

**REPORT**

Read at the *Second Annual General Court of Proprietors*, held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, on Tuesday, the 31st January 1826.

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GENTLEMEN,

Agreeably to the provisions of the Act of Parliament, (5th Geo. 4th, chap. 86, sec. 38,) the Directors have now the honour to meet you, at a time when they might not, otherwise, have deemed it requisite to call you together; no event having recently occurred to demand your particular attention.

Being, however, assembled this day, in compliance with one of the important regulations imposed by the legislature, it will, perhaps, be considered incumbent upon the Directors to lay before you a short account of the present state of the Company's affairs.

Under these circumstances, it is a gratifying duty to be enabled to state, that every thing connected with the affairs of the Company has continued to proceed in the most satisfactory manner.

Despatches have been received from the Colony, by the Hope, to the 21st March, and by the Harriet, to the 22nd June: private letters have also been received to the date of the 12th July last.

From these, the Directors have learned, that the shares allotted for distribution in the Colony, had been all appropriated, and the first instalment regularly paid; that Mr. Thomas Cudbert Harington had been appointed Secretary to the Colonial committee of proprietors, (which appointment has since been confirmed by your Court of Directors); that measures had been arranged by Mr. Oxley, Surveyor General of the Colony, and Mr. Dangar, his chief assistant, for immediately commencing the survey of those parts of the Colony, which had been pointed out as likely to afford the most favourable situations for the location of the Company's estates—especially, of that extensive range of country lying between the Hastings and the Hunter's, or Coal Rivers—a district supposed to be highly

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favourable for an agricultural establishment, at a moderate distance from the sea coast, and neither far removed from the Company's Collieries, nor from the numerous thriving settlements already formed upon those rivers.

These surveys were expected to occupy about three months; the result of them will have been laid before the committee of proprietors in the Colony, and before Mr. Dawson, whose arrival in the autumn of last year, will probably have enabled him to make the final selection of the Company's estates, agreeably to the authority with which he was invested.

All accounts from the Colony concur in describing its general advancement—the increase of its population—the extension of its settlements—and the constant occupation of lands, in favourable districts, at augmented valuations.

Of the particulars of Mr. Dawson's voyage to the Colony, with the establishment of servants and stock under his care, in the ships York and Brothers, the Directors have received accounts in detail, up to the period of the departure of these ships from Rio de Janeiro, on the 3rd September last:—out of 726 Sheep on board the two ships, only 8 had died; the remainder

By these it will appear, that the disbursements hitherto made, with the exception of a small amount for current expenses, consist of investments in Sheep, cattle, and other charges for the improvement and stocking of the Company's estates; and for the greater part of which there exists an intrinsic and growing value, independent of the value of the estates themselves.

The Call upon the proprietors for three pounds per share, which the Directors have deemed it requisite to announce, is made in conformity with the arrangements explained on former occasions, and for the purpose of advancing the important objects of this enterprise.

*Signed, by Order of the Court of Directors,*

J. STRETTELL BRICKWOOD,

*Secretary.*

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