AUSTRALIAN

AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

Sixtieth Annual Report.

Issued previous to the Annual General Meeting of Proprietors, to be held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, London, at One o'Clock precisely, on Tuesday, the 17th day of July, 1883, as per advertisement.

London:

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JULY 1883.

Australian Agricultural Company,

Established and Incorporated by Act 5, Geo. 4, Cap. 86, and by Royal Charter.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting of this Company will be held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, London, at One o'Clock in the afternoon precisely, on Tuesday, the 17th day of July next.

At this Meeting two Directors, and the two Auditors retire from office, but being re-eligible, will be proposed to the proprietors for re-election.

A Report on the affairs of the Company will be laid before the Meeting, and a Dividend recommended.

The Books of the Company for the Transfer of Shares will be closed on Monday, the 9th, and will be re-opened on Monday the 23rd proximo.

By Order of the Court of Directors.

WILLIAM ROBINSON,

Secretary.

196, GRESHAM HOUSE, OLD BROAD STREET,

LONDON, E.C., *28th June*, 1883.

Australian Agricultural Company.

At the Annual Meeting of Proprietors, to be held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, London, on Tuesday, the 17th day of July, 1883,

EDWARD HAMILTON, Esq.,

TO BE IN THE CHAIR,

The Board of Directors will have the honor of submitting to the Shareholders the following report on the Company's affairs with the accounts, for the year 1882.

The accounts now presented are in the usual form, and the three first show the following balances as on the 31st December last:—

Unappropriated capital- - - -	£9,335	12	0	Account A.
Net revenue earned in 1882 - -	53,190	17	0	Account B.
Amount available for dividend -	43,107	8	10	Account C.

As the dividend paid in February last absorbed £20,000 out of the balance in account C, the amount still available for distribution is £23,107. 8s. 10d., and a resolution will be moved at the meeting to appropriate a further sum of £23,000 to the payment, free of income tax, of a second dividend of 23s. per share on and after the 21st instant, thus making a total distribution of 10 per cent. on the paid up capital for the year 1882, and leaving £107. 8s. 10d. to be carried forward to the credit of next accounts.

On reference to the Capital Account it will be observed—

1.—That the only expenditure was that incurred on the issue of the last series of debentures, amounting to £20,000.

2.—That a sum of £500, arising from the sale of old Colliery-wagons is carried to credit.

3.—That the sum of £25,000 charged, is only a refund to revenue of part of the amount hitherto treated in the accounts as an advance by revenue for the purchase of sheep, and

4.—That a sum of £7,000. has been written off for ordinary wear and tear and cost of improvements on the Colliery.

So large a write-off is unusual; but it must be remembered that for the two previous years the amount so charged against revenue was exceptionally small; and in view of the large amount of the "Miscellaneous receipts" in the Colliery, due to special circumstances, the Directors have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to make this substantial and exceptional increase to the balance of unappropriated capital.

The same account also shows that up to the 31st of December, 1882, the total expenditure of capital amounted to £480,664. 8s. 0d., and it appears from the London ledgers that it has been applied to the following purposes.

1.	The original Stock and Agricultural department at Port Stephens and the Peel; this includes the herd of Cattle, but is exclusive of the sheep and improvements on Warrah	£287,220	8	3
2.	The purchase of Platt's estate in 1838 - - - -	6,000	0	0
3.	The Colliery - - - - -	101,674	1	6
4.	Warrah - - - - - - -	73,225	14	2
5.	Mineralogical Surveys - -	7,286	16	4
6.	Miscellaneous - - - -	5,257	7	9
		£480,664	8	0

As regards the Warrah Establishment, there is a further sum of £4,033. 2s. 4d. to the debit of the Live Stock purchased account (Vide Balance Sheet), which brings up its total cost on the 31st of December last to £77,258. 16s. 6d., and it was at that date represented—

(1) By improvements including 320 miles of wire fencing, buildings, dams, &c.				£27,294	8	6
and (2) By 107,702 weaned sheep at 9s. - -	£48,465	18	0			
and 5,994 unweaned lambs at 5s. - -	£1,498	10	0			
				49,964	8	0
				£77,258	16	6

The net revenue earned in 1882 was £14,958. 7s. 1d. more than that earned in 1881, the differences under the various heads of account being as follows:—

(1) *Increase of receipt or decrease of charge*—						
Stock department -	£11,783	2	1			
Land - - - - - -	3,413	4	4			
Donations - - - -	121	5	8			
Interest - - - - -	818	9	3			
Telegrams - - - -	79	1	0			
London office - - -	123	13	0			
				£16,338	15	4
(2) *Decrease of receipt or increase of charge*—						
Colliery - - - - -	£1,214	9	9			
Law charges - - -	147	5	11			
Superintendent's office	18	12	7			
				£1,380	8	3
				£14,958	7	1

Owing to the high price of coal and the brisk demand throughout the year, the coal trade was on the whole prosperous; this Company, however, did not share in the prosperity, owing mainly to the strike of the miners which lasted 20 weeks, but partly to the contracts which were accepted at unsatisfactory prices at the close of 1881 when the renewal of the Association was considered improbable. In the cost, taking the last half of the year (and owing to the strike in the first half, it would be misleading to take the average on the whole year) there was some increase above the average of 1881 when the out-put was very large, but a considerable reduction as compared with 1880, when the rate of out-put was the same. In his annual report, the Superintendent calls attention to the outlay of a special character during the year, and he does so with the object of showing that everything was maintained up to the usual standard, notwithstanding the large diminution of receipts, the amount so expended being £7,800. 0s. 0d. in 1882, against £7,400. 0s. 0d. in 1881.

The departmental profit earned by the stock amounted to £39,423 16s. 7d., and considering the small number of the Company's sheep and cattle, the result must be regarded as very satisfactory. The Directors have not the slightest doubt that this department is managed with the strictest economy, and with a view of affording to the shareholders the means of testing the fact, they take this opportunity of stating that during the last 10 years the total annual colonial cost per thousand sheep (including charges of every description up to the shipment of the clip in Sydney harbor) has ranged from £86. 2s. 6d., the minimum in 1881, to £151. 0s. 10d., the maximum in 1878, when the drought caused a heavy and unusual expenditure. It must also be borne in mind that on a property like Warrah where the annual turn-over from purchase and sale is very large and there is at times but little surface water, many exceptional charges are unavoidable. As regards the season, it is reported to have been from January to September unfavorable to stock-holders; hot and dry in the summer months, and then a winter of great severity. The number of sheep was largely reduced in the first half of the year by sales which yielded but little profit, but a favorable change of weather in the last 3 months of the year tempted the Superintendent to make large purchases, and the returns show that at the end of the year the number of sheep on hand was nearly the same as at the corresponding period of 1881.

In the Land department the net receipt shows an increase of £3,413. 4s. 4d. over the net amount realised in 1881, and it will be seen from the account that it was mainly due to the sale of lots at Newcastle; but there was no active demand for building land there at any period of the year. The Superintendent however says that prices were well maintained and he attributes the slackness of demand to the circumstance of over-purchase by the public in previous years.

As regards the Port Stephens property the Superintendent points to the collection of rents and the business done in the sale of land as "evidence of the well-doing of the residents." He also reports that the Railway department was making a preliminary inspection of the district with the intention of running trial-lines of survey for a coast railway from Maitland towards the Clarence River. Attention was called to this matter at the last half-yearly meeting, and the Directors see no reason to modify the opinion then expressed about the probable effect of such a railway on the value of the Port Stephens property.

In allusion to the Barrington gold-field, he reports that it still maintains a steady population; but that, although several of the mining lots are paying regular dividends, there is no increase of enterprise.

Passing on to the present year as to which advices by post have been received up to the 4th of May and by cable to the 23rd of June, the Directors are able to give a satisfactory report of the operations of the Company; the sale of the clip of 1882, which owing to a reduction of numbers was small in quantity, at good prices; a magnificent season; high prices for fat stock and a considerable number both of sheep and cattle either already sold or rapidly maturing into market condition, and lastly a large out-put of coal and the price of 11s. per ton well maintained.

On the other hand the Directors have to report the large deficiency of more than 3,500 head in the Gloucester breeding herd, ascertained by muster. The Superintendent was led to suspect it owing to a marked reduction in the increase, and therefore determined to have the herd mustered, an operation which had not been undertaken since 1876. The total deficiency thus ascertained represents an annual loss from one cause or another of about 500 head over and above that shown in the returns, and considering the broken character of the country occupied by the herd, the absence of boundaries of control, the difficulty of close supervision, and the frequent outbreaks of disease during this interval, the Directors are of opinion that the deficiency is not materially greater than might have been anticipated. As regards a more frequent muster, they submit that such an operation on a broken country is a matter of great difficulty and expense, and is attended with considerable injury to the cattle, and the practical conclusion they come to is to instruct the Superintendent to write off annually a loss of 500 head; it will only be an estimate, but an estimate founded on experience is under the circumstances the best means of maintaining the accuracy of the register.

The prosperity of the coal trade depends mainly on the association, and as it has worked satisfactorily since its re-establishment in January 1882, it will probably be maintained.

The following Members of the Court retire on the expiration of the period for which they were elected namely—

Hutchinson Hothersall Browne, Esq.,
Hugh Colin Smith, Esq. } *Directors.*

They are re-eligible, and will be proposed for re-election.

The election of Two Auditors will also take place as usual.

Signed by Order of the Court of Directors,

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Secretary.

196, Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E.C., 11*th July*, 1883.

WOOL CLIP OF 1881 SOLD IN 1882, AND OF 1882 SOLD IN 1883.

	1881		1882	
	Greasy.	Washed.	Greasy.	Washed.
Number of Sheep shorn	17,739	73,016 *	8,967	71,452 †
Net London weight of Clip in lbs.	111,766	204,881	59,730	198,937
Proceeds thereof, exclusive of freight and other charges	£5,290 6 5	£20,566 10 1	£2,670 9 3	£18,968 11 4
Average catalogue price per lb. of full grown fleeces including locks and pieces	...	2s. 0·34d.	...	1s. 11·29d.
Average weight of washed fleece	...	3·04 lbs.	...	3·04 lbs.
Average catalogue value thereof	...	6s. 1·99d.	...	5s. 10·92d.
Freight and other charges	£507 12 2	£1,362 11 10	£240 4 7	£1,183 0 10
Average thereof per lb. ...	1·09d.	1·60d.	0·97d.	1·43d.
Net proceeds	£4,782 14 3	£19,203 18 3	£2,430 4 8	£17,785 10 6
Net value of whole Clip...	£23,986 12 6		£20,215 15 2	

* This number includes 8,633 six months lambs.

† This number includes 9,969 five months lambs.

1882.

LIVE STOCK DISPOSED OF.

Sheep.

236 Rams	at £1	19s.	0d.	per head	£460	4	0
50,104 Wethers	„	8s.	2·32d.	„	20,525	17	3
2,216 Ewes	„	9s.	7·94d.	„	1,070	9	9
52,556					£22,056	11	0

Cattle.

1 Bull					£6	6	0
1217 Bullocks	at £7	3s.	3·34d.	per head	£8,718	10	0
728 Cows	„ 4	8s.	7·77d.	„	3,226	15	7
1946					£11,951	11	7

LIVE STOCK PURCHASED.

Sheep.

23,841 Wethers, at 6s.	9·91d.	per head	£8,137	7	0

INCREASE BY BREEDING.

(1.) Lambs dropped October, 1881, weaned February, 1882 ..	6,020
„ dropped May-July, 1882, weaned in November, 1882	20,932
	26,952

(2.) Calves	1,858

RETURNS OF STOCK, 1882.

SHEEP.

Number on the 31st December, 1881 - -		112,203
Increase by Lambs - - - - -	26,952	
,, ,, Purchase - - - - -	23,841	
		50,793
		162,996
Decrease by Deaths - - - - -	1,945	
,, ,, Rations - - - - -	487	
,, ,, Losses - - - - -	306	
,, ,, Sales - - - - - -	52,556	
		55,294
On hand 31st December, 1882 - - -		107,702

There were about 5,994 lambs on the run not included in the above Return.

CATTLE.

Under control 31st December, 1881 - -		16,525
Increase by Calves - - - - -	1,858	
,, ,, Purchase - - - - -	2	
		1,860
		18,385
Decrease by Deaths - - - - -	1,103	
,, ,, Rations - - - - -	238	
,, ,, Sales - - - - - -	1,946	
		3,287
Under control 31st December, 1882 - -		15,098

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY, COAL TABLE, 1882.

Large Coal on Bank	Small Coal on Bank	On Bank, and raised during 1882.			Of which there were,	Consumed by Engine, &c.		Sold.			Large Coal on Bank	Small Coal on Bank
		Large.	Small.	Total.		Large.	Small.	Large.	Small.	Total.		
nil	*nil*	114553	38568	153121		495	7087	114058	31481	145539	*nil*	*nil*

General Cost and Charges for 1882.			Price realized by sale of 145,539 Tons.			Profit on 145,539 Tons.			Average Profit per Ton.	
£	*s*	*d*	£	*s*	*d*	£	*s*	*d*	*s*	*d*
55,185	18	4	60,153	18	9	4,968	0	5	0	8·19
Average per Ton, 7s. 7d.			Average per Ton, 8s. 3·19d.							

Description of the four Freehold Estates of the Australian Agricultural Company in New South Wales.

1.—Port Stephens Estate, situate on Port Stephens, a magnificent harbour about 100 miles north of Sydney—occupied by the Company's herds—contains large deposits of iron, limestone, and coal; one seam of the latter, about 23 miles from the Wharf at Pumpkin Point on the Karuah, is of great thickness.

	a.	r.	p.
Original grant - - - - - - -	464,640	0	0
Deduct quantity alienated to 31st December, 1882 - -	12,924	2	23¼
	451,715	1	16¾
Total proceeds of sales - - -	£40,692	18	0

2.—Newcastle Estate, 60 miles north of Sydney, adjoining the city of Newcastle,—average thickness of coal seam 10½ feet.

	a.	r.	p.
Original grant - - - - - - - -	1,913	1	32
Acquired since by purchase from the Colonial Government in 1873	2	0	25
	1,915	2	17
Deduct quantity alienated to 31st December, 1882 - - - -	208	0	39¼
	1,707	1	17¾
Total proceeds of sales - - -	£106,297	17	4

The minerals underlying an additional 87 acres were also granted to the Company.

3.—Platt's Estate, situate on the River Hunter, about a mile to the west of the Newcastle Estate; coal not proved, but stated to underlie the whole of it.

	a.	r.	p.
Original purchase - - - - - - -	2,000	0	0
Acquired since by purchase - - -	2	1	37
	2,002	1	37
Deduct quantity alienated to 31st December, 1882 - - - - -	120	1	14
	1,882	0	23
Total proceeds of sales - - - -	£4,172	0	0

4.—Warrah Estate, in the District of the Liverpool Plains, on the Great Northern Railway.

	a.	r.	p.
Original grant - - - - - - - -	249,600	0	0
Acquired since by purchase - -	208	0	0
	249,808	0	0
Deduct quantity alienated to 31st December, 1882 - -	391	1	10
	249,416	2	30
Total proceeds of sales - - -	£1,850	2	5

ACCOUNTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1882.

A.

Capital Account.

	£ s d	£ s d
To Outlay of Capital—		
Expended since the formation of the Company in 1824, as per last Account	463,085 17 7	
Less Proceeds of Sale of Old Wagons	500 0 0	
	462,585 17 7	
Cost of Sheep transferred from Live Stock purchased (Sheep) Account to Capital ..	25,000 0 0	
Cost of issuing Debentures	78 10 5	
	487,664 8 0	
From which deduct—		
Amount charged to General Revenue, as per Account C	7,000 0 0	
	480,664 8 0	
Balance 31st December, 1882	9,335 12 0	
	£490,000 0 0	

	£ s d	£ s d
By Joint Stock Account—		
Amount called up on 20,000 Shares, as per last Account		430,000 0 0
,, Loans on Debentures as per last Account	40,000 0 0	
Issued in 1882	20,000 0 0	60,000 0 0
		£490,000 0 0

B.

Expenditure and Receipts on Revenue Account during the Year 1882.

Expenditure.

	£ s d	£ s d
COLLIERY.		
To Charges on getting Coal ..	54,558 18 6	
,, Municipal Taxes on Colliery Works, Buildings, &c. ..	626 19 10	
	55,185 18 4	
,, Miscellaneous Expenses ..	600 11 10	
		55,786 10 2
STOCK DEPARTMENT.		
,, Wages	3,743 5 4	
,, Rations..	395 9 4	
,, Fences, Buildings, &c. . ..	2,623 11 4	
,, Expenses on Wool Clip 1882..	3,678 7 4	
,, Miscellaneous Expenses ..	1,804 0 4	
	12,244 13 8	
,, Charge on Revenue— To adjust the Live Stock Purchased Account, *vide* Balance Sheet	7,271 18 10	19,516 12 6
LAND DEPARTMENT.		
,, Wages, and cost of Survey and Conveyances..	541 15 1	
,, Municipal Taxes on unoccupied lands at Newcastle	466 12 9	
,, Miscellaneous Expenses ..	473 10 10	
		1,481 18 8
DONATIONS, ANNUAL ALLOWANCES, &c.		739 14 10
INTEREST, DISCOUNT, AND EXCHANGE.		
,, Paid in the Colony	177 16 3	
,, Paid in London	111 6 9	
		289 3 0
LAW CHARGES		212 8 9
TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES, Out and Home		194 3 9
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE		2,090 2 3
LONDON OFFICE.. ..	2,832 0 3	
Consulting Colliery Engineer	150 0 0	
		2,982 0 3
		83,292 14 2
,, Balance carried to Account C		53,190 17 0
		£136,483 11 2

Receipts.

	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
COLLIERY.			
By Sales of Coal		60,153 18 9	
,, Miscellaneous Receipts ..		6,481 15 10	
			66,635 14 7
STOCK DEPARTMENT.			
,, Proceeds of Live Stock disposed of during the year, viz.—			
Sheep sold ..	22,056 11 0		
Cattle sold ..	11,951 11 7		
		34,008 2 7	
,, Net Proceeds of Wool, being the whole Clip of 1881 ..		23,986 12 6	
,, Miscellaneous Receipts ..		945 14 0	
			58,940 9 1
LAND DEPARTMENT.			
,, Sales of Land—			
Newcastle ..	4,718 0 0		
Port Stephens	1,566 10 0		
Warrah ..	10 3 0		
		6,294 13 0	
,, Rents Received—			
Newcastle ..	1,712 1 9		
Port Stephens	1,499 16 9		
Warrah ..	64 10 0		
		3,276 8 6	
,, Miscellaneous Receipts.. ..		939 2 1	
			10,510 3 7
INTEREST, DISCOUNT, AND EXCHANGE.			
,, Received in the Colony ..		124 2 5	
,, Received in London ..		273 1 6	
			397 3 11
			£136,483 11 2

C.

General Revenue Account.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To 64th Dividend, 17s. 6d. per Share, declared on the 14th day of February, 1882	17,500	0	0	By Balance on the 31st December, 1881	32,664	0	5
,, 65th Dividend, 15s. per Share, declared on the 25th day of July, 1882	15,000	0	0	,, Balance of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ending 31st December, 1882, as per Account B	53,190	17	0
,, Income Tax	1,072	8	7				
,, Interest on Debentures	2,175	0	0				
,, Reduction of cost of extension of Colliery in previous years	7,000	0	0				
	42,747	8	7				
,, Balance on 31st December, 1882 (*)	43,107	8	10				
	£85,854	17	5		£85,854	17	5

(*) Out of this Balance the sum of £20,000 was paid away in Dividend in February last.

D.

General Balance Sheet of the Australian Agricultural Company's London & Colonial Books, on the 31st December, 1882.

	£	s	d		£	s	d	£	s	d
To Capital Account, as per Account A	9,335	12	0	By General Colonial Account, consisting of Book Debts, Stores, &c., due and on hand in the Colony	£7,527	8	10			
,, General Revenue Account, as per Account C	43,107	8	10	Bills in transitu to London ..	18,488	6	6			
,, Dividends unpaid	62	12	0	Cash in the Colony	4,764	1	4	30,779	16	8
				,, Live Stock Purchased Account, being the amount invested in the purchase of sheep beyond that charged to Capital				4,033	2	4
				,, Bills received but not due at date				8,000	0	0
				,, Cash on loan	5,000	0	0			
				,, ,, at Bankers	4,676	19	2			
				,, ,, at Office	15	14	8	9,692	13	10
	£52,505	12	10					£52,505	12	10

We hereby certify that this Statement corresponds with the General Ledger Balances of the Company to 31st December 1882.

Wm. ROBINSON,
Secretary

(Signed) MORGAN YEATMAN, WILLIAM A. TOOKE } *Auditors*

London, 23*rd June*, 1883.

Note.—The Clip of 1882, sold in London during the present year, is not included in these Accounts.

Governor.

EDWARD HAMILTON, Esq.

Directors.

HUTCHINSON HOTHERSALL BROWNE, Esq.

WILLIAM FANNING, Esq.

JAMES GOODSON, Esq.

EDWIN HENRY LAWRENCE, Esq.

ERIC CARRINGTON SMITH, Esq.

HUGH COLIN SMITH, Esq.

Auditors.

WILLIAM ARTHUR TOOKE, Esq.

MORGAN YEATMAN, Esq.

METCALFE, PRINTER, GROCERS' HALL COURT, E.C.