

THE
SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT



Acclimatisation Society of Victoria.

AS THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY, FROM MARCH 1864,
TO THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEETING.

PRINTED BY

MELBOURNE.

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1865.

THE
SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Acclimatisation Society of Victoria,

AS ADOPTED

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, HELD MARCH 12TH, 1868,
AT THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, MELBOURNE.

"Omnis feret omnia tellus."

MELBOURNE:
STILLWELL & KNIGHT, PRINTERS, COLLINS STREET EAST.
1868.



LIST OF THE OFFICERS
OF THE
ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

PATRON.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE HON. SIR J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON, K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT.

THOMAS BLACK, Esq., M.D., &c. &c.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

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HON. S. H. BINDON, M.L.A.
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HON. TREASURER.

T. J. SUMNER, Esq.

SOCIETY'S OFFICE.

No. 30. SWANSTON STREET.

SOCIETY'S DEPÔT.

ROYAL PARK.

MR. GEO. SPRIGG, *Secretary*.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

FOR THE YEAR 1867.

The Council of the Acclimatisation Society, in submitting to the Subscribers and Public the Sixth Annual Report, regrets to have to state that the financial position of the Society is not satisfactory. The subscriptions, more especially in the country districts, have fallen off, and in consequence the Council was not enabled to claim more than two-thirds of the Government grant for 1867. Added to this, is the fact, that in consequence of the Appropriation Act not having been passed by the Legislature, no portion of the grant has yet been paid, and the only funds available have been obtained upon the personal guarantee of Members of the Council. These facts will, the Council hopes, satisfactorily account for its restricted action during the past year.

Since the last annual meeting the following changes have taken place in the Council:—Mr. Box and the Rev. W. Fellows have resigned, and Mr. G. E. Evans and Mr. L. J. Sherrard were appointed in their stead. It now devolves upon this meeting to permanently fill these vacancies, and also those caused by the retirement of Messrs. G. E. Evans, G. S. Lang, and Dr. Bleasdale.

The introduction of the following quadrupeds and birds has taken place during the year :

5 Nylghau	2 Japanese deer
4 Ostriches	2 Batavia deer
3 Axis deer	6 Ceylon partridges
2 Sambur deer	80 English skylarks

In addition to these, the Council received from Tasmania 200 trout fry, which were temporarily placed in a rill specially constructed for them at the Royal Park. Also, thanks to the energetic kindness of Mr. Morton Allport, a considerable number of English perch has been received, and it is hoped that the increase of these

fish will speedily enable the Council to commence stocking some of the reservoirs now in course of construction in various parts of the colony ; this important work being one that the Council is extremely desirous of performing, more especially as the Government has promised every assistance in its power to accomplish so desirable an object.

The Council is happy to be able to report that the salmon experiment, undertaken by this Society in conjunction with the Tasmanian Salmon Commissioners, proceeds most satisfactorily in Tasmania. Attached to this Report is published the last Report of the Salmon Commissioners,* a perusal of which is surely sufficient to convince the most sceptical that hitherto success has been obtained.

The Angora goats continue to thrive admirably, and the Society's splendid flock now numbers upwards of 200, in addition to 70 young pure bred rams which have been distributed over the colony.

The different species of deer which have been turned loose in various parts of the colony are increasing fast. Special reference may be made to the herd of Axis deer liberated by the Council, in conjunction with Mr. S. Wilson, on the Wimmera.

The English hare, wherever it has been turned out, has increased at a marvellous rate, and within a very short time may fairly be expected to be available both for food and sport.

The gardens at the Royal Park prove more and more attractive, and the number of visitors is considerably on the increase.

Taking advantage of the residence of Mr. R. T. Firebrae in London, the Council requested him to interest himself on their behalf, and his response has been most hearty and effective. The Society owes much to the valuable services rendered during the past year by this gentleman, and it is gratifying to know that his assistance will still be continued.

The sparrows which were introduced by this Society have multiplied to such an extent that the Council has been enabled to distribute numbers of them to Beechworth, Benalla, Kyneton, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Daylesford, Warrnambool, Geelong, St. Arnaud, Heathcote, Somerton, Winchelsea, Meredith, Gisborne,

* See page 36.

Ararat, Portland, Maryborough, and the Murray; and from all these places replies have been received of a very satisfactory nature.

In the Report for 1865 the Council mentioned that, at the suggestion of the Hon. J. G. Francis, Commissioner of Customs, a considerable number of goats, rabbits, pigs, fowls, ducks, and geese, had been sent down by the Society, in H.M.C.S. *Victoria*, for liberation at the Auckland Islands, to be of service to any persons who might unfortunately be shipwrecked there. It was not then anticipated how soon these animals would be required, but it is now known that within five months of their being placed on the Islands, the survivors from the "General Grant" were indebted to them for sustenance. In consequence of this success, the Council has determined to ship a much larger quantity of stock by the first opportunity to these Islands.

The establishment of State Forests by the Government will greatly facilitate the dispersion throughout the colony of the various descriptions of game and other useful animals, and will enable the Society to introduce them into localities where, for want of proper protection, any attempt at acclimatisation was previously attended with great difficulty.

It having been thought advisable to alter the date at which the annual subscription to the Society shall be payable, an alteration in Rule No. 3 will be submitted for your approval, by which the date fixed will be 1st January instead of 1st September.

During the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh to the colony, the Council prepared the following address, which, with copies of the Society's Reports, was presented to H.R.H. by the President, and to which a reply has been received.

TO

His Royal Highness Prince Alfred Ernest Albert,
DUKE OF EDINBURGH,

*Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,
&c. &c. &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,

We, the Members of the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria, do ourselves the distinguished honour of approaching your ROYAL HIGHNESS with sentiments of loyalty and attachment to HER MAJESTY'S throne and person, and we humbly offer our most sincere congratulations on your safe arrival in this distant part of HER MAJESTY'S Empire.

We presume it is unnecessary to remind your ROYAL HIGHNESS of the deep interest your late illustrious and ever-to-be-lamented father, the PRINCE CONSORT, took in the cause of Acclimatisation, and also HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, as evidenced by HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS' acceptance of the presidency of a kindred institution in Great Britain.

We further do ourselves the honour of presenting to your ROYAL HIGHNESS the published reports of our Society, and we do so with the hope that you will find that our past labours have not been in vain.

We have the honor to be, with the most profound respect,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESS' most obedient servants,

Signed on behalf of the Society,

THOMAS BLACK,
President.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,

I duly appreciate the sentiments of loyalty which your address contains.

You are correct in supposing that I share in the interest taken in the cause of Acclimatisation by other members of my family, and I have no doubt that the success of your efforts in this colony must confer many signal benefits upon its inhabitants.

I accept with pleasure the published record of your past proceedings, and I trust that your future course may be attended with results as satisfactory as those which appear to have crowned your past labours.

(Signed)

ALFRED.

To the President and Members of the
Acclimatisation Society of Victoria.

ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

Dr.

From September 1st, 1866, to August 31st, 1867.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	393	14	8
„ Government Grant*	2,212	10	0
„ Subscriptions, Donations, &c.	716	3	0
„ Grazing Fees	253	6	0
	£3,575 13 8		

* This is the Grant for 1866.

By Purchase of Animals*	1,062	8	7
„ Park Improvements	562	5	4
„ Salaries and Wages	872	6	2
„ Stores, Tools, and Contingencies	168	16	11
„ Food and Forage	397	3	2
„ Office Expenses	170	7	0
„ Medal†	175	0	0
„ Grants to Branch Societies	201	2	6
„ Cash in hands of Bank	26	4	0
	£3,575 13 8		

* £600 of this amount was paid for the Angora Goats purchased in 1866, and a large portion of the remainder is still in the hands of the Society's Agents abroad.

† This amount was specially subscribed for the purchase of a medal.

T. J. SUMNER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

R. R. LANDALE, *Auditor.*

LIFE MEMBERS.

All Members marked thus * pay their Annual Subscription also.

Aldworth and Co., Sandhurst	£10 10 0	Jamieson, Hugh, Mildura	£10 10 0
Armitage, George, Ballaarat	.. 10 10 0	Jemmer, Hon. C. J., M.L.C., Darebin Creek .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Armstrong, W., Hexham ..	.. 10 10 0	Jones, Lloyd, Avenel .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Austin, Thomas, Barwon Park	.. 10 10 0	*Joshua Bros., William-street	.. 10 10 0
Bagot, C. N., Melbourne Club	.. 10 10 0	Landells, G. J., Lahore, India	Services
Barkly, His Excellency Sir Henry, Mauritius .. ..	.. 42 0 0	Layard, C. P., Colombo ..	Services
*Bear, Hon. J. P., M.L.C., Queen- street .. .. .	.. 21 0 0	Layard, E. L., Cape Town	Services
Bear, Thomas H., Heidelberg	.. 10 10 0	Learmonth, Thomas, Ericfdan- riley, Portland .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Black, Dr. Thomas, Melbourne Club .. .. .	.. 10 10 0	Londesborough, The Right Hon- orable Lord, Carlton Gardens, London .. .. .	.. 37 10 0
Black, W., Belfast .. ..	.. 10 10 0	Lyall, W., Frogmore ..	.. 10 10 0
Borough Council of Sandhurst	.. 10 10 0	Mackenzie, John, 70½ Queen- street .. .. .	.. 10 10 0
Box, H., Little Collins-street West .. .. .	.. 10 10 0	Mackinnon, L., "Argus" Office	Services
Boyd and Currie, Collins-street West .. .. .	.. 10 10 0	Macintosh, Alexander, Green Hills, Diggers Rest .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Bright Brothers, Messrs. & Co., Flinders-lane .. .. .	.. 10 10 0	Manners Sutton, His Excellency The Hon. Sir J. H. T. .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Brown, Lindsay, Garramadda, Wahgunyah .. .. .	.. 10 10 0	Marshall, Captain D. S., "A. H. Badger"	Services
Catto, John, Newbridge, Lodon	10 10 0	Martin, Dr., Heidelberg .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Chambers, H. J., St. Kilda ..	Services	Matheson, J., Bank of Victoria	.. 21 0 0
Cooper, Sir Daniel, London	.. 37 2 0	McGill, A. .. .. .	.. 10 10 0
Coppin, Geo. S., Cremorne ..	.. 10 10 0	McGregor, Samuel, Belfast	.. 10 10 0
Creswick, Borough Council of	.. 10 10 0	McHaffie, John, Phillip Island	.. 10 10 0
Cumming, G., Mount Fyans ..	.. 10 10 0	McMullen, J., Union Bank ..	.. 21 0 0
Cumming, W., Mount Fyans ..	.. 10 10 0	Molloy, W. T., Balmoral ..	.. 10 10 0
Curr, E. M., Queen-street ..	.. 10 10 0	Mueller, Dr., Botanic Gardens	.. 10 10 0
*Dalgety & Co., Messrs., Little Collins-street .. .. .	.. 10 10 0	Municipal Council of Ballaarat West .. .. .	.. 20 0 0
*Darling, His Excellency Sir Charles H., London .. ..	.. 10 10 0	Murray, S., Dunrobin .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Docker, F. G., Wangaratta ..	.. 10 10 0	*Nicholson, Germain, Collins- street East .. .. .	.. 10 10 0
*Falconer, J. J., Bank of Austral- asia .. .. .	.. 20 0 0	*Officer, C. S., Mount Talbot	.. 10 10 0
Fellows, The Hon. T. H. ..	.. 10 10 0	*Power, Hon. Thomas H., Haw- thorn .. .. .	.. 10 10 0
Firebrace, R. T., Heyfield, Gipps Land .. .. .	.. 10 10 0	Purchas, Albert, Kew	Services
Fussell, R. S. R. Fou Chou dols. 50 .. .. .	.. 11 0 10	Ritchie, J., Streatham .. ..	.. 10 10 0
Glass, Hugh, 18, A'Beckett- street .. .. .	.. 21 0 0	*Rostron, John R., Navarro	.. 10 10 0
Glass, R. J., Whaiparella ..	.. 10 10 0	Rusden, G. W., Brighton ..	.. 10 10 0
*Henty, The Hon. S. G., M.L.C., 31, Market-street .. ..	.. 10 10 0	Russell, A., Matuwallock ..	.. 10 10 0
Hervey, The Hon. M., M.L.C., Melbourne Club .. ..	.. 10 10 0	*Rutledge, William, Belfast	.. 10 10 0
*Hoffmann, W., Bush Back, Essendon .. .. .	.. 25 0 0	*Salmon, J. E., S. and A. C. Bank Sargood, King & Sargood, Flinders-street East .. ..	.. 10 10 0
		Shoobridge, E., Valleyfield, Tas- mania .. .. .	.. 10 10 0

Simpson, Robert, Lango Kal					Taylor, Frederick, Melbourne				
Kal	£10	10	0		Club	£10	10	0	
Sladen, Hon. C., M.L.C., Birre-					*Taylor, W., Overnowton, Kellor	10	10	0	
gurra	10	10	0		Templeton, Hugh, Fitzroy	Services			
Sloan, W. S., Fou Chou, dols. 50	11	0	10		*Ware, Joseph, Carramut ..	10	10	0	
Spowers, Allan, "Argus" Office	10	10	0		Wilson and Mackinnon, Collins-				
Stanbridge, W. E., Daylesford..	10	10	0		street East	42	9	0	
Stanghton, S. T., Little Collins-					*Wilson, Edward, "Argus" Office	21	0	0	
street West	10	10	0		Wilson, Samuel, Wimmera ..	10	10	0	
Stewart, J., Emordale, Streatham	21	0	0		Winter, James, Toolambra, Mur-				
Strachan, J., London Chartered					chison	10	10	0	
Bank	21	0	0		Winter, Thomas, Winchelsea ..	10	10	0	
Sumner, T. J., 24, Flinders-lano					Yoni, James A., Clapham Park,				
West	10	10	0		London	Services			

ANNUAL MEMBERS.

Anderson and Wright, Carron					Clarke, W. J. T., Collins-street				
Timber Yard	£2	2	0		East	£2	2	0	
Baines, Edward, Little Collins-					Clough, J. H., & Co., Messrs.,				
street East	2	2	0		113, Collins-street West ..	2	2	0	
Banks Bros. Bell and Co.,					Cumming, John, Darlington ..	2	2	0	
Flinders-place	2	2	0		Cuthbert, Henry, Ballarat ..	2	2	0	
Bathe, Dr., St. Kilda	2	2	0		Dalgety, Blackwood and Co., Little-				
A'Beckett, Hon. T. T., M.L.C., St.					Collins-street West	2	2	0	
Kilda	2	2	0		Dalgety and Co., Geelong ..	2	2		
Benn, John, 24, Flinders-lane					Dalhunty, L. V., Carcoar, N.S.W.	2	2	0	
West	2	2	0		Davison, —, Geelong	2	2	0	
Bindon, The Hon. S. H., M.L.A.,					Dawson, M., Brunswick	2	2	0	
Temple Court	2	2	0		Dobson, F. S., Chancery-lane ..	2	2	0	
Black, Dr. Joseph, Bourke-street					Ebden, C. H., Melbourne Club ..	2	2	0	
West	2	2	0		Evans, G. E., "Argus" Office ..	2	2	0	
Bland, R. H., Clunes	2	2	0		Fanning, Nankivell and Co.,				
Bligh & Harbottle, Flinders-lane					Elizabeth-street	2	2	0	
West	2	2	0		Fellows, Rev. W., Toorak	2	2	0	
Briseoe and Company, 11 Collins-					Finlay, J., Emerald Hill	2	2	0	
street East	2	2	0		Francis, Hon. J. G., M.L.A., 26				
Brodribb, K. E., Chancery-lane	2	2	0		King-street	2	2	0	
Brown, Charles, 33, Bourke-street					Fraser and Co., 14, Collins-street				
West	2	2	0		West	2	2	0	
Buckley & Nunn, 27, Bourke-st.					Fulton, Thomas, and Co., Flin-				
East	2	2	0		ders-street West	2	2	0	
Callender, J. and Co., 26, King-st.	2	2	0		Gibb, R. B., Ballarat	2	2	0	
Campbell, D. S., Bank Place ..	2	2	0		Godfrey, F. R., Mount Ridley,				
Carfrae, John, Victoria Parade ..	2	2	0		Somerton	2	2	0	
Champ, Colonel, William-street	2	2	0		Goldshorough, R., and Co.,				
Charsley, E., Eldon Chambers ..	3	3	0		Bourke-street West	2	2	0	
Chonley, A. W., Collins-street					Graham, J., 97, Little Collins-st.				
East	2	2	0		East	2	2	0	
Christy, F. C., Williamstown ..	2	2	0		Gray, Charles, Narub Narub ..	2	2	0	
Clarke, W., and Sons, Elizabeth-					Green, Molesworth, Melbourne				
street	2	2	0		Club	2	2	0	
Clarke, W. J., Sunbury	2	2	0		Grice, R., Flinders-lane West ..	2	2	0	

Gurner, H. F., Collins-street East	£2	2	0	Phelps, J. J., Melbourne Club	..	£2	2	0
Haddon, F. W., "Argus" Office	2	2	0	Power, Thomas H., Queen-street	2	2	0	
Haigh Brothers, Collins-st. East	2	2	0	Power, Robert, Hawthorn	..	5	5	0
Harcourt, J. T., Richmond	..	2	2	0	Robinson, L., Collins-street East	2	2	0
Harris, Thos. L., Bulla	..	2	2	0	Robertson, Wm., Temple Court	2	2	0
Harrison, Captain, Jamieson	..	2	2	0	Rolfe and Bailey, Bourke-street			
Henty, Hon. S. G., M.L.C., Market-					West	..	2	2
street	..	2	2	0	Russell, Phillip, Chewton	..	2	2
Henty, Richmond, Kew	..	2	2	0	Rutledge, W., Belfast	..	2	2
Highett, Hon. W., M.L.C., Mel-					Ryan and Hammond, Bourke-			
bourne Club	..	2	2	0	street West	...	2	2
Highett, Miss, Richmond	..	2	2	0	Ryley, F., Wangaratta	..	2	2
Higinbotham, Hon. Geo., M.L.A.,					Sands and McDougall, Collins-			
Temple Court	..	2	2	0	street West	..	2	2
Hoffmann, W., Essendon	..	2	2	0	Sargood, King and Sargood, 23,			
Hogg, E. J., Blackwell, Brighton	..	2	2	0	Flinders-street East	..	2	2
Hogg, J., Brighton	..	2	2	0	Selwyn, A. R. C., Brighton	..	2	2
House, Samuel, and Co., Queen-st.	2	2	0	Sherwin, John, Braemar	..	2	2	0
Howes, D. J., Belfast	..	2	2	0	Simpson, Robert, Langi, Kai Kai	2	2	0
Joshua, Bros., 46, William-street	2	2	0	Sloane and Co., Collins-street				
Ker, W. L., Killingworth	..	2	2	0	West	..	2	2
Kilpatrick and Co., Collins-street					Smale, A. W., 105, Collins-street			
West	..	2	2	0	East	..	2	2
King, Dr., Ballarat	..	2	2	0	Stephen, F. J. S., Little Collins-			
Langhorn, A., Melbourne Club	..	2	2	0	street East	..	2	2
Loader, Thomas, Elizabeth-street	2	2	0	Smyth, R. Brough, Flemington	..	2	2	0
Macfarlane, Peter, Kaleitha, Yea	2	2	0	Spowers, Allan, "Argus" Office	2	2	0	
Macfarlane, A., and Co., Flinders-					Sprigg, W. G., 15, Queen-street	2	2	0
lane East	..	2	2	0	Stevenson, J., William-street	..	2	2
Manners Sutton, His Excellency					Stevenson, L., and Sons, Flin-			
Sir J. H. T.	..	10	0	0	ders-lane East	..	5	5
Martin, George, and Co., 25, Mar-					Stewart, J., Ballarat	..	2	2
ket-street	..	2	2	0	Sturt, E. P. S., Swanston-street	2	2	0
McArthur, Sherrard and Co.,					Taylor, Hon. Wm., M.L.C., Keilor	2	2	0
Collins-street East	..	2	2	0	Terry, Leonard, William-street	..	2	2
McCoy, Professor, University	..	2	2	0	Thomas, Dr., Collins-street East	2	2	0
McCracken and Co., Little Collins-					Towers, John, "Australasian"			
street West	..	2	2	0	Office	..	2	2
McCrae, A., Kilmore	..	2	2	0	Turnbull, R. and P., William-street	2	2	0
McEwan and Co., Swanston-st.	2	2	0	Turner, James, 104 Gore-street	..	2	2	0
McNaughton, Love and Co., Flin-					Venables, H. P., Education Office	2	2	0
ders-lane East	..	2	2	0	White, W. P., and Co. 10, Eliza-			
Michie, Hon. A., Temple Court	..	2	2	0	beth-street	..	2	2
Moore, H. Byron, Crown Lands					Wilshin and Leighton, 7, Market-			
Office	..	2	2	0	street	..	2	2
Moule, F. G., Chancery Lane	..	2	2	0	Wilson, Dr., Summer Hill,			
Naylor, Thomas, Moonee Ponds	2	2	0	Somerton	..	2	2	0
Nicholson, Germain, 69, Collins-					Wilson, Edward, "Argus" Office	2	2	0
street East	..	2	2	0	Wood, J. D., Temple Court	..	2	2
Nutt, R. W., William-street	..	2	2	0	Wragge, George, 134, Collins-			
Officer, C. M., Balmorino, Toorak	2	2	0	street East	..	2	2	0
Paterson, Ray, Palmer, and Co.,					Wyatt, Alfred, Temple Court	..	2	2
Flinders-lane West	..	2	2	0				

DONATIONS.

Bank of Australasia, Ararat	£0 10 0	Mathews, W., Morson	.. .. £0 10 0
Brearly Brothers, Geelong	.. 1 0 0	Mathieson, J., Bank of Victoria	.. 1 0 0
Bright and Hitchcock, Geelong	.. 1 1 0	Meakin, H., Geelong	.. .. 0 10 0
Burrell, Captain, Williamstown	.. 1 1 0	Morgan, —, Mersin	.. .. 0 10 0
Castelnau, Comte de, Apsley Place	1 1 0	Morgan, J., Williamstown	.. .. 0 5 0
Courtney, E., Temple Court	.. 1 1 0	McPherson, W., Ararat	.. .. 0 5 0
Daly, J., Collins-street	.. .. 1 1 0	Nicholson, —	.. .. 1 0 0
Deans, —, Ararat	.. .. 0 10 0	Pike, Mrs., South Yarra	.. .. 0 10 0
Gramill, J., Ararat	.. .. 0 5 0	Ross, P. F., Lonsdale-street	.. 1 0 0
Grant, J., Pleasant Creek	.. 1 1 0	Slatter, —	.. .. 0 5 0
Henderson, Rev. W., Ballarat	.. 0 7 6	Tait, J., Geelong	.. .. 1 1 0
Hepburn, J., Ballarat	.. 1 0 0	Volun and Co., Geelong	.. 1 1 0
Howitt, Dr., Collins-street	.. 1 0 0	Watson, Wm., and Sons, Little Collins-street East	.. .. 1 1 0
Johnson, S., Ballarat	.. .. 0 2 6	Webster, A., Ararat	.. .. 1 1 0
Langford, W., Williamstown	.. 0 2 6		
Lewis, R., Ballarat	.. .. 1 1 0		

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Allport, Morton, Hobart Town.	Malden, Walter, Office of Mines.
Beckx, Gustave, Flinders Lane West.	Mathieu, A., Yahoue, New Caledonia.
Biagi, Giuseppe, William Street.	Michaelis, Moritz, Elizabeth Street.
Blanchard, W., Collins Street West.	Michael, Major, Madras.
Boutan, A., Yahoue, New Caledonia.	McQueen, Captain, "Martha Birnie."
Buckland, Dr. F., London.	Mullick, Rajendro, Calcutta.
Castelnau, Comte de, Apsley Place.	Officer, Hon. Dr., Hobart Town.
Chalmers, Dr., New Zealand.	Ploos Van Amstel, J. M., Collins St. West.
Cleland, J., Albion Hotel, Bourke-street.	Rauel, Monsieur, Paris.
Cooper, Ricardo, Queen Street.	Rentsch, Samuel, Flinders Street East.
Coste, Professor, Huingue.	Ridgers, Captain, "Sussex."
Danyon, James, Market Street.	Robinson, J., Calcutta.
Drouyn, de Lhuys, Paris.	Salt, Titus, Saltalre, England.
Francis, Francis, London.	Scholstein, Adolp., Flinders Lane West.
Gillanders & Arbuthnot, Calcutta.	Selater, Dr. P. L., London.
Godfrey, Captain J. B., New Zealand.	Shinner, Captain, "Lincolnshire."
Graham, James, Little Collins Street East.	Smith, Captain, "Dover Castle."
Grote, Arthur, Calcutta.	Squire, Surgeon John, Dinapore.
Johnston, Clement, Crown Lands Office.	St. Hilaire, G., Bois de Boulogne, Paris.
Latham, General, Little Collins Street West.	Were, J. B., Collins Street West.

THE RULES AND OBJECTS

OF THE

Acclimatisation Society of Victoria.

1. The objects of the Society shall be the introduction, acclimatisation, and domestication of, all innocuous animals, birds, fishes, insects, and vegetables, whether useful or ornamental;—the perfection, propagation, and hybridisation of races newly introduced or already domesticated;—the spread of indigenous animals, &c., from parts of the colonies where they are already known, to other localities where they are not known;—the procuring, whether by purchase, gift, or exchange, of animals, &c., from Great Britain, the British colonies, and foreign countries;—the transmission of animals, &c., from the colony to England and foreign parts, in exchange for others sent thence to the Society;—the holding of periodical meetings, and the publication of reports and transactions, for the purpose of spreading knowledge of acclimatisation, and inquiry into the causes of success or failure;—the interchange of reports, &c., with kindred associations in other parts of the world, with the view, by correspondence and mutual good offices, of giving the widest possible scope to the project of acclimatisation;—the conferring rewards, honorary or intrinsically valuable, upon seafaring men, passengers from distant countries, and others who may render valuable services to the cause of acclimatisation.

Objects of
Society.

2. A Subscriber of two guineas or upwards annually shall be a Member of the Society; and contributors, within one year, of ten guineas or upwards shall be Life Members of the Society; and any person who may render special services to the Society, by contribution of stock or otherwise, shall be

Membership.

eligible for life membership, and may be elected as such by the Council, or by any annual general meeting.

Subscrip-
tions.

3. The annual subscription shall be payable on the 1st day of January in each year, and may be received by any Member of the Council, or the Collector, either of whom on receiving the same shall cause the person so subscribing to be enrolled a member accordingly.

Property
vest in
Trustees

4. All the property of the Society, of what nature and kind soever, shall vest in Trustees to be appointed by the Council, for the use, purposes, and benefit of the Society.

Executive
Officers.

Council.

5. The Society shall be governed by a Council of eighteen Members, to include a President, two Vice-Presidents, and an Honorary Treasurer, three of whom (viz., those who have attended the fewest Meetings of the Council proportionately since their appointment) shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. Provided that if any sum of money be voted to the Society by Act of Parliament, or trusts conferred upon the Council by the Government, then it shall be lawful for the Chief Secretary for the time being to appoint, if he consider it expedient, any number of gentlemen, not exceeding three, to act as Members of the Council, and they shall have all the privileges as if otherwise duly elected; and further, to appoint one Co-Trustee, to act in conjunction with the Trustees for the time being of the Society. And provided further, that if the Melbourne Corporation, or any of the adjacent municipalities, shall decide upon expending any sum of money exceeding £100 in any one year, upon the grounds or for the objects of the Society, the Mayor of Melbourne or Chairman of such municipality shall be for such year a Member of the Council, and be at liberty to act in every respect as an ordinary member.

Vacancy in
Council,
how sup-
plied.

6. In case of a vacancy occurring by the death, resignation, or non-attendance of any Member of Council for the period of two months, the remaining Members may appoint another Member of the Society to be a Member of the Council in the place and stead of the deceased, or resigned, or absenting Member, and such new Member may act until the next annual general meeting. Provided that such vacancy shall not be supplied by the Council except after seven days' notice given

of the new Member to be proposed, and unless in the presence of at least seven Members of the Council.

7. The Society shall hold periodical meetings, at which papers and other communications relating to the objects of the Society, and reports prepared by the Council, shall be received, and such discussions shall be encouraged as may be of value in propagating a knowledge of acclimatisation amongst the Members and the public. And such business generally shall be disposed of as may be brought under consideration by the Council or by any Member who shall have given seven days' previous notice thereof to the Secretary, or as a majority of two-thirds of the Members present shall see fit to entertain and consider; and each Member shall have the privilege of introducing two friends at such meetings.

Quarterly Meetings of the Society.

8. The Council shall meet at least once a month, and three Members shall form a quorum, and be capable of transacting the business of the Council, subject to such limitations as may be imposed by any bye-law of the Council, or rule, or resolution of the Society, which may be hereafter made.

Meetings of Council.

9. The Council shall have the sole management of the affairs of the Society, and of the income and property thereof, for the uses, purposes, and benefit of the Society; and shall have the sole and exclusive right of appointing a President, Vice-Presidents, and Honorary Treasurer from amongst themselves or the other Members of the Society, and also of appointing paid servants, as a manager or secretary, collector, and such other officers, clerks, and labourers, and at such salaries as they may deem necessary, and of removing them if they shall think fit, and shall prescribe their respective duties. And such Council shall have power to consider and determine all matters, either directly or indirectly affecting the interests of the Society, and if they shall think fit so to do, shall bring the same under the notice of the Members of the Society, at any general or special meeting; and to make such bye-laws as they may deem necessary for the efficient management of the affairs and the promotion of the objects of the Society, and for the conduct of the business of the Council, provided the

Powers and Duties of Council.

same are not repugnant to these rules ; to appoint one or more sub-committees, for any purpose contemplated by these rules ; and generally to perform such acts as may be requisite to carry out the objects of the Society, which bye-laws are to be subject to ratification, or emendation, or rejection, by the next annual or special general meeting of the Society. And it shall be the duty of the Council to exercise the foregoing powers as occasion shall require, and to furnish reports of the proceedings at every periodical and annual meeting of the Society.

Branch So-
cieties, &c.

10. The Society shall have power to affiliate or associate itself with other Societies of kindred objects, and to found Branch Societies if desirable ; and the Council shall have power to carry out any arrangements for this purpose, and to furnish any mouthly or other reports.

Minutes of
Proceed-
ings.

11. Minutes shall be made, in books kept for the purpose, of all the proceedings at the general and special meetings of the Members, and minutes shall also be made of the proceedings of the Council at their general and special meetings, and of the names of the Members attending the same, and such minutes shall be open to inspection by any Member of the Society at all reasonable times.

Moneys to be
paid to
Treasurer.

12. All subscriptions and other moneys payable to the Society shall be paid to the Treasurer, who shall forthwith place the same in a bank, to be named by the Council, to the credit of the Society ; and no sum shall be paid on account of the Society until the same shall have been ordered by the Council, and such order be duly entered in the book of the proceedings of the Council ; and all cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer as such, and be countersigned by the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, or by some other Member of the Council delegated by the Council to act as such.

Annual
Meeting.

13. An annual meeting shall be held in or about February of each year, and the Council shall report their proceedings during the past year, and shall produce their accounts, duly audited, for publication if deemed desirable ; and the meeting shall elect new Members of Council to supply the vacancies therein. And notices of motion must be furnished to the Secretary one day previous to the holding of

such meeting, or such motions may be rejected by the Chairman.

14. All privileges of membership shall cease in case any Member shall be three months in arrear, subject, however, to his restoration on the payment of such subscription as aforesaid, accompanied by satisfactory explanation. Non-pay-
ment of
Subscrip-
tions.

15. Upon receiving a requisition in writing, signed by twelve or more Members of the Society, or upon a resolution of the Council, the President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall convene a special meeting of the Members, to be held within fifteen days of the receipt by him of such requisition or resolution. Provided always that such requisition and resolution, and the notices thereunder convening the meeting, shall specify the subject to be considered at such meeting, and that subject only shall be discussed at such meeting. SpecialMeet-
ings of
Members.

16. The Council or any general meeting of the Society may admit, as Honorary Members, such ladies or gentlemen as may have distinguished themselves in connection with the objects of the Society, or in objects of a kindred nature. Honorary
Members

17. It shall be lawful for any annual or special meeting of the Society to alter, vary, or amend the rules; or to substitute another for any of the same; or to make any new rule which may be considered desirable; if and after a notice specifying the nature of such alteration, variation, amendment, substitution, or new rule, shall have been given to the Secretary fifteen days before the holding of such meeting. And such alteration, variation, amendment, substitution, or new rule, shall be valid if carried by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present at such meeting. Power to al-
ter Rules.

PROCEEDINGS
AT THE
SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING,

Held March 12, 1868.

THE PRESIDENT, DR. THOMAS BLACK, IN THE CHAIR.

THE PRESIDENT, on taking the chair, expressed his regret that His Excellency the Governor was unavoidably prevented from being present. He (the President) knew that His Excellency always took a marked interest in the proceedings of the Society, and on more than one occasion had rendered to it most valuable help. No one, he felt sure, would more regret his absence than His Excellency himself. He (the President) would not, however, detain the meeting further at that time but would at once call upon the Secretary to read the report.

The Secretary, Mr. GEO. SPRIGG, then read the Annual Report of the Society. (See page 5.)

Professor M'Coy moved the adoption of the Report and Balance-sheet. He observed that the first paragraph of the Report explained why the Society had been unable to do as much at it was desirous of doing, or might have been expected to do during the past year. The funds had been cut off to such an extent that even the wages of the ordinary and necessary staff at the Royal-park, and the food of the various animals kept in captivity at the different depôts, had all to be provided by funds raised on the personal guarantee of some members of the Council. It was impossible to avoid this; but in the ensuing year he had no doubt that the exertions of the Society would result in some new substantial events, inasmuch as it was the desire of the Council, who took the most active part in the management of the affairs of the Society, to expend their money and their energies on a few species of useful birds and a few species of useful quadrupeds, so that its operations might not be frittered away over a number of objects. Among those animals likely to form the nucleus of a new industry was the ostrich, for the introduction of which

into the colony, on a scale proper for giving the experiment a fair trial, the Council has placed money in the hands of its agents in Africa, and has had a great deal of correspondence with some of Her Majesty's Consuls in various countries, most ably and kindly aided in this part of their labours by His Excellency Sir T. H. Manners-Sutton, the patron of the Society. Important results might be expected from the establishment of ostrich farms, such as the French had found so profitable in Algeria. One of their correspondents, Mr. Layard, of Cape Town (who has purchased several for the Society), stated that the profit of farming ostriches in such a climate as this, in enclosures of moderate size, and taking the feathers, which was easily done at the proper period with due care, was something immensely greater than that of any other kind of stock that could be attended to with equally little expense and trouble. They all knew that the climate was admirably suited for increasing the number of ostriches, when the sexes were imported in good health at a proper age; and this in future might be expected to be a really important industry throughout the colony. Mr. Samuel Wilson would be able to give them some information as to the Axis deer which had been turned out on his extensive territory on the Wimmera. Many of the other kinds of deer, both from Europe and India, liberated by the Society, were thriving in a way that was perfectly marvellous. The great northern district of this island continent showed many resemblances to the southern portion of Africa, and seemed to be excellently suited for the propagation in great numbers of several of the antelopes of South Africa. Mr. Layard, of Cape Town, had been in possession for some time of funds from this Society, for the acquisition of several of the best of their kind, of antelopes of the African plains and deserts, and the fact that many ostriches and antelopes had not yet arrived was principally due to the difficulty of getting a ship directly from the Cape to this port. The animals had been purchased and kept in confinement (our former patron, His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, aiding in the charge and trouble of the safe-keeping of the Society's purchases while waiting for a ship), and they would be sent off as soon as a suitable vessel left the Cape. These antelopes would form important articles of food to persons travelling through the northern portion of the country, and would add much to the value of central districts. A great number of birds had been liberated by the Society, and they had thriven in a way that was unexpected by many who thought that the rapacious birds of this country would be destructive to them. But they found that the rapacious birds

and carnivorous quadrupeds were less destructive than in many other countries of the world, and the result had proved that acclimatisers would have very little difficulty of that kind to contend with. Those who were desirous of seeing not only useful creatures, but also those which might be considered ornamental, or might gratify a pleasant predilection for singing birds, and field sports, had had their tastes gratified by importations of skylarks and many others, chiefly insectivorous birds, which would make the country more attractive and pleasant, as well as usefully clear away destructive insects, even if they were not of so much importance as the animals of which he had been speaking.

Then, with regard to the efforts of the Society for the introduction of useful fish, nothing could be more satisfactory than the success of the attempt to introduce salmon, made by this Society in conjunction with the Salmon Commissioners of Tasmania. Many scientific men hazarded in various journals, both of England and the Continent, a very positive opinion that it would be impossible to introduce any of the species of salmon successfully to the rivers of the southern hemisphere. In this room even on former occasions many objections were raised to the experiment of attempting to introduce the salmon, such as a supposed deficiency of proper sustenance food in the river; or to great abundance of predaceous fish, &c. These objections were combatted at the time, and were now seen to have really no such existence as should discourage the attempts of this Society to introduce, not only the salmon, but the various kinds of trout. In introducing the salmon, the Society was very much impressed with the importance of dealing in the first instance with one of the *salmonidæ* which had the remarkable habit of returning to the river in which it had been bred, and not any of those kinds which, after the great trouble that had been taken in importing the ova, would probably go to some, for us, inaccessible point instead of returning to the river which they left. The Society was of opinion that the experiment was more likely to be successful in the first instance in Tasmania than here, and accordingly all their efforts, as well as the money so liberally voted by Parliament, were disposed of in aid of the Salmon Commissioners of Tasmania, from whom subsequently any number of ova might be obtained to stock all suitable rivers in the colony. They had all seen last year at the Exhibition a young salmon about ten inches long of Tasmanian birth, in its return dress from the sea, and they might therefore expect large numbers of fish, probably capable of continuing their species at the present time. In the colony the

Society had met with an unexpected difficulty, to which it was as well he should refer. Although it was illegal to spread nets at the mouths of rivers, the society had received constant complaints that this was habitually done. The Society wrote to the Commissioner of Police, and made every effort to put the powers at the disposal of the Government for carrying out the law into operation, but they were distinctly informed that it was impossible for the police to act as gamekeepers. The salmon, or any other imported fish, must thus run the risk of being taken by those nets which the Council received information were spread almost every night at the mouths of rivers. This was fatal to the establishment of salmon in these rivers, unless the Society were provided with means for the employment of water bailiffs. Having this difficulty in mind, as well as carrying out the original intention of the Society with respect to the *Salmonidae*, the exertions of the Council had been directed to the introduction of the other members of the *Salmonidae*, that did not require to go to sea, and that would inhabit the rivers, the reservoirs, and the water holes, into which many of their rivers became converted in the dry season—that was to say, the various kinds of trout. When the floods flowed in their usual course again, the Society would be enabled to stock the waters of the country with these non-migratory *Salmonidae*, and the more important kinds of trout, beginning with the more common English kinds.

The Society had exerted itself continually to introduce, and now with some success, some large kinds of silkworm, which would produce a silk without that great expenditure of labour which would render ordinary sericulture with the common mulberry silkworm unprofitable here—a sort of silk that would be useful for making up ordinary clothes for wearing in hot parts of the country—and such as the Japanese, the Chinese, and the inhabitants of several parts of India made their usual clothes of. The Society had been successful in importing the Ailantus silkworm, one of the most valuable characteristics of which was that it could be put upon the Ailantus tree, instead of keeping it in sheds and houses, and conveying leaves to supply the worm, which would involve an amount of labour that would render the production of ordinary silk in this country unprofitable for many years. This large worm spun its cocoons upon a conspicuous twig of the tree. They were collected without much difficulty, and converted into cloth by ordinary cotton machinery which tore up the silk instead of unwinding it. They thus got the silk fabric with the least possible expenditure of manual labour, and it was likely to become very useful to the

country. Dr. Black and himself had not yet conquered the difficulties of introducing the nearly allied castor-oil silkworm, but still continued their endeavours, with every expectation of success. He should like to say a word in reference to the revival in this country of the opinions held by members of the sparrow clubs, which some years ago were so well caricatured in *Punch* and other sensible journals. There was no doubt that the adult sparrow fed upon grain; that it was an excessively prolific bird, breeding a great number of times in the year, and bringing forth a great number of birds. There was no doubt that these young were fed entirely upon grubs and other insects, which destroyed the produce of the garden and the vineyard. In many parts of Europe and America, the common sparrow, and creatures congeneric with it, had over and over again been protected by legislative enactments, after the careful investigations of committees, scientific commissions, and of persons able to judge of the matter. All the dissections and other investigations on this subject showed that the good done by these birds in destroying the grubs which infested gardens and fields, infinitely exceeded the value of any little grain or seed which these creatures might eat themselves. Many people seeing these birds about, had jumped to the conclusion that any loss of fruit or grain which they had sustained was to be attributed to the sparrows, and it had even been suggested that sparrow clubs should be established in this colony for their destruction. Now, on the continent of Europe and in America these birds, and birds of a similar character, had been destroyed by the farmers, and had afterwards—he was speaking on the authority of the great ornithologists Wilson and Audubon—been re-introduced at great expense, and from the painful experience forced upon the farmers that the insects destroyed were infinitely more noxious than the birds themselves. Professor M'Coy concluded by moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

The adoption of the report and balance-sheet was seconded by Mr. C. M. OFFICER, and carried unanimously.

Mr. A. R. C. SELWYN moved "that the appointment of Mr. L. J. Sherrard be confirmed, and that Messrs. F. G. Moule, C. M. Officer, and J. Towers, be elected to fill the vacancy in the Council.

This was seconded by Mr. G. C. LEVEY, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. A. PURCHAS, seconded by Dr. MUELLER, the date of the commencement of the Society's financial year was altered from 1st September to 1st January.

Mr. LEVEY observed that the financial statement was only brought down to August last, and asked what was the present condition of the Society's finances.

The Secretary stated that the account was overdrawn at the Bank to the extent of £500, that the outstanding unpaid accounts amounted to about £400, and that £2000 was due from the Government grant for 1867.

Mr. LEVEY :—Then the Society is perfectly solvent ?

The Secretary :—Yes, more than solvent.

The Chairman then said he had a few observations to make on the Angora goat, the introduction of which had so largely occupied both the energies and funds of the Society. It was an animal which had been found to answer admirably in our climate, and from the improvement in the fleeces which had already taken place, he had no doubt that before long the fleeces of the Victorian Angora would eclipse that of the goat in its native country, to quite as great an extent as the fleeces of the Australian merino surpassed that of the Spanish merino. In addition to the splendid flock, numbering upwards of 200, now in the Royal Park, the Society had during the past year scattered 70 male kids throughout the colony, with a view to the amelioration of the common goat ; and in order to show of what importance this was, he would beg the indulgence of the audience whilst he read an extract from a pamphlet published some years ago in Sydney, by Mr. W. E. Riley, a copy of which had been recently sent to the Society by Mr. Alexander Riley, of Rondale, Gipp's Land.

On the Advantage of Ameliorating the Common Goat, by Crossing them with the Pure Angora Bucks.

“ The milk of these animals, which M. Polonceau considers they yield in greater abundance than any other of their species, furnishes an excellent cheese, as also a very palatable butter, devoid of the rank savour it obtains when made from the common goat.

“ According to a very minute analysis of the milk of the various breeds, by M. Barruel, principal chemist to the Faculty of Medicine of Paris ; it was found that the proportions of the *Butyraceous* and *Caseous* properties, were as follows :—

First Cross of the Common Goat with the pure Angora.

Butter	7.85
Cheese	37.00
Saccharine matter	33.25
Extractive matter	8.50
Water	913.40

1000.00

The Common Goat of France.

Butter	5.00
Cheese	32.50
Saccharine matter	24.25
Extractive matter	7.50
Water	930.75
	<hr/>
	1000.00

“Content with food that the sheep or cow reject, and capable of thriving on land, and in situations not adapted to other stock, the Angora may be considered an interesting, as well as a valuable addition to every farm; and when the common goat can be replaced by a variety possessing not only all their own ordinary qualities in a superior degree, but also producing so desirable a material for manufacture, landed proprietors may be induced to consider the propriety of acquiring them for their own merits, as well as for crossing the whole of their at present comparatively useless breed with the pure Angora races; and hereafter the wool of the goats of Australasia, may, if their improvement be pursued with any portion of the zeal and perseverance with which they have ameliorated and advanced the worth of their flocks, become an additional and remunerating export, that will annually increase in quantity and value, the benefit of which is open to the participation of every agriculturist in the settlements.

“Such an expectation may on its first view appear sanguine; but if the position be correct, that the progressive prosperity of these colonies mainly depends on the quantity of exports they can produce and obtain, as means of remittance to Europe;—then any reasonable attempts to augment the source of their attainment, however humble in commencement, will not be thought unworthy experiment how far their anticipated advantage can be realized; and when it is contemplated what were the small number of sheep, and how extreme was their inferiority until gradually improved by judicious crossings, from which originated the vast flocks that now cover the pastures, and contribute to the revenues of the owners,—it will probably not be considered too assuming, to here express a hope that the introduction of the animals which have caused the present remarks, may in some minor proportion, ultimately contribute to the united interests of New South Wales and Van Diemen’s Land.”

As a proof of the wool produced by the pure Angora, he would just read the following paragraph taken from the “*Edinburgh Encyclopedia*.”

“The climate of Angora is dry and salubrious. It is celebrated for a particular breed of goats, from whose fine hair the Angora stuffs are manufactured. These goats exist only in a space of about thirty miles round Angora. Their hair, which is about eight or nine inches long, is formed naturally into tresses, and is as fine as

silk. Some of it is of such a superior kind, that it is a capital crime to export it, as it is preserved to make camlets for the seraglio of the Grand Signor. The common kind is employed in the fabrication of the camlets in the Levant, and in the best manufactories of the same stuffs in Europe. No less than five or six hundred camel-loads of this precious article are exported annually by the English, French, and Dutch, who have resident agents in the town. It is transported in caravans to Smyrna, which is the emporium of Angora. Several houses in Constantinople have established factors at Angora, and carry on a very lucrative and extensive trade in this article. The Turks will not allow the valuable hair of these animals to be sent out of the country in a raw state, but in the form of thread, as multitudes of the poorer classes obtain a livelihood by spinning it. The population of Angora is about 101,000."

Before sitting down he would wish to refer to one or two other matters not touched upon in the report, and the first thing he would mention is, that Mr. Gustave Beckx, who had been for many years Belgian Consul at this port, and who had recently left to pay a visit to his native country, had promised him (the Chairman) to do what he could towards sending over to this country a shipment of nightingales, and to those who, like himself, had so often listened to the beautiful song of these birds, he felt sure that this statement would be heard with great satisfaction, but whilst doing all that lay in their power to beautify the country, the Society had always been most attentive to the utilitarian purposes for which it was established, and was ever on the look out to be of service to the agriculturists. With this view, one or two attempts had been made to introduce the rook, these had, however, from unavoidable causes, failed, and he (the Chairman) had written a month or two since to Mr. R. T. Firebrace, asking him, during his stay in London, to take the matter in hand, and he only hoped that he would be as successful with the rook as he had been with the skylark.

One more statement, and he had done. He had that day been informed, by a gentleman just returned from Tasmania, that the salmon had been seen in the Derwent on their second return from the sea, some few days ago. Dr. Officer, in a letter to Dr. Mueller, remarked that he had from his residence, at New Norfolk, observed a considerable commotion in the river immediately opposite his house, and from his experience of the indigenous fish in that river, felt thoroughly convinced that it could be caused by nothing but the salmon on their return from the sea. Since then this opinion has been fully confirmed by other parties who have actually seen the fish on their way up the river to the spawning ground;

and in order that every person might be convinced, instructions had been issued by the Government of Tasmania to the Salmon Commissioners to at once put the nets down so that a few fish may be caught, and the first that were caught were to be sent to their Excellencies the Governors of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania. This, he felt sure, would be a source of pleasure to all those who took an interest in the proceedings of the Society; but to his colleagues on the Council, many of whom had, like himself, watched these experiments with intense interest for many years, the gratification afforded by such a proof of success was great indeed. He felt it a duty he owed to the late highly esteemed president of the Society, Mr. Edward Wilson, for him not to sit down without once more reminding the members of the Society how greatly they were indebted to that gentleman, whose interest in the cause of acclimatisation continued unabated, and whose health he (the Chairman) was pleased to say was greatly improved. He might also again mention that it was to Mr. Edward Wilson the Society owed the trout, which was succeeding so well in Tasmania, and to which the Council looked to enable them to stock the reservoirs of this colony, permission having been given by the Government exclusively to this Society to undertake this important work.

Mr. LEVEY observed that statements had been made in the newspapers of the injury done to the fruit trees by the sparrows, and wished to ask Professor M'Coy whether there was any difference between the habits of the Chinese and English sparrow.

Professor M'Coy stated that the Society had introduced two species of sparrows—the house sparrow and what Mr. Levey had referred to as the Chinese sparrow. This latter is the sparrow which was termed in systematic books the tree sparrow. It was equally English with the house sparrow, and was as abundant there, distinguished by the brown colour of the head. It was, however, more widely distributed geographically, and it was more its habit to live in hedge-rows and trees than in the vicinity of houses. He had no hesitation in saying that the injury done to fruit by them was absolutely insignificant compared with the benefit they did by feeding the enormous numbers of their young almost exclusively upon grubs, and that the produce they thus saved in the vineyard and the garden was infinitely more important than any other material which they used for food for themselves. The good they thus do is done all through the year, and cannot be done so well by any other means. Even the little injury done to ripe fruit, if proved against them, is

limited to a brief season, and might be prevented here, as at home, if worth while, by a little cheap netting over the choicer kinds. The proceedings of the French commission on the subject were some years ago brought under his notice by Mr. Edward Wilson, and that gentleman suggested that he should do what was done with such excellent results by the French commission, viz., to have several birds killed, and the contents of their stomachs exposed, so that the public might examine them and satisfy themselves, by positive proof, as to what they fed upon. From the investigations and dissections which had taken place on the subject, he had no hesitation in saying that the injury done by either one or other of these birds was insignificant, and entirely unworthy of notice. There was no doubt that a great proportion of the injury done to the fruit was done not by the sparrows, but by native Australian birds frugivorous in their habits. An esteemed member of this Society, Colonel Champ, had tested this by watching the birds; but the fact seemed to be overlooked by those who spoke of the sparrows. He did not hesitate to affirm that the visits of the graminivorous birds to fruit-bearing plants were almost exclusively for the purpose of finding grubs for their young.

Mr. SELWYN mentioned a case in which a gentleman who had blamed the sparrows found, upon careful examination, that the injury done to his fruit was caused by the native "ring-eyes."

The Rev. G. MACKIE said he had proclaimed war against the sparrows, but at the same time he esteemed very highly the work of this noble Society. His experience was totally the reverse of Professor M'Coy's. He had watched the sparrows. He happened to have an acre and a half of ground, orchard and shrubbery, around the new church at South Yarra. In the beginning of the season the church, being a Gothic one, attracted the sparrows, and they found it an exceedingly comfortable home. He first found that all the cherries were pierced. He had taken the precaution of personally watching them, and he had seen as many as 250 of these imported sparrows at the cherries. Out of about 150lb. weight of cherries which were expected they only got 6lb. However, forgetting the cherries, he thought nothing more of the matter until the apricots came, and then they had only about two or three dozen from trees that had about 150. Then he found his vines covered with a green grub, and he made it his business to see whether master sparrow touched them. He did nothing of the kind. He took what was much better. Then out of some dozen plum trees, with perhaps 300 plums upon them, they did not get six pounds weight over the whole. He had

seen some four or five "ring-eyes" among the birds, but the principal depredators were sparrows and minas. If any gentleman came down with him he could show them some one hundred bunches of what were once grapes, but were now sucked dry. He did not wish to annoy the Society, or to do anything to interfere with its operations, but he must say this, and stand upon it—that he believed Professor M'Coy himself would be convinced if he saw one of these sparrows shot, that they ate other things than grubs. He also wished to say that tomatoes and peas were very greedily devoured by the sparrow.

The CHAIRMAN said he was exceedingly sorry to hear the account just given by the rev. gentleman. There could be no doubt that the sparrow was to a certain extent graminivorous, but there could also be no doubt that the young birds were fed entirely on grubs and larvæ. Buffon, the celebrated French naturalist, estimated that each pair of sparrows destroyed 4000 grubs in a week, and this statement was fully confirmed by the personal observation of an equally high authority, he alluded to Professor M'Coy, professor of Natural History at the Melbourne University. Although he had large flocks of sparrows at his house, he found that by scattering a little wheat on the ground his fruit was never touched.

The Rev. G. MACKIE stated that his children had been constantly feeding the sparrows with grain, but that did not prevent them touching the fruit.

Mr. ROUTLEDGE said, if the rev. gentlemen lived in the Western District, where he was, he would be more generous to the sparrows. They would be very glad to have a number of them there. He might mention, for the gentleman's information, that if he got a hundredweight of rapeseed and scattered it about, it would feed the sparrows, and would prevent them touching his fruit much. In the Western District he had seen all the fruit eaten by native birds, and he for one would much rather see the fruit eaten by sparrows than by the other birds.

The subject then dropped.

Mr. SAMUEL WILSON, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said he wished to make a few remarks about the Axis deer, liberated by the Society on the Wimmera. He had to report that they were doing very well indeed. They were now spread over a large tract of country. He had undoubted proof that some of them had now reached the Grampians, Mr. Playford, of Stawell, having written to inform him of having seen one close to Mount Dryden, a spur of the Grampian Range, being about thirty miles distant from Lon-

gerenong, where the deer were liberated. Mr. Holt had informed him also that he had seen them on Swinton station, about twenty miles from Longerenong. They were now spread over an area represented by a circle about fifty miles in diameter. It was difficult, as may be expected, to estimate their number. He thought there were now from fifty to sixty head. He was happy to report that he had not heard of any instance of an attempt to kill or injure any of them. It is to the credit of the Wimmera district, that the experiment of acclimatising these beautiful creatures had been allowed a fair trial. If the same consideration and protection be afforded by the public for a few years more, the establishment of the Axis deer in the Wimmera district will be undoubtedly successful.

He might also mention that it had only been ascertained with certainty in the past winter that the Murray cod, which were placed in the Wimmera five years ago, had become acclimatised in its waters, two fine fish, weighing 15lb. and 16lb. respectively, having been caught. One of these contained a large quantity of spawn, showing that they were likely to thrive and increase in their new location. The time that has elapsed since they were brought to the Wimmera before any certainty of their succeeding could be known, was an instance of how long results have to be waited for in attempts to acclimatise anything valuable. As a further instance of this, the Murray lobster, which was placed by him in the waters of the Wimmera and Richardson rivers about four years ago, had not yet been heard of. Out of six dozen, only one or two perished in transit, leaving about seventy to stock the rivers referred to. As these were lively, many of them spawning fish, he had still every hope of their success.

It was of interest to some members of the Society to know that young specimens of the gold or silver fish, now caught in large numbers in the Yarra, may be carried alive without difficulty to any part of the colony. On his last journey to the Wimmera, he took about two dozen of these fish, each about two inches in length. He carried them in a porous earthenware water cooler, and changed the water frequently. He got them safely transferred to the Wimmera waters with a loss of only about one-fourth of the number. They were carried six miles of the distance on horseback. Was it not possible that the fry of more valuable species of fish might be in this way distributed over the colony?

Dr. MUELLER, in seconding the vote of thanks to the Chairman, remarked, that he had enjoyed the collegueship of Dr. Thomas

Black, on the Council of the Acclimatisation Society, and before at the Zoological Committee for a series of years, and that he felt from this long observation how much their thanks were due to Dr. Black, in devoting so large a share of his time to those interests which brought them together in the acclimatisation cause, and that while we shared his animated zeal for that cause, perhaps none of his colleagues at the Council were placed in so happy a position to be able to freely dispose of his time, still it might be remembered that time might be devoted by Dr. Black to the enjoyment among the numerous descendants of his flourishing family in the evening of his life, which they all trusted would be a long and serene one. He wished also to record, that to Dr. Black the palm of credit was due, in having induced the Acclimatisation Council to introduce the valuable Angoras in masses into this country, where they had proved in hot and grassless districts even to thrive well. He would on this occasion also desire to pay a tribute of acknowledgment to a gentleman, who nearly ten years ago had, at considerable sacrifices, brought the first seven Angoras to this country, and thus drew early our attention to their value, that gentleman being Mr. Sichel, a merchant of this city.

The PRESIDENT, in returning thanks, stated that one of the grand objects of the Society was to provide varied food and sport for the people of this colony; and remarked that only last week he had, in company with Messrs. Sherwin, Godfrey, and Purchas, liberated on the Plenty Ranges several young English pheasants, raised at the Royal Park, also some Indian jungle fowls and guinea fowls.

With reference to what had fallen from Mr. Wilson, regarding the Murray cod-fish, he was glad to be able to say that the cod-fish placed in the Yau Yean reservoir four years ago, at his instance, had increased, and several large fish had recently been caught. He believed that we were on the eve of great discoveries in the science of fish culture, and considering that fish had been known to live in a frozen state for several days, he thought it not at all impossible that we might live to see living salmon and other fish brought out to these colonies from Europe and America, in a frozen state. By the next mail he intended to write to Dr. Buckland, in London, suggesting that this experiment should be tried.

LIST OF ANIMALS

IN THE ROYAL PARK AND BOTANICAL GARDENS, MELBOURNE.

12 Llama alpacas	5 Curassows	2 Macaws
3 Pure alpacas	9 Ceylon wild peafowl	12 Fancy pigeons
12 Ceylon elks	5 English peafowl	4 Crowned goura pigeons
5 Hog deer	2 Golden pheasants	12 Grey Indian doves
4 Manilla deer	16 Silver pheasants	3 Green Indian doves
6 Barasingha deer	11 Indian jungle fowl	6 Manilla doves
5 Formosa deer	20 English pheasants	2 Brazil doves
6 Nylghau	2 Indian pheasants	2 Emus
6 Brahmin cows	4 Madagascar quail	12 Black swans
1 Zebra	4 Californian quail	1 Native bustard
2 Cashmere goats	2 Algerine sand grouse	3 Curlews
203 Angora goats	4 White swans	6 Eagle hawks
3 Barbary sheep	4 Canadian geese	2 Small hawks
12 Silver grey rabbits	17 Egyptian geese	3 Owls
2 St. Bernard dogs	5 Guinea geese	1 Tiger cat
5 Kangaroos	4 Indian bar headed geese	2 Cardinal birds
6 Wallaby	2 Indian grey geese	2 Secretary birds
4 Opossums	20 English wild ducks	6 Indian finches
4 Wombats	2 Mandarin ducks	6 Rockhampton finches
6 Monkeys	2 Bahama ducks	12 Linnets
1 Agouti	6 Carolina ducks	14 Canaries
2 Indian porcupines	8 Call ducks	18 Finches of various kinds
2 Moorhikes	2 Tree ducks	1 Badger
2 Madagascar deer	4 Paradise ducks	2 Tasmanian devils
2 Batavian deer	3 Shell ducks	1 Tasmanian wolf
2 Madagascar sheep	12 East Indian ducks	
5 Ostriches		

ANIMALS LIBERATED.

AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

18 Canaries	6 California quail	4 English robins
18 Blackbirds	60 English wild ducks	8 Turtle doves
24 Thrushes	35 Java sparrows	50 Maimas

AT PHILLIP ISLAND.

10 Hares	4 Chinese partridges	5 Pheasants
5 Cape pheasants	70 Chinese quail	6 Skylarks
8 English pheasants	23 Tasmanian quail	6 California quail
4 Indian pheasants	6 Starlings	4 Thrushes
8 Ceylon partridges	10 Algerine sand grouse	4 Blackbirds
5 Indian partridges	6 Wild ducks	1 Pair white swans

AT SANDSTONE AND CHURCHILL ISLANDS.

4 Pheasants	4 Skylarks	4 Thrushes
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AT YARRA BEND.

6 Thrushes	4 Skylarks
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NEAR SYDNEY.

9 Thrushes	4 Skylarks	10 Blackbirds
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AT SUGARLOAF HILL.

5 Ceylon elk	3 Axis deer
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AT WILSON'S PROMONTORY.

4 Axis deer

	AT THE ROYAL PARK.		
4 Hares	2 Thrushes	6 Blackbirds	
20 Mainas	20 Greenfinches	20 Siskin finches	
6 Starlings	15 Yellowhammers	6 Powi birds	
60 English sparrows	200 Java sparrows	3 Partridges	
40 Chaffinches		6 Pheasants	
	AT PENTRIDOE.		
	40 English sparrows		
	AT ST. KILDA.		
	20 Chinese sparrows		
	AT BALLAARAT.		
25 English sparrows	|	20 Java sparrows	
	AT BUNEEP.		
	13 Fallow deer		
	AT CAPE LUPTRAP.		
12 Hog deer	4 Ceylon peafowls	4 Guinea fowl	
	10 Pigeons		
	AT AUCKLAND ISLANDS.		
12 Goats	12 Rabbits	6 Fowls	
3 Geese	3 Pigs	3 Ducks	
	AT WESTERNPORT.		
	7 Sambur deer		
	AT WIMMERA.		
	35 Axis deer		
	AT YERING.		
	5 Axis deer		
	AT PLENTY RANGES.		
10 Pheasants.	4 Jungle fowls.	7 Guinea fowls.	
ANIMALS SENT AWAY.			
TO LONDON.			
74 Kangaroos	26 Waterhens	40 Black ducks	
5 Mountain ducks	4 Kangaroo rats	40 Teal	
200 Murray codfish	10 Wombats	22 Wonga pigeons	
22 Black swans	2 Cranes	31 Bronze-wing pigeons	
20 Australian quail	7 Wood ducks	8 Swamp magpies	
14 Eagle hawks	2 Kangaroo dogs	2 Iguanas	
85 Magpies	4 Echidna	7 Land rails	
4 Rosella parrots	26 Laughing jackasses	4 Sugar squirrels	
6 King parrots	40 Shell parrots	3 Coots	
6 Cockatoos	6 Mallee pheasants	5 Native companions	
5 Dingos	36 Lowry parrots	Somo Yarra fish	
3 Talegallas	12 Opossums		
	TO PARIS.		
20 Emews	3 Curlews	8 Goatsuckers	
30 Kangaroos	1 Native crane	2 Native companions	
12 Black swans	8 Murray turtles	14 Rockhampton finches	
3 Cape Barren geese	2 Wombats	1 Iguana	
1 South Australian wombat	17 Australian quail	4 Opossums	
4 Native geese	4 Laughing jackasses	20 Black ducks	
	2 Bronze-wing pigeons	20 Teal	
	TO ST. PETERSBURG.		
2 Kangaroos	2 Laughing jackasses	3 Emews	
3 Black swans	2 Wallabies		
	TO AMSTERDAM.		
3 Water hens	|	6 Australian quail	

TO ROTTERDAM.

2 Cape Barron geese | 2 Water hens

TO HAMBURGH.

2 Wonga pigeons | 2 Bronze-wing pigeons | 2 Kangaroo rat
2 Black swans |

TO COLOGNE.

2 Black swans | 2 Curlews | 2 Water hens
2 Black geese |

TO COPENHAGEN.

2 Black swans

TO CALCUTTA.

24 Black swans | 15 Rosella parrots | 6 Bronze-wing pigeons
12 Emews | 10 Kangaroos | 6 Laughing jackasses
2 Eagles | 4 Opossums | 20 Shell parrots
6 White cockatoos | 1 Dingo | 52 Magpies
7 King parrots | 1 Wombat |

TO MAURITIUS.

2 Black swans | 2 Eagle hawks | 2 Laughing jackasses
1 Kangaroo | 9 Fowls | 4 Wallabies
2 Cape Barron geese | 7 Magpies |

TO BOURBON.

8 Black swans

TO SICILY.

6 Black swans | 14 Native Ducks

TO RANGOON.

6 Black Swans

TO JAVA.

2 Black swans | 2 Cape Barron geese | 1 Kangaroo

TO BURZENZOND.

2 Black swans | 2 Cape Barron geese | 1 Kangaroo

TO SYDNEY.

2 Angora goats | 6 English wild ducks | 4 Larks
2 Brush kangaroos | 1 Mallee hen | 4 Starlings
2 Silver pheasants | 10 Blackbirds | 2 Ortolans
2 Canadian geese | 10 Thrushes | 2 Sparrows
2 Egyptian geese |

TO ADELAIDE.

1 Angora goat | 2 Thrushes | 2 Silver pheasants
2 Blackbirds | 3 English pheasants |

TO HOBART TOWN.

1 Angora goat | 9 Native bears

TO NEW ZEALAND.

3 Thrushes | 6 Magpies | 4 Opossums

REPORT
OF THE
SALMON COMMISSIONERS OF TASMANIA.

18th September, 1867.

To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

In their last Report the Commissioners had the satisfaction of informing Your Excellency that from the last importation of salmon and trout ova which arrived at Melbourne from England on board the *Lincolnshire* on the 1st of May, 1866, reached Hobart Town by the *Victoria* steamship on the 5th, and on the 6th of the same month were safely deposited in the ponds at the Plenty, they had succeeded in hatching 6000 of the former and 1000 of the latter fish.

They have now the further pleasure of reporting that, during the year that has since elapsed, these young fish have continued to thrive and grow in a most satisfactory manner, with a very small amount of observed mortality.

The season is now close at hand when many of these parr will begin to assume the garb of smolts, preparatory to their first visit to the salt water, when they will be set at large to join their elder relatives now in the Derwent, and left to their own resources.

These older fish set out on their journey seaward in the month of October, 1865; and, doubtless, the younger brood will take their departure about the same period of the present year.

Of the salmon trout it is proposed to detain a portion in the ponds, in the hope that their numbers may be increased by propagation, as the Commissioners have been assured on high authority they may be, without visiting the salt water.

But the object which has for some time past engaged the chief attention and occupied the anxious thoughts of the Commissioners has been the return of some of the brood of 1864 from the sea to the Derwent.

The first detachment of these, as has just been mentioned, left the ponds in the form of smolts in October, 1865; and, according to the opinion of many eminent pisciculturists, a portion of them ought to have returned from the sea about the end of the same or the beginning of the following year, after an absence of from two to four months.

Not one, however, as far as the Commissioners are aware, was seen, or even reported to have been seen, in the Derwent about that period. Upon this merely negative and superficial evidence, however, the Commissioners cannot take upon themselves to say that none returned.

It is quite possible that considerable numbers of them may have been present in the river without having been observed by any one; for a

thousand fish in such a stream as the Derwent might pass and repass without attracting notice.

Of this fact the Commissioners were strongly warned by the late lamented Mr. Ffennel, chief inspector of English salmon fisheries, who admonished them not to be disappointed or discouraged if no salmon should be seen in the first year of their migration and return.

And, undoubtedly, the return of the salmon was far more confidently and generally looked for in the beginning of the present than of the previous year, so that the eyes of many deeply interested in the undertaking, including Mr. Ramsbottom, the indefatigable superintendent of the salmon breeding establishment, were directed to the waters of the Derwent with more constant and more earnest attention during the latter than the former season.

In the month of January of the present year some large and strange fish, never before observed by them, were seen to leap in the Derwent, opposite the town of New Norfolk, by several residents of the highest respectability; but as various kinds of salt water fish occasionally visit this part of the river, although far inferior in size to a salmon or a grilse, and of which none have ever been known to rise above the surface of the water, the Commissioners refrained from drawing any positive conclusion from these observations, although the parties by whom they were made and reported were worthy of every trust.*

But on the 14th February unquestionable evidence of the presence of the returned salmon in the river was afforded by a party of gentlemen of the first standing in the community, by whom, whilst riding close along the bank of the Derwent, near a place called the "Dry Creek," several miles beyond the reach of the tide, and above several rapids, a large fish was twice seen to leap from the water, which was afterwards observed gliding under the surface for some distance, and was at once recognized as a salmon by one of the party familiarly acquainted in Ireland with the appearance and motions of that fish.

On the 21st February, two miles above the spot last mentioned, a large fish was seen leaping by a respectable tradesman, while driving along the road which runs close to the bank of the river.

On the 28th, at a spot a mile still further up the stream, a gentleman passing along on horseback, and one of the Water Bailiffs attached to the establishment, simultaneously, and from opposite banks of the river, saw a large fish leaping, which the latter, an old salmon fisher from Scotland, at once identified as a salmon or grilse.

On the 15th March, Mr. Ramsbottom, the experienced superintendent of the ponds, and a salmon fisher from his earliest years, having been informed by the Water Bailiff that at a place a short way below the mouth of the Plenty he had seen a great commotion in the Derwent apparently caused by great numbers of small native fry pursued by some large fish, stationed himself on the bank of the stream at the spot indicated, and soon after distinctly saw a salmon or grilse rise from the water.

On the 18th March the same gentleman, his assistant, and a friend † from New Norfolk visited the same part of the river, and in the course of a few hours in the afternoon were rewarded by witnessing seven distinct rises.

On the 1st April, one of the Commissioners, § accompanied by two

* Mrs. Sharland, Miss Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Oakley.

† Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, Rev. Mr. Dunne, Rev. Dr. Hayes of Melbourne, Rev. Mr. Hennebrey.

‡ Dr. Moore.

§ Dr. Officer.

friends,* took his station an hour before sunset, near the same spot, but on the bank of the stream opposite to that from which Mr. Ramsbottom and others had made their observations. Scarcely had he and his companions directed their eyes to the surface of the stream when they perceived that it was in a state of unusual agitation, which they quickly discovered was caused by shoals of small fry skimming along the surface in their endeavour to escape from some large fish by which they were closely pursued, and whose track close behind them was plainly seen. The character of the pursuers was soon revealed to the beholders by two great fish which in rapid succession rose from the water, fully exposing their glittering bodies to view, and proclaiming themselves to be real salmon. This scene of flight and pursuit continued to be enacted for upwards of an hour, not in one spot only, but in several places simultaneously over a considerable extent of the river, and terminated only with the setting of the sun. During these observations the large dorsal fin of one of the pursuing fish was distinctly seen rapidly cleaving the water, while another was observed for a few moments reposing close under the surface.

Again on the 3rd and on the 5th April salmon were distinctly seen in the same part of the river by Mr. Ramsbottom and one of the Commissioners,† and another gentleman.‡

This portion of the Derwent in which the salmon have been thus observed to such advantage, and where they had evidently congregated in considerable numbers, consists of a reach of deep still water four or five hundred yards in length, bounded at each extremity by a rapid which at the lower end passes over a fine bed of gravel, likely, in Mr. Ramsbottom's opinion, to be selected by the salmon as a suitable place for forming their nests and depositing their ova, and is in close proximity to the mouth of the Plenty (their parent home), into which there was every reason to expect that some of them would enter for the purpose of shedding their spawn.

The progress of the salmon has thus been clearly traced from New Norfolk to the mouth of the Plenty,—a space following the course of the Derwent of upwards of eight miles in length.

But the instances above related by no means embrace all the occasions on which the salmon have been seen in the river. The fish do not appear to have passed up the stream in one body; for, after their appearance in the Derwent at the various points above indicated, they have been subsequently seen at several places between the Plenty and New Norfolk, showing that they did not travel in one body, but by detachments, or in a continuous stream.

Near a place called "Bell's Terrace," close to New Norfolk, where a fine gravel bed exists, the fish were seen on various occasions by more than one observer§ long after their appearance near the Plenty. The last known occasion on which the salmon have been observed occurred on Sunday, the 21st April, when two were seen to leap from the water in a very distinct and striking manner by the same Commissioner to whom they had before exhibited themselves in so satisfactory a manner, near the mouth of the Plenty, and by another gentleman|| at precisely the same spot where they had first been noticed on their return from the salt water.

Soon after the date last mentioned the winter season set in, and the Derwent became considerably flooded, in which condition it has since

* Mr. and Mrs. Myles Patterson.

† R. C. Read, Esq., J.P.

‡ Dr. Moore.

§ Mr. and Mrs. Shoobridge and others.

|| Major Lloyd.

more or less continued, thus precluding all hope of any of the fish being seen in its waters without capture.

The salmon have shown no disposition to enter the Plenty for the purpose of finding a spawning ground, but have preferred to remain in the larger stream of the Derwent, towards the sources of which, as in European rivers, they have probably proceeded in search of a suitable locality as the birthplace of their young.

Had some of the fish, as expected, entered the Plenty, their capture would have been easy, and the Commissioners would thus have been enabled, in accordance with their anxious desire, to have added the proof of handling to that of seeing.

They believe, however, that the evidence of the return of the salmon as above recorded is complete and irrefragable, and must soon be confirmed by their actual capture, for which the Commissioners have been furnished with all necessary appliances.

If the opinion that a portion of the first body of smolts that proceed to the sea return as grilse within a period of from two to four months from the date of their departure be correct, it follows that some of the fish now in the Derwent have already twice visited the sea; and that those seen in the river during the past seven months comprised both grilse and salmon.

And if a part of the young smolts that set out on their second journey in October, 1865, thus returned during the summer and autumn of 1866, they must also have spawned during the winter of that year, and their young must now be in the Derwent in the shape of parr, ready in a month hence to assume the character of smolts, and in their turn to seek a temporary sojourn in the salt water.

But, even if this view should be incorrect, and all the young fish should have remained in the salt water for sixteen months, instead of from two to four months, there can be no doubt that a large number of ova have been deposited in the present season soon to become living fish, and add many thousands to the family now occupying the river.

When the Commissioners shall have been enabled to introduce the salmon into some of the smaller rivers of the colony, such as the South Esk, the Mersey, and many others, they will have no difficulty in ascertaining with accuracy the exact period of the stay of these fish in the salt water, thus solving a question which has long been, and still is, a subject of contention among pisciculturists.

The Commissioners believe that there are few rivers approaching the size of the Derwent where so small a number of enemies dangerous to the life of the young salmon are to be found. Eels, and the small fish locally called mullet, which seldom attain a weight of more than half a pound, with some predaceous birds, are the only foes against which they will have to contend in the fresh waters of that stream.

With respect to the mullet, it is a singular and perhaps fortunate fact that, although they had previously been abundant in all parts of the Derwent above the influence of the tide, in the year 1865 they almost totally disappeared from the river and its tributaries.

In that year the Commissioners reported that a disease of an epidemic character had appeared in the ponds, by which from 50 to 60 young salmon and a few of the trout were carried off, and that a great number of the native mullet had at the same time perished apparently from the same cause. It was afterwards discovered that this malady had operated so severely on the native fish that the mullet had almost entirely disappeared from the river, and a few stragglers of

small size could alone be seen. More lately they have shown some signs of recovery and increase, but they are still comparatively few in number and of small size, and cannot be dangerous to the young salmon, of which they are more likely to be the prey.

The Derwent from New Norfolk, a short way below which the water begins to be brackish to Hobart Town, where it is quite salt, including the numerous intervening bays, so teems with the fry of various kinds of fish, greatly increased since the passing of the Salmon Act, that a vast number of salmon would find abundance of suitable food without proceeding further to sea. Below Hobart Town to the mouth of the river in Storm Bay, such is the expanse of water abounding with the young of an infinite variety of fish, that it seems improbable that the salmon will ever have occasion to pass into and incur the dangers of the open ocean, unless prompted by some other motive than mere hunger.

During the past year an incident occurred in the history of our young salmon which excited considerable interest both here and in England.

A fine smolt was captured by a young gentleman* while fishing for the small native fish in the New Town Creek near the Orphan School, and was with much judgment transmitted to one of the Commissioners† with a statement of the facts attending its capture. This fish must have very recently descended the Derwent from the vicinity of its birthplace on the banks of the Plenty, and having reached New Town Bay after a journey of upwards of 30 miles, a considerable portion of the way through salt water, had again sought fresh water, and entered the little stream above mentioned, up which it had passed nearly two miles. The chief point of interest in the history of this little fish consists in the fact that, having entered the salt water, it had again sought the fresh water while still in the condition of a smolt.

This occurrence having been reported to Mr. Youl, was by him communicated to the eminent pisciculturist, Mr. Frank Buckland, who has assigned a conjectural reason for the apparent eccentricity in the behaviour of this young traveller.

Nor has the progress of the trout under the charge of the Commissioners been less gratifying than that of the salmon.

In the month of June, 1866, these fish, being then about two years old, began to shed their first spawn, and during the course of the season several thousand of their ova were secured, which, after being duly fecundated, were placed in the hatching-boxes attached to the ponds.

One portion of these ova was subsequently despatched to Melbourne for the use of the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria; another was forwarded to Launceston to the care of an association of gentleman which had been formed with the object of promoting the early stocking of the rivers of the northern division of the colony with salmon and trout; and the remainder were retained in the ponds for hatching, under Mr. Ramsbottom's observation.

The result of this first attempt to propagate fish from ova produced in the colony was unfortunate.

The hatching-boxes prepared for the reception of the ova forwarded to Victoria, having been erected on a spot which proved to be subject to inundation, were shortly afterwards with their contents swept away by a flood.

* Master H. V. Bayley.

† Mr. M. Allport.

Of those despatched to Launceston, although conveyed by Mr. Ramsbottom in person, a large number perished on the way. From the remainder only a few living trout were produced, and these, after attaining a considerable size, were, as in Victoria, carried away by an overflow of the stream near which hatching-boxes had been constructed: from those retained under Mr. Ramsbottom's immediate charge about 40 young trout only have been obtained, which will to that extent add to the number of breeding fish for the season of 1868.

A large share in this unproductiveness is attributable to causes which are now understood, and will not be allowed to influence future attempts to increase the number of this fish.

During the past year many of the parent trout detained in the ponds, and still more those at large in the Plenty, have increased in size and weight at a surprising, and the Commissioners believe unprecedented, rate.

In June last a male trout was found dead in the Plenty, evidently killed in an encounter with some of its associates during the exciting season of spawning, which measured $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

On the 29th July last another was captured alive by Mr. Ramsbottom, of which the length was $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the weight fully 4 pounds, although the fish was then in a spent and consequently lean condition, having but recently shed its milt. If in full condition, Mr. Ramsbottom estimates that the weight of this fish would have been between 5 and 6 pounds.

Many others have been seen in the Plenty of similar dimensions, and some of those confined in the ponds are little inferior to them; although the trout set at liberty in the river and left to provide for themselves have always been somewhat in advance of their brethren imprisoned in the ponds, where they have been carefully and diligently fed.

The trout thus greatly increased in size began to spawn for the second time in the rivulet attached to the pond on the 23rd June; and, at the same time, some of those at large in the adjoining river were observed busily engaged in forming their nests and depositing their ova.

The season of spawning extended over a period of about six weeks, —terminating on the 6th August.

On this occasion the fish were permitted to deposit a large portion of their spawn in the natural way, the remainder only being taken for artificial propagation.

While the spawning was going on the parent fish readily passed from the pond into the rill; and, when the operation was completed, a considerable extent of the little stream was to be seen thickly studded with their nests. Before the spawning began, Mr. Ramsbottom had erected a temporary wooden screen close to the bank of the rivulet, from behind which the whole interesting process was watched by him, and clearly seen by some of the Commissioners and many other visitors, without disturbing the fish during their operations.

Although a large portion of the ova were left undisturbed in the gravel in which they were deposited by the parent fish, the number of ova obtained for artificial hatching exceeds the total produce of the preceding season.

From the store thus obtained about 1,300 have been despatched to the care of the Victorian Acclimatisation Society in Melbourne, which, with a loss of about 25 per cent., are now in a thriving and promising condition in the pond prepared for their reception.

A supply of about 800 have also been placed in the hands of Mr. Johnson, Secretary to the Acclimatisation Society of Christchurch in New Zealand, whom the Council of the Society had judiciously despatched to this colony for the purpose of receiving in person the contribution promised to them. Mr. Johnson at the same time took charge of a smaller supply, 400 in number, for the use of the kindred society in the neighbouring Province of Otago.

From both of these provinces liberal contributions in aid of the enterprise in which this colony is engaged has been received.

A fish pond, with hatching-boxes attached, has been formed during the present year on the estate of Strathmore, on the South Esk, under the direction of Mr. Charles M'Arthur, who has long taken a warm interest in the establishment of salmon and trout in Tasmania, and took a leading part in the attempt of last year, unfortunately unsuccessful, and of Mr. Cox, of Clarendon.

This spot was last year inspected by Mr. Ramsbottom, who pronounced it admirably adapted to the purposes of fish culture, and a convenient centre from which the means of stocking the other rivers in the North might be supplied.

Concurring with Mr. Ramsbottom's views on this subject, and having received an assurance and guarantee that they would be tended with all necessary care and attention, 1,200 ova were lately handed over to Mr. M'Arthur, who had come in person to receive them, and have been by that gentleman safely conveyed to their destination, and placed in the hatching-boxes at Strathmore, with the most trifling loss.

The ova thus supplied have been received by Mr. M'Arthur and Mr. Cox on the distinct understanding that they were a public and not a private charge, and that the future disposition of their produce should be under the control of the Commissioners.

The Commissioners conceive that from a centre such as that now established at Strathmore, when fully stocked, the other rivers of the north may be stocked much more conveniently and inexpensively, and with less waste of ova, than from the ponds of the Plenty.

In the meantime, and until this source becomes productive, the Commissioners will be prepared, to the utmost of their ability, to furnish the supplies for other approved localities, as well in the north as in the south, where they are assured that adequate means for the due hatching of the ova and the preservation of their produce have been provided.

During the ensuing summer the Commissioners propose to place a small body of young trout in the North West Bay River, which has all the attributes of a fine trout stream, and to which they can be conveyed by water with facility and safety.

Since the date of their last report, the Commissioners have made several inexpensive improvements in the establishment of the Plenty, of which the most important have been the completion of the small pond therein referred to, and the formation of a new rill, rendered necessary by the addition of the salmon trout to their charge.

During the ensuing summer some further extensions of the same kind will be required.

Although the water bailiff stationed at the Prince of Wales Bay has been indefatigable in his endeavours to prevent poaching, there is reason to believe that during the past year the law has, in some instances been violated; and the Commissioners are of opinion that it will be necessary, for the due protection of the salmon, at no distant date to appoint an additional bailiff.

The temptation to poaching has become greatly augmented by the vast increase that has taken place in the number of small fish that now swarm in the Derwent between New Norfolk and Hobart Town, due to the protection afforded to them by the operation of "The Salmon Act." And the prohibition of all fishing in this part of the river is not more necessary for the safety of the salmon than it is conducive to the real interest of the fishermen of the Derwent.

That portion of the river which lies between Bridgewater and Hobart Town is the natural nursery in which various kinds of fish, usually inhabiting the deeper water below, deposit their spawn, and from which their numbers are recruited from year to year.

The meshes of the nets used by the fishermen are so minute that the fish of the very smallest size are captured and destroyed, and are thus effectually prevented from descending into the deeper water below the city, where they would speedily attain a far greater size and value.

The breeding establishment at the Plenty has from its first erection been an object of great interest and attraction, yearly increasing, not only to the public of Tasmania, but to visitors from all the adjoining colonies. The Commissioners trust that at no distant period, they will be able to calculate the time when the existing attractions may be increased by granting permission to use the rod and line.

At the request of the Commissioners the Government instructed the Surveyor-General to cause a drawing and plan of the salmon ponds to be prepared; and this work has been admirably performed by some of the officers of the department, the survey having been executed by Mr. Morrison, and the drawing by Mr. Piquenet.

The former it is proposed to hang in some public place for general inspection. Of the latter a considerable number of excellent lithographs have been executed under the direction of the Surveyor-General, which will be generally circulated, and will afford information respecting the plan and construction of the whole breeding establishment, which have long been sought for, not only by the people of this and the adjoining colonies, but by many eminent pisciculturists in England, who have been watching with much interest the progress of our enterprise.

ROBERT OFFICER, *Chairman.*





