

636.3
L10 AR
1906

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Sheep Commissioners

OF THE

STATE OF MONTANA

1906

"INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING COMPANY, HELENA, MONTANA."



Montana State Library



3 0864 1006 5226 5

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Sheep Commissioners

OF

MONTANA

1906

T. C. POWER, - President
GEO. J. JOYCE, Secretary

HELENA, MONTANA

"INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING COMPANY, HELENA, MONTANA."





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Board of Sheep Commissioners
of Montana
FOR 1906

To President T. C. Power, and the Members of the State Board of Sheep Commissioners:

Gentlemen:—Herewith I hand you a report of all matters of interest to the sheep industry of the State that have come to the notice of the Board, and also a report of all business transacted by this Board during the year just past.

BOARD CHANGES.

The personnel of the Board with the following exceptions remains the same as last year:

Mr. Geo. W. French appointed commissioner for Beaverhead county, vice James P. Murray, resigned.

Mr. A. B. Coit appointed commissioner for Sweet Grass county, vice James Vestal and J. N. Kelley, resigned.

RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Sheep Inspection and Indemnity Fund during the year ending November 30, 1906, amount to \$2,804.99, a falling off in the receipts of the previous year of \$553.77, this possibly being accounted for by the fact that in 1905 the counties did not seem to collect the same levy; in other words, some making a levy of a half mill and others a quarter of a mill.

At the close of the fiscal year ending November 30, 1906, the balance left in the fund was \$2,654.23. Compared with the cash balance for the same date, 1905, the fund shows a decrease of \$3,628.66. This large decrease is accounted for from the fact that there was a large surplus of the fund from prior years, and owing to the fact that expenses had been high and revenue very low for the past two years. To this amount on hand of \$2,654.23 November 30, 1906, will be added collections of taxes for 1906,

which at that date were not credited to the fund, which will be about \$3,100, which will make the total revenue for carrying out the objects of the law of 1905 but about \$5,600. This amount will not be sufficient to meet the expenses of the Board for 1907 according to the estimated expenses based upon the expenditures of 1905 and 1906, which aggregated in the neighborhood of about \$6,500 for each of these years.

The present assessed valuation of sheep in the State, for 1906, is \$12,655,555, which with a tax levy of a quarter of a mill will bring in revenue of about \$3,163.90.

In this connection I would call your attention to the fact that the Stock Inspection Detective Fund for 1906 upon an assessed valuation of \$19,461,184, will bring in a revenue of about \$30,000, which seems little enough to foster that industry.

You will notice that the revenue of the stock inspection fund in round numbers is about ten times that of the sheep inspection fund, whereas the total value of all stock in the state is only about one-half greater than the assessed value of sheep in the State. These figures are given simply for purposes of comparison and to bring before the members of the Board the fact that the sheep industry of the State, in order to have the same protection and to be as well looked after as the stock in the State, is entitled to and demands a considerable increase in revenue. Upon the present assessed valuation of sheep in the State a tax levy of half a mill would be an estimated revenue of about \$6,375, and at three-quarters of a mill about \$9,500, and one mill about \$12,000. These figures are mentioned here to bring the matter of the needs of the Board prominently before the commissioners.

EXPENDITURES.

The expenditures for the year ending November 30, 1906, were \$6,433.65. This includes the services, in addition to the regular force of one inspector in each county, four special inspectors, D. A. Smith, Dr. R. A. Dennis, Andrew H. Tadsen and Robt. Gordon.

There being no provision for the undertaking of prosecutions of suspected bounty frauds, this Board joined with the Board of Stock Commissioners in seeking ways and means of stopping

bounty frauds, and from their limited resources paid out this year, up to and including November 30, 1906, the sum of \$642.85.

The expenditures of the Board for 1906 are classified as follows:

Commissioners' expenses	\$ 373.10
Legal services, expenses in bounty fraud cases, etc.....	642 85
Inspection and treatment	4,719.61
Stationery, postage and rent	278.09
Secretary's salary	420.00
	<hr/>
	\$6,433.65

From these expenditures can be drawn the fact that the present revenue of the Sheep inspection and Indemnity fund is far short of what it should be. There is absolutely no reason why the Board of Sheep Commissioners should not be of the same importance, value and interest to the sheep industry of the State as the Board of Stock Commissioners is to the stock industry of the State.

Various complaints have been made, pro and con, about the Board, in that they do not accomplish what was contemplated by the law, etc., but the facts of the case are that the Board, with the small revenue at its command, has accomplished more than could be expected with the small expenditure herein shown.

Steps should be taken to remedy the evil that besets us, and particularly should something be done to amend the bounty law, so that the money derived from bounties could be in part used for the inspection and prosecution of bounty frauds. As the law now stands there is no fund available to pay the expenses of such investigation and prosecution, which are a crying evil to the sheep and stock industries of the State.

While on the subject of bounty frauds, I beg to state that from the report submitted by Mr. F. E. Stranahan, special attorney for this commission in these matters, we are led to believe that what little money we have been able to spend in ferreting out bounty frauds has resulted in considerable good. We find that about four of the counties in the State, which lie along the borders of Canada, Dakota and Wyoming, were in the habit of filing claims against the fund which nominally took about one-half of the whole fund to satisfy. In making comparisons for

1906 over 1905 we find, in the matter of bounty claims, that through investigations that have been made by this Board and the Board of Stock Commissioners, with the assistance of Mr. Porter, Mr. Stranahan, Mr. Lyndes, and others, there was an actual falling off in claims against the bounty fund of about \$17,000. In some of the small counties the claims were increased, but in the counties of Chouteau, Custer, Rosebud and Valley there was a saving of over \$20,000. Mr. Stranahan and the other gentlemen are of the opinion that with a comparatively small fund at their command frauds against the bounty fund could in time be practically eliminated.

We find that the number of sheep in the State this year, as turned in by the county assessors, is as follows:

Beaverhead	153,720
Broadwater	36,749
Carbon	104,610
Cascade	116,772
Chouteau	523,421
Custer	436,662
Dawson	396,341
Deer Lodge	908
Fergus	549,103
Flathead	702
Gallatin	28,852
Granite	5,723
Jefferson	10,900
Lewis and Clark	96,554
Madison	80,079
Missoula	238,260
Meagher	4,616
Park	60,513
Powell	54,933
Ravalli	19,011
Rosebud	330,314
Sanders .....	.....
Silver Bow	2,525
Sweetgrass	209,618
Teton	133,104
Valley	294,600
Yellowstone	338,267
Total	<hr/> 4,304,333

The estimated number of sheep for 1905 was 5,103,660, showing a considerable falling off.

PUBLIC BUCK HERDS, ETC.

County.	No. Permits.	No. Bucks.
Beaverhead	1	825
Chouteau	9	6,225
Custer	7	7,223
Dawson	4	3,717
Fergus	6	2,329
Lewis and Clark	1	355
Madison	2	1,985
Meagher	4	3,170
Sweetgrass	3	2,558
Rosebud	1	234
Teton	3	1,000
Valley	1	1,573
Yellowstone	4	3,293
<hr/>		
Total	46	34,487

As reported by Dr. M. E. Knowles, State Veterinarian.

Herewith you will find a segregated report of work accomplished in the dipping and quarantining of sheep during 1906.

REPORT OF THE VARIOUS SHEEP INSPECTORS TO THE STATE VETERINARIAN.

Native Sheep Dipped and Quarantined Scabby.

County.	Bucks.	Mixed.
Beaverhead	485	19,488
Cascade		10,685
Chouteau	2,074	44,200
Teton		2,500
Yellowstone	750	17,388
<hr/>		
Total	3,309	94,261

Native Sheep Dipped and Quarantined Exposed to Scab.

Chouteau		5,400
Teton		10,500
Yellowstone	375	21,500
<hr/>		
Total	375	37,400

Imported Sheep Dipped and Quarantined.

Beaverhead	426	.....
Chouteau	600	32,000
Custer	1,020	19,688
Fergus	85	.....
Jefferson	102	.....
Madison	125	.....
Meagher	140	3,163
Powell	100	.....
Rosebud	106	55,300
Sweetgrass	1,524	4,240
Yellowstone	7	10,827
<hr/>		
Total	4,244	130,218

Number Sheep Inspected During Year Found Free from Disease.

Beaverhead .....	.....	21,488
Cascade .....	.....	111,572
Chouteau	62,933	62,933
Custer .....	.....	12,140
Dawson .....	.....	14,000
Teton .....	.....	3,000
Valley .....	.....	3,000
Rosebud .....	.....	50,550
Yellowstone .....	.....	350,122
<hr/>		
Total .....	.....	628,805

Dr. Dennis, Special Inspector, inspected 90,000 head of sheep in feeding and loading yards at Billings.

During year total number cars disinfected, 250.

RECAPITULATION.

Native sheep dipped and quarantined, scab infected.....	94,261
Native bucks dipped and quarantined, scab infected.....	3,309
Native sheep and bucks dipped and quarantined, exposed to scab	37,775
Imported sheep dipped and quarantined	130,218
Imported bucks dipped and quarantined	4,244
Sheep inspected during year and found free from disease..	628,805
<hr/>	
Total sheep handled during year	898,612

GENERAL REMARKS.

In connection with the desire to increase the efficiency of the Board of Sheep Commissioners I would most respectfully call your attention to the fact that without the earnest and hearty co-operation of the individual members of the commission it will be impossible to accomplish very much in the way of improving conditions. This office has endeavored in every way to be of use to the sheep industry of the State, and with the personal help of the commissioners can be of great benefit to the sheep and Wool growers of the State.

This office has taken up the matter of salt rates on the Great Northern Railway from Utah points, and after a correspondence running over a year very little has been accomplished. The discrimination of salt rates against Utah products is explained in various ways by the railroad companies, they claiming that in the haul from Utah they have to return empty cars, etc., while in the haul from eastern points, Duluth and other markets, the salt cars go back loaded with general merchandise, thereby permitting them, owing to increased revenue, to make better rates on the eastern product. The Great Northern railway notified this office under date of December 6th of a proposed change in the freight schedule in connection with the O. S. L., which, while they showed a reduction of an average of 10 to 12 cents a hundred pounds, would, in the opinion of this office, be far from what they should be.

The rate on salt from eastern points to what is known as common points in Montana is 45 cents a hundred. For instance, the rate on eastern salt to Great Falls is 45 cents, while on Utah salt, even the proposed lower rates make the rate to Great Falls 65 cents, a difference of 20 cents a hundred, and an increase in the cost of salt of about \$4 a ton. This matter should meet with the deserved attention from the Board.

Since this report was presented the Great Northern Railway has submitted a joint rate to O. S. L. Ry, which if accepted, will materially reduce the rates from Salt Lake to Montana points and make a specific rate to Great Falls of 53c and proportional reduced rates to other points.

From the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor and Industry of the State, we are able to draw the following information, which may be of interest to the woolgrowers of the State.

Remarkably prosperous conditions continue to prevail among the sheepmen of the State, for while the wool clip of 1906 did not bring the prices that were expected, they were still high enough to leave a fair margin of profit.

The total number of sheep in the State shows a marked falling off, with a consequent reduction of the yearly wool clip of about 3,000,000 pounds. The selling movement of sheep has not affected Montana's position as the largest producer of wool of all the States in the Union.

Like the cattle industry, that of sheep is undergoing tremendous changes, and one of its chief effects may be noticed by the report made to the Bureau of Agriculture of the State by the inspector in charge of the local office of the Bureau of Animal Industry at Fargo, N. Dak., Dr. R. H. Tracey. According to this report the number of sheep shipped out of Montana in 1905 was 1,415,479, and during the first six months of 1906, 121,852 were shipped. This movement still continues, but during the fall the failure of the railroads to furnish cars has practically put a stop to shipments and vitiating many sales already made. However, these figures show that for the 18 months prior to July 1, 1906, not less than 1,537,331 sheep were sold from Montana flocks. This decrease, says the report of the Bureau of Agriculture, is in apparent conformity with the world-wide movement that seems to occur periodically without apparent cause.

The authorities declare there has been an astounding decrease in the sheep of the world since 1895. Canada is constantly decreasing its flocks; Germany's have fallen away from 28,000,000 sheep in 1860 to 10,000,000 in 1900; India from 20,000,000 in 1892 to 17,000,000 in 1903; Spain, the motherland of wool production, has fallen from 16,469,033 in 1895 to 13,359,473 in 1903, and the ten years' drouth in Australia almost entirely destroyed the industry in that country. During all these years population and wool consumption has been increasing, and yet the world's supply of sheep at present is 455,000,000, against 526,000,000 in 1895.

Madison county is perhaps the only county in the State to show a material gain during the past two years, and this is undoubtedly due to the unfavorable conditions attending the cattle business, which has caused many to go out of that industry and take up sheep interests.

The wool clip of 1905 was estimated to be about 40,205,370 pounds, an increase of 2,430,246 pounds over the prior year, and the average price of all wool sold in Montana was about five cents more in 1905 than in 1904. The wool clip of 1906 was as nearly as can be estimated from returns at hand at the present writing, about 37,037,549 pounds, being about 3,000,000 pounds short of the 1905 clip, and relatively about the same as the clip of 1904.

In 1905 Billings took first place as a wool market from Great Falls, which held the proud possession for many years. Billings maintained its supremacy for 1906, handling possibly about one-fourth of the entire clip of the State.

The highest price paid at this market, and so far as known, the highest in the State, was 24 3-4 cents. Prices averaged at Billings about 20 cents, and at Great Falls from 1 1-2 to 2 cents lower than the Billings market. The falling off in the Great Falls market is directly traceable to the opening of the Lewistown market, made possible by the building of the Montana railroad, and the special sales at Fort Benton, and those at Harlowton, Chinook and other stations on the Great Northern railroad. Probably the bottom price for the season, 13 1-8 cents, was paid at Great Falls July 27th, and one clip sold the same day reached 24 1-8 cents, while at Fort Benton the average price was about 19 cents.

Some wool sold at Great Falls and Fort Benton was said to have been damaged by dipping for scab, but this claim was not admitted by the wool growers, and was made by buyers only.

This season's wool market has been especially noticeable for the close organization which the eastern buyers were able to perfect. Last year there was a bad break in their system which was in every way a very favorable thing for the sellers, as the prices show.

The reasons given for the prevailing low prices of Montana wool this year are various, among others tightness in the money market, owing to the San Francisco fire, etc.

One noticeable thing in reference to the price of wool was that Wyoming wool this year brought as much, if not more, than Montana wool, where the reverse has always heretofore been true.

It has been noted in our wool this year, from conversation with many large growers, that clips heretofore fairly good and clean were this year in some cases extremely heavy, and all these facts tended, or were rather taken advantage of by buyers to reduce the price. It seems folly to attempt to give a reason for prevailing prices this year. It seems that the wool growers were basing their expectations for this year's prices on those obtained last year, which were exceptional, taken in reference to prices obtained in previous years, and were hardly to be taken as a basis for average prices.

Not only does Montana stand first in the number of sheep and amount of wool, but in the person of Mr. C. M. Blair, of Billings, she has the largest individual owner of sheep on the American continent. His clip weighed about 1,500,000 pounds, and when bailed filled about 150 ordinary freight cars. This clip was consigned to Brown & Adams, Boston, Mass.

The second largest shipper in the State was J. B. Long & Co., of Great Falls, their 1906 clip aggregating about 1,200,000 pounds.

The apparent shortage or falling off in the wool clip of the State is partly accounted for by an estimated falling off of the number of sheep in the State of about 1,000,000 head.

The general average price of wool obtained in the State in 1906 was from 19 1-4 to 20 1-4 cents.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE J. JOYCE,
Secretary.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SHEEP COMMISSIONERS, December 11th and 12th, 1906, and their resolution and recommendations which in their opinion, would result in the better enforcement of the laws now existing in reference to the sheep industry of the State.

The Board met pursuant to the call of the President on December 11th and 12th.

There were present thirteen members of the Board, the President, Secretary, and Dr. M. E. Knowles, State Veterinarian.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved by the Board, they then proceeded to the regular business of the meeting.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Secretary then read the report of the State Veterinarian, Dr. M. E. Knowles, herewith, which upon motion was turned over to a committee of five, with Dr. Knowles and the President of the Commission ex-officio members.

REPORT OF DR. M. E. KNOWLES, STATE VET- ERINARIAN.

Helena, Montana, December 1st, 1906.

To the Honorable Sheep Commission of the State of Montana.

Gentlemen:—I submit herewith annual reports of the various sheep inspectors, together with tables giving the aggregate inspections, number of scabby, exposed and imported sheep dipped during the year, showing a grand total of the entire number dipped, quarantined and inspected of 898,612. These figures do not contemplate the double dipping of all scabby and exposed sheep, which would considerably raise the aggregate.

The illegal importation of bucks was responsible for an outbreak of no small consequence in Chouteau, Cascade and Teton counties that occurred early in 1905 and that we believe is now entirely repressed. The only recent outbreaks of scab, all of which have been properly dipped and cared for, was in the southern part of Yellowstone county, one band, and in Beaverhead county, two bands were infected; evidently carrying their infection from an outbreak of last January, that was also occasioned by an illegal importation of bucks.

The continuance of scab in three localities of the State, during the year, has given my Department much anxiety and a vast amount of work; but it is believed, at the present time, there is not a case of scab in the State, and I hope to be able to request release of the general quarantine area in Chouteau, Cascade and Teton counties before shearing time next year.

There has been much criticism of the enforcement of the provision in section 19, relative particularly to the quarantining of imported sheep. It is complained that some of our flock-masters take advantage of this section for the purpose of securing to themselves large areas of public grazing lands. The establish-

ment of quarantines on the public range, is, as you all know, largely dependent upon local conditions—the scarcity of water, or short grass, at times requires the setting aside of larger quarantine areas than the casual observer may deem necessary—and there are many other conditions that modify the necessity of establishing large or small quarantine areas, as each particular case may demand. There is, unfortunately, no essential provision of a sanitary law that can be enforced to the entire satisfaction of all, but this particular provision of the law has probably received more than its just share of condemnation.

I beg therefore to suggest that your honorable body carefully consider the expediency of permitting the release of all foreign sheep shipped into this State after the second dipping; (where such dipping is accomplished by an inspector of unquestioned capability), with the exception of bucks. Our experience has taught us conclusively that rams constitute the one great source of infection to our native sheep, and are a constant menace even under the most careful handling.

Again last year, occurred an outbreak of scab in a band of bucks that had been dipped four times, eight months subsequent to the last inspection, during which time they were detained in quarantine and examined by several inspectors on at least three different occasions. This long delayed development of scab in bucks is but a repetition of at least a dozen such incidents during my incumbency, and I believe this experience would justify an order by your honorable board requiring at least four dippings of all infected bucks, and under no circumstance should imported bucks be permitted release from quarantine under four months, and then only after a most careful and painstaking examination.

I also beg to recommend to your honorable board, the issuance of an order requiring all foreign rams imported for the purpose of breeding the same year, to be within the State not later than August 1st of each year, so that the dipping and quarantining may occur in ample time before the breeding season.

I also beg to recommend for your consideration the advisability of amending the present law so as to require the various railroad companies to notify my office by telegram of all shipments of sheep intended for Montana points of destination, and also that they be required to notify my office of such shipments as may be billed through to feed in transit within the boundaries

of this State, precluding the possibility of surreptitious importation of foreign sheep.

I regret to report that a few of our largest and most influential flock-masters have quasi technically violated some of the provisions of our law, and in one instance a palpable and inexcusable violation of the law by an owner, whose interests were large, who was doubtless familiar with our regulations in detail. Several minor and insignificant violations have occurred through ignorance alone. The palpable violations are now being carefully investigated and when sufficient evidence is secured prosecutions will obtain against the offenders.

The disinfection of cars for local shipments is not entirely satisfactory, and, together with your co-operation, I desire to make some changes in this regard, with the co-operation of the various railway lines.

The employment of at least one more competent special inspector is absolutely essential to the successful carrying out of the sheep inspection law, and I trust your honorable board will at this meeting decide to make such appointment and retain in the service not less than four permanent inspectors, until such time as we are entirely free from even a remote danger of infection.

I am still of the opinion that all expense incurred in the inspection and dipping of native sheep should be borne by the sheep inspection and indemnity fund, and that the sheep inspection and indemnity levy should be adequate to cover without additional expense to the flock-masters the expense incident to the establishment of quarantine and the supervision of dipping.

I have reason to believe that there were a number of public buck herds conducted during the season without permits from this office. As it is not a difficult matter for commissioners of the various counties to ascertain the names and addresses of all owners of public buck herds within his county, I beg to request that each commissioner, during the coming season, will at as early a date as possible, supply this office with a list of all public buck herd owners. It is more than likely owners not applying for permits were not acquainted with the sheep commission order relative thereto.

There was a total of 34,487 bucks in public buck herds the past season, as is shown in the table attached hereto. Forty-

three permits were issued, and three herds examined and reported as not having permits; these were in Custer county, reported by Inspector Bowman.

The infectious lip and leg ulceration of sheep, referred to by me to your honorable board on several different occasions, is prevalent again this winter to some considerable extent in the northern part of the State. This disease is of no slight consequence to the flock-master, although the mortality is substantially nothing where ample feed or range is provided, and simple antiseptic measures are taken for its care, but the loss of condition and subsequent injury to the growth of wool, incident to this disease, occasions no small loss where feed and water are insufficient. This disease should receive special investigation, but such investigation can only be conducted by a pathologist devoting his entire time and attention to its study during the continuance of the disease through the winter months. If the board feels unable, with its limited means, to employ a specialist to carry on this investigation, I would suggest that a request be made to the Secretary of Agriculture to assign a pathologist for this duty.

Contagious ophthalmia, or contagious keratitis, so-called, a disease of the eye, has appeared among a few bands of sheep in Fergus and adjacent counties. This disease is also common to cattle; the nature of which is but little understood and should receive investigation at the hands of a specialist.

No reports of serious loss from internal parasites have been received during the year, although in several localities of the State gid or turnsick, due to the dog tapeworm, has obtained to a limited extent.

I desire to express herein my appreciation of the faithful service rendered the board and myself by our various inspectors, as well as to Dr. Robert H. Tracey, Federal Inspector in charge of this division, and his assistants located in Montana. I also extend my gratitude to, and appreciation of, the valuable assistance afforded my Department by Attorney General Galen and his assistants, who have on every occasion promptly and cheerfully afforded legal advice requested.

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. KNOWLES,
State Veterinarian.

At a meeting of the committee to act upon the report and recommendations of Dr. M. E. Knowles, State Veterinarian, the following report was submitted to the Board, and the report and recommendations herein unanimously approved and recommended.

Report of Committee to Act Upon Recommendations of Dr. M. E. Knowles, State Veterinarian.

First—Your committee recommends that in carrying out the provisions of section 19 of the law of 1905, relative to imported sheep, that after the second dipping of such sheep and the proper marking with a red "S" by a fully efficient inspector, such imported sheep that originate in another state or territory or locality of such state or territory that is declared by the Federal authorities to be free from scab or other contagious disease, and are accompanied by a Federal health certificate, be permitted under such above mentioned conditions, release immediately after the second dipping in compliance with the foregoing regulations; provided, that all rams so imported must be handled as is provided in section 19, and shall under no circumstances be released from quarantine in less than 90 days subsequent to the last dipping; and that all sheep originating from the state or a locality of a state or territory not certified to by the Federal Department of Agriculture to be free from scab, must be detained in quarantine not less than 90 days, and not then released until so ordered by the State Veterinarian.

Second—That the sheep commission hereby orders that all imported rams or bucks intended for use the same year must be within the State at point of destination on or before September 1st, and that the present laws be so amended so as to cover this matter in particular.

Third—Your committee advises that we recommend to the Governor amending the present law so as to require the various railroad companies to notify the office of the State Veterinarian by telegram before the expected arrival of such shipment or shipments at the State line, of all shipments of sheep intended for Montana points of destination; and that they further be required to notify the office of the State Veterinarian of any such shipments as may be billed through from another state or territory to feed in transit within the boundaries of this State.

Fourth—Your committee beg to recommend that the disinfection of cars and the arrangement therefor with the railroad companies be left entirely to the discretion of the President of the Board and the State Veterinarian.

Fifth—Your committee recommends that the employment of necessary permanent inspectors be left to the discretion of the President of the Board and the State Veterinarian.

Sixth—Your committee further advise that the commission recommend to the Governor, and through him to the legislature, that section 16 of the Act of 1905 be amended to read clearly and plainly that all expense of quarantine and supervision of dipping of native sheep be borne by the State Sheep Inspection and Indemnity Fund.

Seventh—We urgently desire that each and every commissioner report to the State Veterinarian at as early a date as possible each year the names and addresses of the owners of all public and private buck herds within his county.

Eighth—Your committee recommends that the chairman of the board request the Secretary of Agriculture to send a pathologist to investigate the lip and leg ulceration of sheep obtaining in the northern part of the State.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. B. BOURNE, Chairman.

After the reading and adoption of the committee's report upon the recommendations of Dr. Knowles, the President caused the roll of counties to be called. The commissioners present answered for their different counties, and the Board was of the opinion that the State is practically free from scab and other contagious diseases.

The Board recommends that the following matters be brought to the attention of the Governor of the State, with recommendation that these matters be brought to the attention and the action of the legislature. In order to provide sufficient revenue for the carrying out of the purposes of this commission it was recommended that the present levy of one-fourth of a mill for the Sheep Inspection and Indemnity Fund be raised to one mill.

The matter of the provisions of the new bounty law coming before this meeting it was recommended that while it was the sense of the meeting that the present bounty law should be retained, it was the opinion that the Governor recommend the reduction of the present levy for bounty purposes from 4 1/2 mills to three mills, and that a certain portion of the revenue thus raised be set aside for the carrying out of the law, and for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting bounty frauds; the Board being of the opinion that a levy of three mills would be ample for all purposes.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this commission that some of the prominent sheep owners of the State have technically, if not willfully, violated at least one section of the Act of 1905, entitled an Act to Foster, Develop, Protect and Promote the Sheep Industry of the State of Montana, and to Appoint a Board of Commissioners, and to Appoint Inspectors, etc., and that it is the sense of this commission that they should be promptly and vigorously prosecuted for this offense, and that the State Veterinarian is hereby instructed to commence proceedings against them, and all other violators of the law, through the courts of the state, where sufficient evidence can be obtained to justify such prosecution, and the State Veterinarian is hereby instructed to take these matters up through the office of the Attorney General of the State at once, to the end that justice may be done, and report progress to the President of this Commission.

The following resolution was then offered and adopted and the Secretary ordered to send a copy to each of the parties named:

Whereas, T. J. Porter of Miles City, county attorney for Custer county, and J. C. Lyndes of Forsyth, county attorney for Rosebud county, have been very energetic and diligent in prosecuting cases of violation of the state bounty law; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Board, at its meeting this day assembled, desires to express its appreciation and thanks for the very efficient manner in which they have prosecuted these cases which have resulted in the conviction of one or more parties.

The Board in open meeting endorsed both the Montana Wool Growers' Commission Company and the Montana Wool Growers' Association, organized last fall pursuant to a call of the Governor of the State, and recommended that the sheep owners and wool growers of the State join these different bodies and use every effort to make them a success.

A legislative committee of five was ordered appointed by the Chairman, the President and Secretary of the Commission being ex-officio members of this committee; they to take such action before the legislature as might be necessary in changing the law of 1905 so that all recommendations and suggestions be made a part of the law, if it should be found necessary to make such changes in order that such recommendations can be legally carried out.

Very respectfully,

GEO. J. JOYCE,
Secretary.

LIST OF COMMISSIONERS.

County.	Name	Address
Beaverhead	George W. French	Dillon
Broadwater	Jeff Doggett	Johnson
Carbon	Charles C. Huyck	Roberts
Cascade	H. C. Ewing	Great Falls
Chouteau	George B. Bourne	Hill
Custer	Frank D. O'Neill	Miles City
Dawson	William Lindsay	Glendive
Deer Lodge	W. M. Montgomery	Anaconda
Fergus	B. C. White	Garneill
Flathead	W. F. Mulaney	Kalispell
Gallatin	John F. Work	Bozeman
Granite	Lee C. Degenhart	Phillipsburg
Jefferson	E. J. Stanley	Whitehall
Lewis & Clark	T. C. Power	Helena
Madison	Henry W. Buford	Ennis
Meagher	J. E. Bower	Oka
Missoula	D. R. Maclay	Lo Lo
Park	S. O'N. C. Brady	Meyersburg
Powell	William Williams	Deer Lodge
Ravalli	J. L. Humble	Corvallis
Rosebud	D. McGillivary	Sabra
Silver Bow	Herman Diestal	Butte
Sweet Grass	A. B. Coit	Big Timber
Teton	W. K. Flowerree	Lowry
Valley	L. H. Mills	Saco
Yellowstone	A. C. Logan	Billings

LIST OF SHEEP INSPECTORS.

County.	Name	Address
Beaverhead	George Gleed	Lima
Broadwater	Jeff Doggett	Johnson
Carbon	Frank L. Clark	Red Lodge
Chouteau	D. A. Smith	Hinsdale
Custer	Robt. Gordon	Sunnyside
	Dan H. Bowman, Regular	Knowlton
	W. S. Snell, Special	Miles City
Dawson	Richard Turbiville, Special	Midland
	James Corson	Glendive
Deer Lodge	Dr. A. H. Cheney	Anaconda
Fergus	B. C. White	Garneill
Gallatin	John F. Work	Bozeman
Granite	Lee C. Degenhart	Phillipsburg
Madison	L. S. Briggs	Bozeman
Meagher	C. W. Cook	Unity
Park	Dr. A. D. Knowles	Livingston
	S. O'N. C. Brady	Meyersburg
	William Williams	Deer Lodge
Ravalli	B. S. Shaffin	Corvallis
Rosebud	Andrew P. Tadsen	Forsyth
Sweet Grass	Glen M. Parker	Big Timber
Silver Bow	Dr. A. H. Cheney	Anaconda
Valley	D. A. Smith	Hinsdale

