

<u>LIVE STOCK.</u>	
(Diseases)	
No.	291/52.

C.S.

193 2.

C. S. O.

SUBJECT.

193 2.

29th October.

Lice in sheep on Teal Inlet Station and (?) on other Stations on the East Falkland.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

y.e.

In the course of an interview today Mr. J. J. Felton informed ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup> that he has lice on Teal Inlet Station <sup>at</sup> furthermore that he does not <sup>consider</sup> that there is <sup>any</sup> lice on the East Falkland. <sup>It is</sup> free from

Subsequent Paper.

Lia.

2. to by view the

position must cleared up at, if

necessary, an intensive drive should

against Lia.

3. On return of the Vet. Officer

I will refer this paper to him

for necessary action unless the Lia

shows otherwise.

JMS

29. 10. 32.

Hon C. P.

The statement indicates a very serious position and must be dealt with immediately

JMS

30. 10. 32

C.S.O. No. 291/32...

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 2

Spoke Mr. G. J. Felton by telephone  
and informed him of action  
contemplated.

J. M. D.

31. 10. 32.

Veterinary Officer.

For action

accordingly please

J. M. D.

cy

31. 10. 31.

Mr. C. L. Lee. I discussed this matter with  
the Hon. G. J. Felton, who suggested early  
in December as a convenient date to look over  
his flock.

Mr. Felton stated that he had  
removed a few affected sheep from the  
happet flock and dipped them.

In one of the other flocks he thought  
there were a few affected but owing  
to lambing dipping could not be carried out.

until showing this.

J. H. ...

V. O.  
13. 11. 32.

Y. R.

Schthal for information.

Y. R.

14. 11. 32.

Hou C. S.

Noted

J. H.

14. 11. 32

b. f. 14. 12. 32.

~~Y. R. 14. 11. 32.~~

b. f.

4. 1. 33.

Y. R. 17. 1. 33.

Y. R. 15. 12. 32.

Y. R. 4. 1. 33.

Mr. Col. Secy.

I arrived at Teal Inlet on the 18<sup>th</sup> December and remained on the station until December 23<sup>rd</sup>. During that week shearing was in progress and I saw about 4,000 sheep go through the shed.

A small percentage signs of rubbing. This feature is to be expected after a dry season when peat dust and diable-see chips are blown into the fleeces of mountain sheep.

Mr. Selton informed me that he had seen one or two cases of lice infection earlier in the year, but there were no signs of 'plucking' or symptoms of active lice infection. Examination of sheep suspected of having had infection earlier in the season failed to reveal any parasites.

Mr. Selton had the matter well in hand and had taken of those infected earlier in the season had dipped such sheep.

I was present when some sheep were dipped. A ~~dip~~ dip new to the colony was being used and I was impressed by its immediate action on the sheep. This dip is supposed to combine the qualities of Kymac paste dip and arsenic dip.

Mr. Selton was instructed to dip in terms of Section 29. (1). of the Live Stock Ordinance 1901.

Submitted herewith some observations on the  
appearance of lice in flocks on the East-Lothians.

1-2

J. Hamilton

20. 1. 33.

G.P.

S. Mitchell. Re difficulties

to shut the Veterinary Office

draws attention, that of the lack

of ~~boundary~~ boundary fencing in the

mountains, is well-nigh insuperable

on account of the high expenditure

involved.

J. Hamilton

21. 1. 33.

Hon C.S.

Noted

J.P.

21-1-33

2

Observations on the presence of Lice in Sheep  
on the East Falklands.

I am of the opinion that the appearance of lice in some of the flocks in the East Falklands is largely due to the climatic conditions and the presence of infection in the mountains. Severe weather in the late Winter and early Spring directly and indirectly through the state of the pastures affects the condition of the sheep. Sheep in poor condition usually have a dry skin and a dry skin is a favourable habitat for parasites.

Dipping with Kymac paste dip is practised to combat Ticks. For this purpose the dip is very effective but it tends to lighten the fleece and the reduction in weight of wool is due in my opinion to a decrease in the amount of wool fat. It is probable that this dip contains a large proportion of alkali and a high percentage of alkali in a dip would tend to reduce the amount of wool fat. The quantity of wool fat present in a fleece is almost always in direct proportion to the healthy condition of the animal. Skin excretions are some of nature's defences against external parasites and skin affections. In the Falkland Islands the severe weather conditions and the use of Kymac dip reduce the strength of these natural defences. The difficulties of making a clean gather in the mountains and the lack of boundary fencing keep alive a source of lice infection in these areas. Effective shepherding however ought to prevent any serious outbreak even after a severe Winter.

In New Zealand despite active measures to combat lice they have not been eradicated. In this colony active measures would necessitate expensive fencing in the mountains and the double dipping of all sheep. The weather conditions would render double dipping difficult. The sheep would either be in hand around the settlements ( if holding paddocks were available ) for a period of ten to twelve days or they would be turned back on their own ground to be regathered about a week later. If the weather conditions prevented the second gathering within the period of double dipping the effect of the first dipping would be diminished and double dipping from the second date would require to be carried out. This double dipping would require to be carried out in the Spring and in the Autumn and it is difficult to predict what effects would be produced on the wool clip. Double dipping would certainly produce a high death rate and if such measures were adopted the percentage loss in some instances would reach double figures.

An outbreak of lice if not controlled would decrease the station's wool clip . The loss from a two percent infection would be small and it is doubtful if that would be greater than the loss from a two percent tick staining. The loss in revenue to the colony would be negligible. It is therefore every manager's duty to check any infection as it appears by dipping the infected flock or if that would be inadvisable as in the case of ewes to remove the infected run them through the dip and segregate them until clean.

If drastic measures were adopted on a station where there is the possibility of infection ( a station with an open mountain boundary) a much higher percentage of sheep would be killed by dipping than would be infected by Lice if the flocks were effeciently shepherded. To the dipping death rate must be added dipping expenses and fencing costs and thus the total cost of adopting drastic measures would far out-weigh any loss in wool from a odd affected sheep.

*J. Hunter*.....M.R.C.V.S.  
Y.O. 19. 1.33.