

## SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 1st day of September, 1890.

## SHEEP BILL.

The Honourable Mr. PETER, when in Committee, to move the following new clauses :—

A. The word "brand," in respect of sheep, includes a tattoo-mark imprinted on any part of the skin of a sheep, and also an ear-mark made by punching the ear, or any part of the edges or tip thereof, with a distinguishing mark, not in any case exceeding three-quarters of an inch in length, or half an inch in width or diameter.

All ear-marks made otherwise than by the use of a punch are hereby prohibited; and it shall not be lawful to remove any part of the ear, or to crop, cut, slice, or split the ear of any sheep by means of a knife or instrument other than a punch as hereinbefore mentioned. Every such punch shall bear the stamp of the Stock Department.

- (1.) No Registrar of Brands shall, after the passing of this Act, register any brand consisting of an ear-mark of any description prohibited by this Act.
- (2.) Every Registrar of Brands who has registered any brand consisting of an ear-mark of any description prohibited by this Act shall forthwith cancel such registration, and require the owner of such brand to alter the same; and the Registrar shall register without fee any brand substituted by any owner for a brand cancelled under this section.

The owner of any registered ear-mark shall be entitled to mark his own sheep with such brand in either ear as he may think fit.

But it shall not be necessary to register any brand which consists of an ear-mark of a description which may be made by any instrument authorised by this section.

So much of section three and of all other provisions of "The Brands and Branding Act, 1880," as is inconsistent with the provisions of this section is hereby repealed.

B. Every person—

- (1.) Who wilfully or maliciously destroys, defaces, or alters any tattoo-mark or any ear-mark, or is party to the destruction, defacement, or alteration thereof, or who crops or cuts the ear of any sheep straight across, or slices off by a straight cut any part of the ear of any sheep, or who makes an ear-mark on sheep exceeding three-quarters of an inch in length or half an inch in width or diameter, or in any way brands any sheep with an ear-mark otherwise than as required by this Act; or

Tattoo-marks  
and ear-marks  
on sheep.

Penalty for  
defacing tattoo-  
marks or ear-  
marks, or  
ear-cropping  
sheep.

(2.) Who brands any sheep with an ear-mark which is not registered, or with an ear-mark of which he is not the registered owner, without the authority of such owner,— is liable to a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds for each sheep in respect of which such offence has been committed, or at the discretion of the convicting Justices to imprisonment with hard labour for any period not exceeding *two* years.

In section seventeen of "The Brands and Branding Act, 1880," the words "sheep" and "sheep or" shall be respectively omitted.

C. So much only of the provisions of section *seventy-two* as relates to the instruments to be used for making ear-marks shall not take effect until the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one; and it shall be sufficient defence to any prosecution for an offence under the said section of making an ear-mark with any instrument other than as required by that section for the defendant to prove that the said offence was committed before the aforesaid first day of January.

Provided that sections A, B, and C shall not come into effect until a petition of the majority of the owners of sheep in any district or subdivision of a district representing the ownership of not less than two-thirds the total number of sheep in such district or subdivision shall have been presented to the Governor, who shall, on the receipt of such petition, declare by Order in Council that such district or subdivision, from a date to be fixed by the Order in Council, shall be subject to the operation of sections A, B, and C.