

NOTICES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—Department of Agriculture, Cape Town, 19th March, 1891.

NOTICE No. 148.—DISEASES IN LIVE STOCK.

The following Table shows the extent of diseases in Live Stock and general condition of the same in the several Districts mentioned during the last two months.

DISTRICT.	RED-WATER.	LUNG-SICKNESS.	HORSE DISEASE.	ADDITIONAL REMARKS.
BEDFORD .. ..	No cases have been reported during the last two months.	A few cases have been reported to Field-Cornet in January last.	No cases have been reported.	In January last <i>fever in sheep</i> occurred in various parts of the District. Some farmers have already as many as a hundred cases. Every probability of its being severe this season.
SOMERSET EAST, WARD 6	No cases have been reported within the last two months.	No cases have been reported within the last two months.	No cases have been reported.	No disease in large stock; all large stock looking well. Sheep and goats not fat; too much rain for small stock.
STOCKENSTROM ..	Several fatal cases (about 24) occurred in various parts of the District up to date.	Only one case of this disease has been reported.	Several cases of glanders occurred in the Seymour vicinity. Three mares died already.	A great many calves are dying of liver-sickness in different parts of the District.
UITENHAGE, GROOT AND KLEIN WINTERHOEK	No cases reported.	No cases reported.	Some horses have died in this Area, some believe from horse disease, but more likely from worms.	Sheep and goats and stock in general are doing well.
STUTTERHEIM ..	23 cases; 13 deaths have been reported in February.	16 cases; 8 deaths have been reported in February.	No cases have been reported.	General condition of stock satisfactory.
VICTORIA EAST ..	3 cases; 3 deaths have been reported in February.	No cases occurred.	No cases occurred.	General condition of stock satisfactory.
WILLOWMOORE, TRANSKEI	6 cases; 5 deaths have been reported.	Nil.	Nil.	General condition of stock satisfactory.

NOTICE No. 149.—DISEASES OF ORANGE TREES.

The lady-birds hitherto sent to us from the Eastern Province, as feeding there on the Australian bug (*Tcerya Purchasi*) were all recognized by the Entomologist as being more herbivorous (plant-eating) than carnivorous (insect-eating.) M. Peringuey has therefore been instructed to proceed to the Eastern Province in order to ascertain which insects are there chiefly feeding on the Australian bug, and to transplant them if possible to the Western Province. The *Vedalia Cardinalis*, that lady-bird of New Zealand which was imported to California, and proved there a great help in the struggle with the Australian bug, will now soon be here. Professor Riley, the head of the entomological branch of the N.S. America Agricultural Department, when asked for assistance in the matter, promised from the beginning most kindly to procure specimens from California or New Zealand, but special difficulties seem to have arisen. We were, however, a fortnight ago informed that the lady-birds have left for the Cape. The trees for their reception and propagation are quite ready.

Whilst in the Eastern Province Mr. Peringuey will also enquire, from a zoological point of view, into the cause of the well known *dying off of orange trees of all ages* and under the most varied conditions. The results of this enquiry will be published in the *Agricultural Journal* as soon as possible.

NOTICE No. 150.—FEVER, BELZIEKTE, BLAUW-TONG, OR EPIZOOTIC CATARRH.

The following treatment in this disease is recommended by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and has recently been adopted with most favourable results by Veterinary Surgeon Soga.

This disease affects sheep principally during the summer and autumn months. It is most prevalent during a moist

season. In the higher sheep districts it is seldom seen. It is a malarial affection, consequently it occurs with greatest severity in the low-lying districts. Sheep kraaled on an elevated situation, or placed in a shed are exempt from this disease.

*Symptoms.*—The local symptoms are a profuse discharge from the nostrils of a very ichorous character, swelling of the lips and tongue, with an excoriated appearance of the membrane lining the lips, cheeks, and tongue. Very frequently the tongue is enormously swollen and of a purple colour. During the later stages of recovery the wool comes off, and the feet become inflamed and suppurate. There is great fever, a high temperature, and extreme nervous prostration; the sheep will lie with its head turned round to its side, without moving almost. In some cases the neck will remain twisted for a long time.

*Treatment.*—Place the affected sheep in a cool shed or house, disturb them as little as possible. As a dressing to the mouth place some common salt in it, and when the tongue and lips are much swollen rub the salt into these parts. It will scarify lips and tongue, after which, place in the mouth a mixture of sulphur and tar. Many farmers use Little's Chemical Fluid successfully.

The following are the best remedies which I have tried:—

(a.) Powdered chloride of potash, half-a-teaspoonful.

Tincture of aconite, 5 drops.

Dissolve the chloride of potash in a little hot water, add the aconite; repeat this dose morning and evening.

(b.) Turpentine, a teaspoonful.

Powdered sulphate of iron, half-a-teaspoonful.

Dissolve the Sulphate of Iron in a little hot water, add the turpentine; repeat once a day.

*Preventive measures* consist in placing your sheep in sheds, or placing them in kraals situated on the most elevated position practicable. It is of advantage to make your kraals only sufficiently large to hold the sheep, and the walls as

high as practicable. The heat rising from the sheep in the crowded kraals will lift up the dense atmosphere which contains the malaria, and modify the disease as well as reduce the number affected.

#### NOTICE No. 151.—PHYLLOXERA.

Mr. Daniel Johannes Joubert's (J. S. son), farm Benidone, Ward Drakenstein (Paarl), is proclaimed infected with Phylloxera.

#### AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

##### (LATEST REPORTS.)

**Heald Town.**—10th March.—Mealie crop promises to be a good one, the late rains having revived it. Stock in good condition, and no cases of red-water or lung-sickness reported during February.

**Uitenhage.**—11th March.—Division suffering from severe drought, and if rain does not come soon, the look-out will be a very bad one.

**Lady Frere.**—9th March.—4½ inches of rain-fall during last month. Red-water has again broken out, and five deaths are reported.

**Transkei.**—9th March.—Reports from Kentani, Willowvale, Idutywa, and Butterworth show that the mealie and Kafir corn crops in these districts are looking extremely healthy, water having fallen in abundance. And that stock of all kinds is doing well, the pasturage being excellent; a very noticeable and satisfactory feature being that no cases either of Lung-sickness or of Red-water are reported.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Government Dairy School in Canada.**—At a meeting of the Canadian Cabinet, held on the 31st January, it was decided to establish a dairy school in each province of the Dominion this year, and also to appropriate a sum for the purpose of making trial shipments to English and other markets of butter produced at these schools. In connection with this decision it is interesting to refer to the report of the Professor of Dairy Husbandry attached to the Department of Agriculture in Ontario. He considers that the salvation of the Canadian butter industry lies in the creamery system. The total make of butter in Ontario is estimated at 30,000,000 lbs. annually. "To make this butter in home dairies," says Professor Robertson, "750,000 days of labour are required, whereas if made in creameries it would take less than 130,000 single days of labour." He further asserts that the difference between the amount of butter produced from a given quantity of milk when handled in creameries, and the product of the same quantity of milk when handled in home dairies, would, if applied to the total milk product of Ontario, show a loss of a million and half pounds of butter annually, by reason of the existing state of affairs!

**The Best Type of Merino Sheep.**—The Hon. Wm. Ball, of Hamburg, Mich., read a paper at a recent meeting of the State Merino breeders, on "the relation of Merino sheep husbandry to agriculture," in which he described the best style of Merino sheep as follows:—A full-grown ewe should weigh in good condition from 100 to 120 lbs., and shear from 12 lbs. to 15 lbs. of wool, and raise a lamb each year. She should have folds enough on the lower part of her body to ensure a good, thick, and lustrous belly fleece of good character. She should have a proper amount of hip folds that the fleece may be dense and heavy. A prominent broad tail is desirable, if obtained without too much flap or loose skin connected with it. She should be up-headed, and present an appearance that is attractive. The fleece should be even, of good quality, dense, of good length, say from two and a half to three inches at one year's growth, and it should be free from a nubby

hard, or crusty surface. It should have a proper amount of oil, evenly distributed of a light buff or white colour. The ram should be larger, stronger in fleece, more masculine, and should partake of the same general characteristics. His weight would be satisfactory at 150 lbs., or even a little more or less, if not at the expense of form and substance. He should have a dense fleece of medium length, even but strong in fibre without being coarse.

#### QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

##### Query No. 147.—Canary Seed.

As I wish to grow Canary seed next season, I should be glad of particulars as to how to do so.

R. S.

East Griqualand, February 21st, 1891.

##### Query No. 148.—Wood Ashes for Stock.

Could you inform me as to whether wood ashes are good for stock, viz., cattle, sheep, and horses, or not? The ashes are from what is locally known as the sugar-bush. I heard a farmer tell his boys to save up the ashes, as he wished to place them on the salt-lick for the stock, he told me that cattle belonging to natives were always licking about amongst the ash-heaps at their kraals, so it must be good for them.

R. S.

East Griqualand, February 21st, 1891.

##### Query No. 149.—Quick-growing Hedge Plants.

Some time ago I noticed in your *Journal* mention made of a plant good for fencing lands, which, after a year's growth, is big and thick. I have forgotten the name, but perhaps you could give me the correct one, and where the seed is obtainable.

D. G. S.

*Answer.*—I do not remember a hedge plant capable of doing service after a year's growth.

P. MACOWAN.

#### RAINFALL, FEBRUARY, 1891.

<b>I. Cape Peninsula:—</b>		<b>VII. East Central Karroo:—</b>	
Royal Observatory ...	1'01	Graaff-Reinet ...	0'41
Wynberg ...	0'28	Somerset East ...	0'78
Simon's Town ...	1'21	<b>VIII. Northern Karroo:—</b>	
<b>II. South-West:—</b>		Middelburg ...	3'30
Stellenbosch ...	0'70	Richmond ...	2'64
Caledon ...	0'64	Hanover ...	3'60
Paarl ...	1'04	Colesberg ...	1'51
Talbagh ...	0'32	Murraysburg ...	0'50
Ceres ...	0'57	Craddock ...	2'64
Worcester ...	0'00	Tarkastad ...	3'79
Robertson ...	0'20	<b>IX. South-East:—</b>	
Montagu ...	0'15	Grahamstown ...	1'77
<b>III. West Coast:—</b>		Port Alfred ...	1'26
Malmesbury ...	0'40	Alexandria ...	1'20
Clanwilliam (Sheard) ...	0'00	Peddie ...	1'25
Piquetberg ...	0'36	Bedford ...	2'99
<b>IV. South Coast:—</b>		Fort Beaufort ...	2'99
Swellendam ...	1'96	Seymour ...	3'20
Bredasdorp ...	0'68	Alice ...	3'55
Heidelberg ...	0'31	King William's Town ...	2'61
Riversdale ...	0'31	Keiskamma Hoek ...	2'23
Mossel Bay ...	0'83	East London (East) ...	4'64
George ...	1'83	Fort Jackson ...	0'91
Knysna ...	1'48	Stutterheim ...	3'33
Humansdorp ...	1'33	Cathcart ...	2'06
Uitenhage ...	0'74	<b>X. North-East:—</b>	
<b>V. Southern Karroo:—</b>		Queen's Town ...	2'83
Uniondale ...	0'04	Thibet Park ...	4'27
Ladismith ...	0'36	Lady Frere ...	3'58
Oudtshoorn ...	0'06	Dordrecht ...	3'58
Calitzdorp ...	0'00	Burgersdorp ...	1'73
<b>VI. West Central Karroo:—</b>		Herschel ...	1'00
Prince Albert ...	0'00	Aliwal North ...	3'27
		Barkly East ...	2'44
		<b>XI. Kaffraria:—</b>	
		Umtata ...	3'64
		Kokstad ...	2'58