels into the colony, (alluded to in the Report read on the 31st of January last,) the superior quality of the coal worked and sold by the Company, the facility of ship-

ping, and other favourable circumstances, hold out every prospect of an increasing demand.

The Court of Directors have appointed Mr. H. T. EBSWORTH Clerk to the Company, upon the resignation of Mr. J. STRETTELL BRICKWOOD, to whose zealous and active services the Company are much indebted; this gentleman having succeeded to the office of Secretary to the Commissioners for the Loan of Exchequer Bills.

In forming this new arrangement, the Court have seized the opportunity to make an economical alteration in the salaries of the clerk's office.

Signed, by Order of the Court of Directors,

H. T. EBSWORTH,
Clerk.

12, KING'S ARMS YARD,
London, 12th October, 1832.

P.S.—At the Court of Proprietors this day, JOHN STUDHOLME BROWNRIGG, Esq. was unanimously elected to the office of Director.

GOVERNOR.

JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

JOHN LOCH, Esq. M.P.

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM BROWN, Esq.

JOHN STUDHOLME BROWNRIGG, Esq.

JOHN WILLIAM BUCKLE, Esq.

WILLIAM CRAWFORD, Esq.

WALTER S. DAVIDSON, Esq.

RICHARD HART DAVIS, Esq.

STEWART MARJORIBANKS, Esq. M.P.

THE HON. J. T. LESLIE MELVILLE.

HENRY PORCHER, Esq.

JOHN G. RAVENSHAW, Esq.

JOHN SHORE, Esq.

THOMAS TOOKE, Esq.

AUDITORS.

GEORGE LEWIS HOLLINGSWORTH, Esq.

JOHN ABEL SMITH, Esq. M.P.

WILLIAM TURNBULL, Esq.

WILLIAM WARD, Esq.