

AUSTRALIAN

AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

Thirty-eighth Annual Report.

Issued previous to the Annual General Court of Proprietors, to be held at No. 5, Cannon Street, London, on Tuesday, the 30th day of July, 1861, at One o'Clock precisely, as per advertisement.

London :

PRINTED BY J. J. METCALFE, GROCERS' HALL COURT.

JULY, 1861.

AUSTRIAN

...the one ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

General-Managerial Report

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

Australian Agricultural Company.

At the Annual General Court of Proprietors, to be held at
No. 5, Cannon Street, London, on Tuesday, the
30th day of July, 1861,

EDWARD HAMILTON, Esq., GOVERNOR,

TO BE IN THE CHAIR,

The following Report will be submitted by the Directors:—

GENTLEMEN,

The Accounts now presented exhibit the result of the
Company's operations for the year 1860.

It will be observed—

1. That the sum of £8,996. 6s. 9d., which was received
from the Colonial Railway Commissioners, and might, under
the provisions of the Company's last Act of Parliament,
have been treated as Revenue, has been credited to Capital.

2. That exclusive of this sum the net Revenue amounted
to £29,754. 9s. 5d.

3. That the balance applicable to the dividends of 1861
stood on the 1st of January last at £34,720. 18s. 3d.

By the payment of the usual dividend of 20s. per
Share in February last, this balance has been reduced to
£14,720. 18s. 3d., which is slightly less than the amount

required to pay the second dividend at the same rate as heretofore. We (your Directors), however, recommend that the small deficiency, viz. £279. 1s. 9d., be made good out of the profits of the current year, and that a dividend of 15s. per Share be declared and made payable on the 6th day of August next.

The Funds in hand in London at this date amount to £25,361.

The result of the Coal trade in 1860 is exhibited in the following Tables.

Large Coal on Bank 1st Jan., 1860.	Small Coal on Bank 1st Jan., 1860.	On Bank, and raised during the Year.			Of which there were	Consumed by Engine, &c.		Sold.			Large Coal on Bank 31st Dec., 1860.	Small Coal on Bank 31st Dec., 1860.
		Large.	Small.	Total.		Large.	Small.	Large.	Small.	Total.		
—	4326	126045	12274	138319		552	2688	125493	9586	135079	—	—

General Cost and Charges for the Year.	Price realized by Sale of 135,079 Tons.	Profit on 135,079 Tons.	Average Profit per Ton.
£ s d 60,721 10 3	£ s d 89,125 5 5	£ s d 28,403 15 2	s d 4 2½

On reference to the corresponding Table of 1859 it will be found that the net Revenue of the Colliery has been fully maintained.

The get of the year has increased by 4,016 tons, and the average profit per ton which fell from 5s. 6¾d. in 1858 to 4s. 4d. in 1859, has only fallen from 4s. 4d. in 1859 to 4s. 2½d. in 1860.

The Monthly range of prices was between 12s. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and 14s. 1d. per ton, and of charges between 8s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and 9s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per ton.

We think that this result must be considered, under the circumstances, satisfactory, for the Colliery was worked during the year 1860 under many disadvantages, viz., an increase of charges for getting and wheeling, and for screening and picking—a slack trade during the first four months of the year—commercial difficulties of unusual severity throughout the Australian Colonies—a combination among the miners not to work after a low daily maximum had been earned—extensive repairs—purchase of new rolling stock—and lastly the absence of a Chief Officer throughout the whole of the year.

On the other hand, we can mention with satisfaction a material increase in the demand for this Company's Coal at Foreign Ports, the quantity shipped in 1860 being 23,171 tons, against 13,240 tons in 1859. Up to this date, contracts for the delivery of 7,542 tons at the Staith at Newcastle have been made with parties in England, of which only a part (1,145 tons) was delivered in 1860. Before the termination of the war in China, this trade looked more promising than it now does; but a demand still exists, and we confidently look to it as a set off against the drawback of increased competition and supply.

During the first quarter of 1861, a marked improvement in the Company's general coal trade has taken place; 31,951 tons having been sold at a profit of 5s. per ton, against 28,528 tons sold at a profit of 3s. 10d. per ton in the corresponding quarter of 1860. This high rate of profit must, we fear, be regarded as exceptional, and in some measure due to a temporary suspension of the ordinary operations of repair and renewal on Mr. Winship's first arrival.

STOCK DEPARTMENT.

As compared with 1859, there is a decrease in the revenue derived from this source. This is owing to the following circumstances:—

1. A fall in the price of butchers' meat in the latter part of the year, the average price on 1,061 head being £4. 15s. 6d., against £6. 2s. 6d. on 1,127 head in 1859.

This result may be due to a variety of causes operating upon a limited market; but one alone would be sufficient to account for the depreciation, viz., general commercial embarrassment, leading to slack employment of the population, and a diminished consumption of the necessaries of life.

2. The breaking out of the Cumberland disease in the early part of the year. This casualty not only entailed a loss of nearly 500 head in the Warrah herd, but prevented sales at a time when the market was firm, and prices highly remunerative.

3. The small number of store wethers purchased and sold. The General Superintendent would gladly have purchased a much larger number, but he was deterred from giving increased rates by the signs of weakness in the Butchers' Market at Sydney. This disturbance in the normal relation of prices has been of frequent occurrence, and is a natural consequence of the state of things now existing in the two contiguous colonies of N. S. Wales and Queensland; in the latter, a great extent of unoccupied country suited, as to climate and pasture, to the production of wool, and a spirit of enterprise encouraged by the wise and liberal policy of its Government—in the former, a yearly increase in the number of sheep, far beyond the decrease arising from casualties and consumption.

LAND DEPARTMENT.

The sales effected during the year 1860 were unimportant. The General Superintendent writing under date, April 20th, says, "There is scarcely any demand for land, and this is owing to the low price of produce, and the unsettled state of the land question; no improvement can be expected until this question has been finally settled."

As to the Newcastle property, he observes, "my instructions from the Court to withhold the allotments from sale have been carefully attended to, save in one instance," viz., an allotment containing 17 perches only, which has been sold for £800, *i.e.* at the rate of more than £7,500 an acre.

Mr. Winship, the newly appointed viewer, arrived in Sydney, on the 16th of January last, and immediately entered upon the duties of his office.

After a careful examination of the Colliery, both above and under-ground, he drew up, and despatched by the March mail a report of very remarkable interest. In it he gives a full account of the Machinery, the Ventilation, the mode of working the Seams, the underground Haulage, the Drainage, and the Workshops. Many defects are pointed out, and some already remedied. He has also forwarded another document of great value, a classified statement of the whole expenditure, showing the cost per ton incurred in every stage of the work. On the receipt of these documents, the consulting engineer of the Company, Mr. Liddell, came up to London and spent more than a week in their perusal, and the preparation of a paper in reply to Mr. Winship's suggestions. The pains bestowed on this reply, entitle Mr. Liddell to your best acknowledgments. No one but a professional man could have attempted to handle such a subject in minute detail, and we feel sure that Mr.

Winship will be well satisfied to find that his communications are submitted to the judgment of a gentleman so well qualified to appreciate and to criticise them. In a letter which the Directors were requested to forward to Mr. Winship, Mr. Liddell says, "I think it only right to express the satisfaction I have derived from the energy and judgment with which you have entered upon the practical duties of your new situation, and for the valuable information contained in your comprehensive report. I can assure you that nothing will afford me greater pleasure than to receive your further report, and to aid in carrying out any recommendations you may from time to time find it necessary to make."

No. 2 Pit is going on well. Having satisfied himself that there was no danger of further collapse in the shaft constructed by his predecessor, Mr. Winship has continued the sinking, and on the 21st May had got down 134 feet. The General Superintendent says—"If all goes on well, I hope to report that we are down to the coal by next mail."

It will be recollected that a bore hole was sunk on the site of this Pit two years ago. The section then reported was—

	Ft.	In.
Sand and Clay - - - -	99	0
Stone of various kinds - - - -	27	0
Grey Shale - - - -	24	0
Coal Seam - - - -	9	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	159	6

Whereas the correct section now given from the surface to the depth reached at the date of last advice, is—

	Ft.	In.
Sand and Clay - - - -	107	4
Stone - - - -	27	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	134	4

A small quantity of coke has been manufactured, and Mr. Winship reports that the quality is equal to any produced in the North of England. There was a ready sale for it at Newcastle at 40s. per ton.

In conclusion, we beg to assure you that we confidently look forward to many improvements in the working of the mines, and a considerable increase in the quantity of coal raised. On the completion of this Pit, a large area of coal to the rise will be available for many years; and we trust that every advantage will be taken of the opportunity afforded by a first start. For some years past the Colliery has been hampered by arrangements which, though approved at the time, an enlarged experience has shown to be defective, and the revenue has been maintained principally by the buoyancy of the market; but henceforward we must be prepared for the usual consequences of increased competition, and endeavour to maintain our position by constant attention to all the various economies which pressure has forced upon the coal owners of this country.

Signed by order of the Court of Directors,

GEORGE ENGSTRÖM,
Secretary.

5, CANNON STREET,
LONDON, 24th July, 1861.

NOTE.—The Directors and Auditors retiring by rotation, and eligible for re-election, are as follows:—

JOHN DOBIE, Esq.

JAMES GOODSON, Esq.

COLONEL J. S. BROWNRIGG, C.B.

WILLIAM TOOKE, Esq.

} *Directors.*

} *Auditors.*

RETURNS OF STOCK.

SHEEP.

Last Return, 31st December, 1859, on hand	-	-	-	311
Increase by purchase	-	-	-	8,736
				<u>9,047</u>
Decrease by Deaths	-	-	-	65
„ Rations	-	-	-	39
„ Sale	-	-	-	8,936
„ Boiling	-	-	-	7
				<u>9,047</u>

CATTLE.

Under control, 1st January, 1860	-	-	-	10,571
Increase by Calves	-	-	-	2,100
				<u>12,671</u>
Decrease by Deaths	-	-	-	813
„ Rations	-	-	-	57
„ Sale	-	-	-	1,228
				<u>2,098</u>
Under control 31st December, 1860	-	-	-	<u>10,573</u>

N.B.—The muster of the Cattle has, with the consent of the Directors, been dispensed with since 1858.

ACCOUNTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1860.

A

Capital Account.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Outlay of Capital—				By Joint Stock Account—			
„ Expended since the formation of the Com- pany in 1825, as per last Account	374,295	18	0	„ Amount received of Proprietors, on 20,000 £25 Shares, viz. amount called up, £19 per Share	380,000	0	0
„ Expended during the year on account of New Works at the Colliery, Newcastle	526	1	9				
	374,821	19	9				
„ From which deduct sundry Re- ceipts	99	4	11				
„ Received from Railway Com- missioners	8,996	6	9				
„ Amount charged to Revenue, as per Account B	2,060	6	1				
	11,155	17	9				
	363,666	2	0				
Balance, 31st Dec., 1860	16,333	18	0				
	£380,000	0	0		£380,000	0	0

WM. ROBINSON,
Acct.

B.

Expenditure and Receipts on Revenue Account during the Year 1860.

<i>Expenditure.</i>				<i>Receipts.</i>			
COLLIERY.				COLLIERY.			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Charges on getting Coal ..	58,526	12	5	By Sales of Coal	89,125	5	5
„ Charge on Revenue of the Year for extension of the Colliery as per Account A	2,060	6	1	„ Miscellaneous Receipts ..	79	11	11
„ Municipal Taxes on Colliery Works, Buildings, &c.	134	11	9		89,204	17	4
	60,721	10	3				
STOCK DEPARTMENT.				STOCK DEPARTMENT.			
„ Wages	1,642	18	5	„ Sales of Live Stock, viz.—			
„ Rations	272	1	3	Sheep	6,930	8	9
„ License and Assessment ..	48	8	6	Cattle	6,981	7	6
„ Fences, Buildings, &c. . .	683	13	8	Horses	346	17	9
„ Purchase of Live Stock ..	7,916	16	0		14,258	14	0
„ Miscellaneous Expenses ..	634	9	0	„ Miscellaneous Receipts ..	436	15	2
	11,198	6	10		14,695	9	2
LAND DEPARTMENT.				LAND DEPARTMENT.			
„ Wages, and cost of Surveys and Conveyances,—Port Stephens	315	3	9	„ Sales of Land, Newcastle ..	599	0	0
„ Construction and Repairs of Roads, Bridges, Wharves, Build- ings, &c.,—Newcastle	304	7	2	„ Ditto, Port Stephens ..	351	0	0
„ Rent of Lands Paid	295	0	0	„ Rents Received, Port Stephens	2,616	16	8
„ Municipal Taxes on unoccupied lands at Newcastle	208	2	0	„ Ditto, Newcastle	1,068	16	2
„ Miscellaneous Expenses ..	35	4	3	„ Agistment, Port Stephens ..	128	4	9
	1,157	17	2		4,763	17	7
CHURCH & SCHOOL ESTABLISHMENT	334	5	6				
INTEREST, DISCOUNT, AND EXCHANGE.				INTEREST, DISCOUNT, AND EXCHANGE.			
„ Paid in the Colony	345	4	10	„ Received in the Colony ..	11	9	7
„ Paid in London	16	10	0	„ Received in England ..	56	15	5
	361	14	10		68	5	0
LAW CHARGES	173	6	6				
SYDNEY OFFICE	2,469	1	9				
LONDON OFFICE	2,361	16	10				
Consulting Colliery Engineer	200	0	0				
	2,561	16	10				
	78,977	19	8				
Balance carried to Account C	29,754	9	5		£108,732	9	1
	£108,732	9	1		£108,732	9	1

WM. ROBINSON.

C.

General Revenue Account.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To 23rd Dividend of £1 per Share declared on the 24th January, 1860	20,000	0	0	By Balance on the 31st December, 1859	40,069	5	10
„ 24th Dividend of 15s. per Share declared on the 31st July, 1860	15,000	0	0	„ Balance of Expenditure and Receipts during the year ending 31st December, 1860, as per Account B.	29,754	9	5
„ Income Tax	278	7	4	„ Balance of Sundry Receipts and Payments during the year on this account	175	10	4
	35,278	7	4				
Balance on 31st Dec., 1860.	34,720	18	3				
	£69,999	5	7		£69,999	5	7

WM. ROBINSON,
Acct.

D.

*General Balance Sheet of the Australian Agricultural Company's London & Colonial Books,
on the 31st December, 1860.*

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Capital Account, as per Account A	16,333	18	0	By General Colonial Account, consisting of Book Debts, Cash Balance, Stores, &c., due and on hand in the Colony	28,632	10	3
„ General Revenue Account, as per Account C. 34,720 18 3	34,720	18	3	„ Bills remitted from the Colony not yet due ..	11,000	0	0
„ Dividends unpaid	58	11	6	„ Lean Stock purchased and not yet sold ..	6,083	1	0
				„ Cash at Bankers	5,377	16	0
				„ „ at Office	18	0	6
	£51,113	7	9		5,397	16	6
					£51,113	7	9

WM. ROBINSON,
Acct.

We hereby certify that this Statement corresponds with the General Ledger Balances of the Company to 31st December, 1860.

GEO. ENGSTRÖM,
Secretary.

(Signed) J. S. BROWN RIGG, }
WM. TOOKE, } Auditors.
London, 21st June, 1861.

Governor.

EDWARD HAMILTON, Esq.

Directors.

RICHARD HENRY BROWNE, Esq.

JOHN G. CATTLEY, Esq.

WALTER STEVENSON DAVIDSON, Esq.

JOHN DOBIE, Esq.

JAMES GOODSON, Esq.

GEORGE SMITH THORNTON, Esq.

Auditors.

COLONEL J. S. BROWNRIGG, C.B.

WILLIAM TOOKE, Esq.