

REPORT

OF THE
AUSTRALIAN

AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

IN THE YEAR

AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

CONTENTS.

The annual period having expired, the Directors of the Company, at a General Meeting, held at the Office of the Company, on the 31st of January, 1832, the Directors proceed to show, according to the best information before them, what have been the difficulties or favourable circumstances occurring since the last Annual Report, and what was the state of the Company's property at the date of the most recent accounts.

The experience of seven years has served to prove that the difficulties in the way of the Company have not been greater than was expected.

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1832.

AUSTRIAN

AGRICULTURAL

THE AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURAL

AND FORESTRY JOURNAL

FOR THE YEAR 1881

EDITED BY

DR. JOHANNES

WILHELM

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

AND

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RECHENBERG-STRASSE

1881

R E P O R T,

Read at the *Eighth* Annual General Court of Proprietors, held at the Office of the Company, No. 12, King's Arms Yard, London, the 31st of January, 1832.

JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P. GOVERNOR,
IN THE CHAIR.

GENTLEMEN,

The annual period having again arrived for placing before a Meeting of the Proprietors a General Report on the Affairs of the Company, the Directors proceed to shew, according to the best information before them, what have been the difficulties or favourable circumstances occurring since the last Annual Report, and what was the state of the Company's property at the date of the most recent accounts.

The experience of seven years has served to prove that the extent of difficulties in the way of success has been far greater than was anticipated.

with their flocks during a large portion of the last three years.

It was not until the 5th December, 1831, that the Directors, by a despatch then received, became acquainted with the deficiency of the flocks, now mentioned. No previous return had been received in this country later than the 20th July, which reported the number of sheep on the estate, on the 30th September, 1830,

to be 23,705

and the unwelcome information of a considerable decrease of number, instead of an increase, as was expected, in the further period up to 31st January, 1831, has thus recently presented itself. Various circumstances during the past year have prevented the more regular receipt of stock returns.

Sir E. Parry having made extensive surveys along the range of coast, with a view to a beneficial change of a large portion of the million of acres originally selected for the Company, and having met with no suitable lands, of any considerable extent, has directed his inquiries toward the interior, and was about to despatch, in June last, an expedition across the range of mountains fifty miles west of Port Stephens, in order to examine the unexplored country beyond them.

In the neighbourhood of Bathurst, inland of

that extensive range, about 150 miles south-west of Port Stephens, and in other parts of New South Wales, large tracts of superior soil are believed to exist; there is, therefore, reason to hope that Sir E. Parry, in the expedition now adverted to, or in future surveys, will succeed in discovering a district of good quality, to be occupied by the Company in addition to their present allotment.

Wheat has not yet been found to thrive well on the Company's lands; so that, in consequence of repeated failures of the crops to a considerable extent, a portion of the supply requisite to feed the Establishment is continued to be purchased. This has constituted another serious disappointment, the possibility of surmounting which must be left for the experience of another season.

For the rearing of cattle, Sir E. Parry represents a large portion of the pastures of New South Wales to be peculiarly favourable, and that the time cannot be far distant when the increase of numbers may be such as to confer a value by the sale of the hides and tallow, independently of the possible vend of the meat when salted.

Nevertheless the consumption of beef hitherto on the Company's estate, has prevented any increase to the aggregate number of their herds, so that when the last account was made up on

30th April, 1831, there were,—

Of Durham cattle	16
Ditto improved Colonial.....	95
Scotch.....	34
Ditto improved Colonial.....	252
Colonial	1554
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Total	1951
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Sir E. Parry purchased, after that period, 150 fat oxen, at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. to prevent a continuance of the wasteful effect of killing the Company's cattle before their full growth of four years, and he reckoned that an abundant increase from the Company's herds beyond the annual consumption would soon accrue.

With horses of good breed the Colony of New South Wales had latterly become abundantly stocked, so as to close, in some degree, the prospect of a profitable demand in the home market for animals of any but the finest kind.

The Commissioner's attention was accordingly directed to the increase chiefly of the best breeds, and he expected to succeed in that attempt eventually, although checked at first by finding the Stud Establishment and pastures allotted to that branch of the Company's undertaking located in an unfavourable situation, and

appearing to be, that the number of sheep will be limited by the quality of the land which the Company may ultimately succeed in procuring.

The Directors (holding as they do a very important share in the whole adventure, and with an earnest desire, on every ground, to promote the interests of the proprietors) cannot fail to observe with attention every circumstance tending to improve the prospects of the Company, or the reverse; and considering the serious and unlooked-for disappointments herein detailed, they have deemed it right to state to Sir E. Parry, in the strongest terms, the absolute necessity of reducing the expenditure within the amount of income.

Despatches to that effect have left this country eight months since, and the Directors do not doubt that Sir E. Parry will avail himself of every opportunity to carry those instructions into effect.

The disbursement of the year 1831 has been large, consisting of many items of expenditure which will not be continued, and including an outlay of considerable amount found requisite to set in action the Coal-Mines, which establishment being now in a complete state, will not need a further investment of capital.

That branch of the Company's undertaking holds out an improved prospect.

The operations in the Colliery Department were for a long time slow, owing to causes detailed in former Reports, and to a deficiency of labourers accustomed to such work; but the Government Colliery there having been discontinued, and the mechanics and miners transferred from thence to the Company's service, Sir E. Parry announces that, by the month of October last, the Company's Mines would be in readiness to supply the public with coals in any quantity.

The works at Newcastle, which were in a forward state at the date of Sir E. Parry's dispatch in July, 1831, consisted of—

The principal shaft, with an air-tight partition near the centre of it, leading to the seam of coal;

A second shaft, of smaller dimensions, for ventilation and for supplying the engine with coals;

A tunnel from the bottom of the smaller shaft, proceeding two ways, one towards and communicating with the main shaft,—the other leading to the side of the hill next the sea, through which the water from the main shaft will be discharged, avoiding the necessity of raising it to the pit's mouth;

Colony was increasing; and the two steam-boats already established there would augment the demand for coal, which seemed likely to be extended further by the expected immediate establishment of two other steam-vessels.

The number of men employed by the Company, in various occupations, on the 30th April last, was,.....	462
Women and children	147
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Total on the estate	609
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Two schools had been established on the estate during the last year, by the exertions of Sir E. Parry, and it is stated that the good effects of religious and moral discipline imparted to the people, young and old, by that and every other means within the power of the Commissioner, were clearly perceptible.

The Statements of Cash Receipt and Expenditure to 31st December, 1831, are on the table.

The period having now arrived when, by the Act 11 Geo. IV. c. 24, the Court of Directors is required to consist of a Governor, Deputy-Governor, and twelve, instead of twenty-four Directors, the number of the Court has been so far reduced.

The Company's Acts of Parliament requiring further, that three of the Directors and the four Auditors should retire annually, in the month of January, and be eligible to be re-elected, vacancies to that extent are formed, and an election to fill them up will form a part of the proceedings of this day. The gentlemen who have filled those offices respectively during the past year are candidates for re-election, namely,

AS DIRECTORS,

WILLIAM BROWN, Esq.

R. HART DAVIS, Esq.

STEWART MARJORIBANKS, Esq. M.P.

AS AUDITORS,

G. L. HOLLINGSWORTH, Esq.

J. A. SMITH, Esq. M.P.

WILLIAM TURNBULL, Esq.

WILLIAM WARD, Esq.

Signed, by order of the Court of Directors,

J. STRETTELL BRICKWOOD,

Secretary.

12, KING'S ARMS YARD,
London, 31st January, 1832.

RECEIPTS AND CREDITS

During 7½ Years.

<i>Joint Stock Account.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Received on Account of Instalments in						
England	219,268	0	0			
Ditto Ditto in N. S. Wales	6,827	0	0			
Called for and receivable in N. S. Wales	3,185	0	0			
				229,280	0	0
Office Fees, received on the Transfer of Shares and Certificates issued				789	17	6
Wool Account, net amount of Sales, deducting Freight, Insurance, and Charges of Sale				10,484	6	0
Stud Account, received for the Services of "Herald" and "Cleveland"				760	3	11
Exchange Account, Premiums received in Sydney on the Sale of Bills drawn on the Court of Directors				995	10	11
Interest Account, for Interest accrued on Exchequer Bills, &c. and Discounts allowed by Tradesmen for prompt payment of their accounts				1,597	10	6
Exchequer Bills, Profit arising from Difference of Pre- miums on Purchase and Re-sale				58	0	0
Insurance Account, Balance remaining on this Account, Profit on the risk undertaken by the Company on the Cargoes of three Ships chartered in 1827, for convey- ance of Sheep, &c. to the Company's Estates in New South Wales				578	15	0
Robert Dawson, received from the Imperial Insurance Company for cancelment of his Life Policy, reserved in suspense until the Settlement of his Account with the Company				221	11	0
Bills of Exchange, drawn by Sir Edward Parry, charged to Port Stephens Account, though not paid at the close of the year 1831				250	0	0
Smith, Payne and Smiths, Sums advanced by them on account of the Company				4,249	2	7
				£249,264	17	5

DISBURSEMENTS

	During 7½ Years.		£	s.	d.
Costs of Acts of Parliament, Charter of Incorporation, &c.			691	2	10
Office Furniture, Fixtures, and Repairs.....			800	12	9
Rent and Taxes of Office, 12, King's Arms Yard.....			1,067	18	6
Printing and Advertising			766	16	9
Powers of Attorney			18	9	0
Salaries, Wages, and Allowances			5,107	12	9
Incidental Expenses			333	9	8
Law Charges			297	10	9
Office Stationery, Account Books, &c.			397	17	4
Sir W. Edward Parry, invested to provide contingently a Pension for him, according to the Agreement entered into with him, Dividends receivable by the Company		3,600	0	0	
Less, 4 half-years' Dividends, to July, 1831, each £61 : 17 : 9.....		247	11	0	
<i>Port Stephens Account.</i>			3,352	9	0
Sheep, total Cost in Europe and in N. S. Wales, including Charges of Transport, &c.....	69,808	14	2		
Horses Ditto Ditto	11,254	0	9		
Cattle Ditto Ditto	16,163	14	4		
Stores for Improvement of the Company's Estate and use of the Establishment	56,723	0	11		
Salaries and Allowances, including Lodging, Conveyance to the Colony, and Provisions	54,375	12	0		
Cutter "Lambton" and other Vessels first cost, Insurance, and other Expenses	4,056	4	2		
Estate, Lands, and Premises, occupied by the Company in N. S. Wales, including purchase of 1200 Acres, formerly granted to a Settler within the Company's proposed Boundary	3,333	2	3		
Coal Mines—Cost of Steam Engines and Apparatus, Conveyance to the Colony, Salaries, &c. &c.	15,970	10	9		
			232,184	19	4
<i>Cash Balances.</i>			£244,928	18	8
London Account, in the hands of the Secretary for Petty Disbursements			40	0	1
Port Stephens Account, in the Bank of Australia, in June, 1831 :					
The Date of the last advices £1065 7 10					
In Sir E. Parry's hands.... 45 10 10					
Instalments payable in the Colony	3185	0	0		
			4295	18	8
			4,335	18	9
			£249,264	17	5

GOVERNOR.

JOHN SMITH, Esq. M.P.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

JOHN LOCH, Esq. M.P.

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM BROWN, Esq.
JOHN WILLIAM BUCKLE, Esq.
SIR ROBERT CAMPBELL, Bart.
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.
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WILLIAM TURNBULL, Esq.
WILLIAM WARD, Esq.