

A SHORT HISTORY
OF
STOCK INSPECTORS
AND
VETERINARIANS
OF THE RURAL LANDS
PROTECTION BOARD

JB Kemp, BVSc (Sydney), Dip AH (London), MSc (London)
District Veterinarian
Forbes Rural Lands Protection Board

19 September 2003

CONTENTS

	Page No.
THE EVOLUTION OF THE STOCK INSPECTOR SERVICE IN THE 19TH CENTURY – WL Hindmarsh (1967 Veterinary Inspector)	4
LEGISLATION.....	6
EARLY DAYS IN THE FAR WEST - FJ MADDEN, INSPECTOR OF STOCK, MOSS VALE (1948 Year Book)	9
IN THE HORSE DAYS (1946 Year Book).....	10
THE FIRST FORBES STOCK INSPECTOR (on record) WILLIAM GIBSON DOWLING	11
THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF STOCK INSPECTORS – 1918 (1945 Year Book).....	11
IN 1937, THE FIRST YEAR BOOK OF THE INSTITUTE OF INSPECTORS OF STOCK OF NSW WAS PUBLISHED.....	14
THE FLYING STOCK INSPECTOR SERVICE (from “A Short History – Our Institute”, 1955 The Stock Inspector)	15
CHANGE OF NAME TO VETERINARY INSPECTOR (1957 The Stock Inspector Presidential Address – H Maitland Ware BVSc)	15
PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH PASTURE PROTECTION BOARDS.....	15
COUNCIL OF ADVICE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR VETERINARY STUDENTS (1962 Presidential Report).....	15
1967 – 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.....	16
OUR JOURNAL (from 1937)	17
INSTITUTE OF INSPECTORS OF STOCK OF NSW (Year Book 1943 – Office Bearers and Members in the Forces).....	18
REFERENCE TO TWO PAPERS IN THE 1997 & 1999 PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT VETERINARIANS	19
AVAILABILITY OF OUR JOURNALS AND PROCEEDINGS FROM LIBRARIES.....	19
STOCK INSPECTORS, VETERINARY INSPECTORS, DISTRICT VETERINARIANS – FORBES.....	19
VENUES FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.....	20
HONOUR ROLL OF PAST PRESIDENTS	21

REFERENCE..... 22
REFERENCE BOOKS..... 22
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS..... 22
ADDENDUM 22

THE EVOLUTION OF THE STOCK INSPECTOR SERVICE IN THE 19TH CENTURY – WL Hindmarsh (1967 Veterinary Inspector)

When WL Hindmarsh, Honorary Archivist to the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) started to trace the origin of the system, he found that the appointment of inspectors was so inextricably mixed with disease legislation that he decided that his only recourse was to review the whole of the animal disease and associated legislation. This led to a series of articles for the Australian Veterinary Journal (AVJ), the first of which appeared in the March issue of 1967.

The bane of the sheep industry from the very foundation of the colony was “Scab” or psoroptic mange.

The prevalence of Scab led to the enactment of the first stock disease legislation in 1832. It was for the prevention of the spread of Scab. The provisions were based on the premise that prevention of the movement of infected animals alone would prevent the spread of disease. It prohibited the travelling of infected sheep on public roads in the settled part of the Colony.

Catarrh of sheep was the next disease to receive attention by the Legislative Council. This disease, the cause of which was never determined, is stated to have killed many thousands of sheep in Queensland and New South Wales. It was also recorded in Victoria. Reports of the deaths of 70 per cent or 80 per cent in flocks were not uncommon. The disease disappeared spontaneously, the last case being reported in New South Wales in 1870. This complete disappearance of a highly infectious disease of the respiratory tract constitutes an epidemiological puzzle.

By 1863 it was evident that the measures so far taken to deal with Scab had failed, the disease was still spreading. In this year a new Scab Act was brought in. Under it the Governor was empowered to appoint a Chief Inspector of Sheep to proclaim sheep districts and to arrange for the sheep owners in these districts to elect Boards. The board of Directors of sheep districts could appoint inspectors subject to the approval of the Governor. To meet the cost of administration an annual levy was payable by sheep owners to the nearest Clerk of Petty Sessions.

Under the Scab in sheep Act (1863), the inspectors were scab inspectors only. There were heavy penalties for the failure to report Scab and wide publicity of the presence of Scab on a property was given.

Alexander Bruce was appointed Chief Inspector of sheep in 1864 and for the first time in the history of the Colony there was centralisation of control of an animal disease. In 1861 Bruce had been appointed as inspector of cattle of the Lands Department, there being no Department of Agriculture. He was stationed at Ten Mile creek (now Holbrook) and during 1861-2 was involved in the pleuro-pneumonia outbreaks in southern NSW following its entry from Victoria. He was transferred to Sydney as Chief Inspector of sheep and he was charged with the control of sheep scab which had suffered a serious reappearance in the 1863-4 period after the relatively low incidence of previous years. The Chief Inspector himself was responsible for a 30 mile strip of the coast. The Chief Inspector was empowered to specify the treatment. (At first a preparation of tobacco and sulphur was used but this was replaced by the lime sulphur dip which had to be applied hot to be effective at 110°F.)

By energetic measures for which Bruce must share the credit, scab was eradicated in 1868. However a further outbreak occurred in 1884 in imported sheep. His appointment as Chief Inspector, made anthrax with other stock diseases his responsibility.

In 1880 the Pastures and Stock Protection Act was passed and in 1888 a qualifying examination was introduced for Stock Inspectors. In 1902 was the first Pastures Protection Act.

Bruce's appointment was to the Department of Lands, but with the creation of the Department of Mines and Agriculture in 1874, he was transferred to it and remained there until his retirement in 1902 in his 76th year.

The NSW Stock Inspector Service was unique in that the inspectors were appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, they took their instructions concerning their chief task, disease control, from the Chief Inspector of Stock and they carried out varied duties for the Pasture Protection Boards which provided office accommodation and paid their salaries. The Department of Agriculture came into being in 1890 as part of the department of Mines and Agriculture.

Hindmarsh (1967) states: It was indeed fortunate that Bruce was such an able and energetic man. He had no veterinary qualifications but in the course of his long reign as chief Inspector he acquired knowledge of animal diseases, which commanded the respect of veterinary authorities of other countries when he went abroad.

McBarron and Seddon (1966) state, "During Alexander Bruce's 41 years (1861-1902) of public service, the legislation enacted and the offices created for him form the framework of the present day organisations. His work in the control of anthrax, pleuropneumonia, sheep scab, cattle tick and quarantine against the entry of serious exotic disease was outstanding. Bruce had patience, zeal and virtue, coupled with an inflexibility of purpose. He was truly a man of vision."

LEGISLATION

1. List of Cattle & Sheep Inspectors

— ordered to be printed by the Legislative Assembly on 8 December, 1863.

Alexander Bruce was the first inspector to be listed and was stationed at Ten Mile Creek. There was no inspector listed for Forbes.

1863.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CATTLE AND SHEEP INSPECTORS.

(LIST OF.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 8 December, 1863.

LIST of CATTLE and SHEEP INSPECTORS,—8th December, 1863.

No.	NAME.	SALARY AS CATTLE INSPECTOR.	SALARY AS SHEEP INSPECTOR.	WHERE STATIONED.	QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE.
1	Alexander Bruce	£200 7 ^s annuum..	£200 7 ^s annuum..	Ten Mile Creek	
2	Thomas Stalley ..	£100 7 ^s annuum..	£100 7 ^s annuum..	Swan Hill	
3	John T. Tresilian	Do.	Do.	Eden ..	
4	Norman Lockhart	Do	Do.	Albury ..	
5	Alexander Kennett	Do.	Do.	Goulburn	
6	Angelo Centauri	Do.	Do.	Gundagai	
7	John Pottic ..	Do.	Do.	Sydney ..	
8	Robert Tapholme	Do.	Do.	Moama ..	
9	John M'Leod ..	Do.	Do.	Euston ..	
10	Andrew M'Clymont	Do.	Do.	Chowella	
11	Charles E. Bowler	Do.	Do.	Newcastle	
12	John Bell ..	Do.	Do.	Murrurundi	
13	J. S. Johnston ..	Do.	Do.	Merriwa	
14	Lewis Markham ..	Do.	Do.	Bendemeer	
15	Henry Monk ..	Do.	Do.	Narrabri	
16	Hugh M'Gowan ..	Do.	Do.	Singleton	
17	Alfred Lardner ..	Do.	Do.	Grafton..	
18	George E. Sims ..	Do.	Do.	Bombala	
19	James Wright ..	Do.	Do.	Wollongong	
20	John S. Brown ..	Do.	Do.	Dubbo ..	
21	*S. B. Walker (Sheep Inspector only)	£250 7 ^s annuum..	Sydney ..	
22	James Armstrong (Do.)	{ £1 7 ^s diem (when employed) .. }	Do.	

* Allowed also £150 a year for Travelling Expenses.

- 2. In the supplement to the NSW Government Gazette of 27 January 1864, the Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales appointed Alexander Bruce, Esquire, to be Chief Inspector of Sheep, under the Scab in Sheep Act 1863.

On the same date, there was a Proclamation under "An Act for the prevention and cure of Scab in Sheep" to establish and fix the boundaries or limits of Scab Districts in such parts of the Colony as may be considered most convenient for the purposes of the Act.

District No. 1 was the Coast Scab District which extended easterly of a line 30 miles distant from the coast and embraced portions of the Police districts of Eden, Bombala, Broulee and Cooma in the Pastoral District of Monaro commencing on the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria and going to the boundary of New South Wales and Queensland.

There were 29 Scab Districts proclaimed and Forbes was No. 11.



SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

NEW SOUTH WALES

Government Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

No. 17.]

WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY.

1864.

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 26th January, 1864.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint

ALEXANDER BRUCE, Esquire,
to be Chief Inspector of Sheep, under the Scab in Sheep Act of 1863.

J. BOWIE WILSON.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN YOUNG, Baronet, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the twenty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the prevention and cure of Scab in Sheep," it is amongst other things enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, from time to time, as may be deemed expedient; by Proclamation in the Gazette, to establish and fix the boundaries or limits of Scab Districts in such parts of the Colony, and comprising such areas respectively as may be considered most convenient for the purposes of the said Act; and it is by the said Act provided, that "all that portion of the said Colony which lies along the Coast and extends to a line measuring at all points thereof thirty miles from such Coast shall be and be deemed one Scab District and shall be called and known for the purposes of the said Act as the 'Coast Scab

'District'; Now, therefore, I, SIR JOHN YOUNG, Baronet, the Governor aforesaid, with the advice of the Executive Council, do, by this my Proclamation, establish and fix the precise boundaries and limits of the 'Coast Scab District' and of the 'Scab Districts' throughout the Colony, respectively, as follows, namely:—

No. 1.

Coast Scab District.

All that portion of the Colony of New South Wales, easterly of a line 30 miles distant at all points from the sea coast, and embracing portions of the Police Districts of Eden, Bombala, Broulee, and Cooma, within the Counties of Auckland, Dumfries, Wollody, and Beresford, in the Pastoral District of Monaro; commencing on the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, at a point where the Nungutta Creek, Genoa River, first touches it; and bounded thence on the west by a line bearing north 20 degrees west to a point 1 mile east of the north-east corner of 100 acres at Bondi Station, on Bondi Creek (measured on the application of J. Stevenson); thence by a line bearing north 8 degrees west, crossing the Great Dividing Range, to the Maharatta Creek, about 1 mile and 82 chains above the confluence of the creek falling into it from Burrumbaco Station; thence by a line bearing north 1 degree west to the north-west corner of the Village of Cathcart; thence by a line bearing about north 5 degrees east, crossing the Great Dividing Range, the Bombaco River, and the northern watershed of that river, about 1 mile easterly from its junction with the Great Dividing Range, to a point on the Great Dividing Range, at the head of the Dolundundale River; thence by a line again crossing

3. Proclamation respecting the election of sheep directors under Scab in Sheep Act of 1863

- a. dated 11 February, 1864 by Governor-in-Chief of NSW, Sir John Young.
- b. Respecting the places of meeting of owners entitled to vote for the election of Sheep Directors in the Scab Districts throughout the Colony, shall be the Courts of Petty Sessions in the towns and places in the Scab Districts (a total of 29).

1863-4.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Legislative Council.

SCAB IN SHEEP ACT OF 1863.

(PROCLAMATION RESPECTING THE ELECTION OF SHEEP DIRECTORS.)

Ordered by the Council to be Printed, 11 February, 1864.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable SIR JOHN YOUNG, Baronet, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

WHEREAS by the "Scab in Sheep Act of 1863," it is amongst other things enacted, that the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, may make Regulations as therein mentioned, and particularly respecting the places of meeting of owners entitled to vote for the election of Sheep Directors, under the said Act: Now, therefore, I, Sir John Young, Baronet, the Governor aforesaid, with the advice of the Executive Council, do by this my Proclamation make a Regulation respecting such meetings of owners in the several Scab Districts (the Proclamation of the names and boundaries of which bears equal date herewith) for that purpose, as follows:—

The places of such meetings of owners in and for the said several Scab Districts throughout the Colony, shall be the Courts of Petty Sessions established, or to be established, in the following towns and places situated in such Scab Districts respectively, namely:—

NAME OF DISTRICT.	PLACE OF MEETING.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	PLACE OF MEETING.
2. Albury	Albury.	16. Hay	Hay.
3. Armidale	Armidale.	17. Menindee	Menindee.
4. Balranald	Balranald.	18. Merriwa	Merriwa.
5. Bathurst	Bathurst.	19. Mudgee	Mudgee.
6. Carcoar	Carcoar.	20. Penrith	Penrith.
7. Cooma	Cooma.	21. Singleton	Singleton.
8. Canonba	Canonba.	22. Tabulam	Tabulam.
9. Deniliquin	Deniliquin.	23. Tamworth	Tamworth.
10. Dubbo	Dubbo.	24. Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga.
11. Forbes	Forbes.	25. Warialda	Warialda.
12. Fort Bourke	Fort Bourke.	26. Wee Waa	Wee Waa.
13. Glen Innes	Glen Innes.	27. Wentworth	Wentworth.
14. Goulburn	Goulburn.	28. Yass	Yass.
15. Gundagai	Gundagai.	29. Young	Young.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, at Government House, Sydney, this twenty-fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and in the twenty-seventh year of Her Majesty's Reign.

(L.S.) JOHN YOUNG.

By His Excellency's Command,
J. BOWIE WILSON.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

EARLY DAYS IN THE FAR WEST - FJ MADDEN, INSPECTOR OF STOCK, MOSS VALE (1948 Year Book)

In 1915, the Chief Inspector of Stock, STD Symons, sent for FJ Madden to say that the Milparinka Pastures Protection District was vacant, and that he might have it. Frank Madden accepted it readily.

Australia was at war with Germany and all his pals had been accepted for service, leaving Madden a rejected volunteer owing to a knee injury.

Frank Madden caught the express on the first leg of his long journey to the outback to take up his first appointment as an Inspector of Stock. At that time, the journey had to be made from Sydney, via Melbourne and Adelaide to Broken Hill, as the cross-country line from Sydney to Broken Hill was not in existence.

At Broken Hill, Madden took his seat alongside the driver of Cobb and Co five-in-hand coach and set out on the last stage of his journey, which was a near 240 mile drive, travelling day and night and stopping only to change horses and eat a meal at the little wayside hotels here and there along the track. The first leg to Fowler's Gap was made with corn fed horses, but there they met the down coach from Tibooburra. Passengers, mail etc were changed and the up journey was continued with grass eaters, over nearly 30 mile stages. There was much pushing out of creeks and up sandhills before the ends of the stages were reached. Eventually they arrived at Tibooburra after three days and two nights riding, walking and pushing.

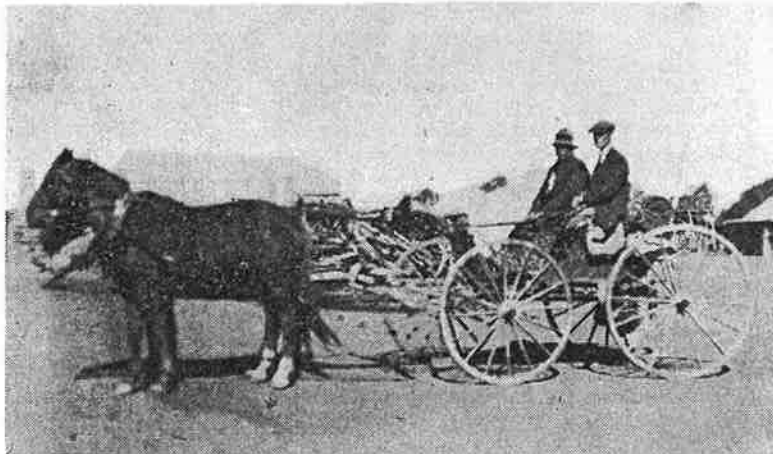
Over the 7 years that Madden was there, he made many great friends and gained a vast experience in a land which was a world apart and held an inexplicable fascination.

One of the amusements for Madden was the wild life, both on the ground and on the wing, which teemed throughout the District. Kangaroos always were numerous.

"In the wet seasons there were, literally, millions of wild duck of every variety. Frank said that he had seen ducks in such numbers that they acted like a cloud over the sun when they rose; it had to be seen to be believed. They bred in millions on the floodwaters and in the mustering camps, where the cook would collect a kerosene bucket of eggs.

Ibis, too, were plentiful, and there were the Brolga, the Black Swan, the Plain turkey and the Emu – plus the old Blue-eyed Corella, the Major Mitchell, the Galah, and the little Budgerigah in countless thousands."

From the 1948 Year Book



"Frank Madden's own means of transport when the going was not too rough"

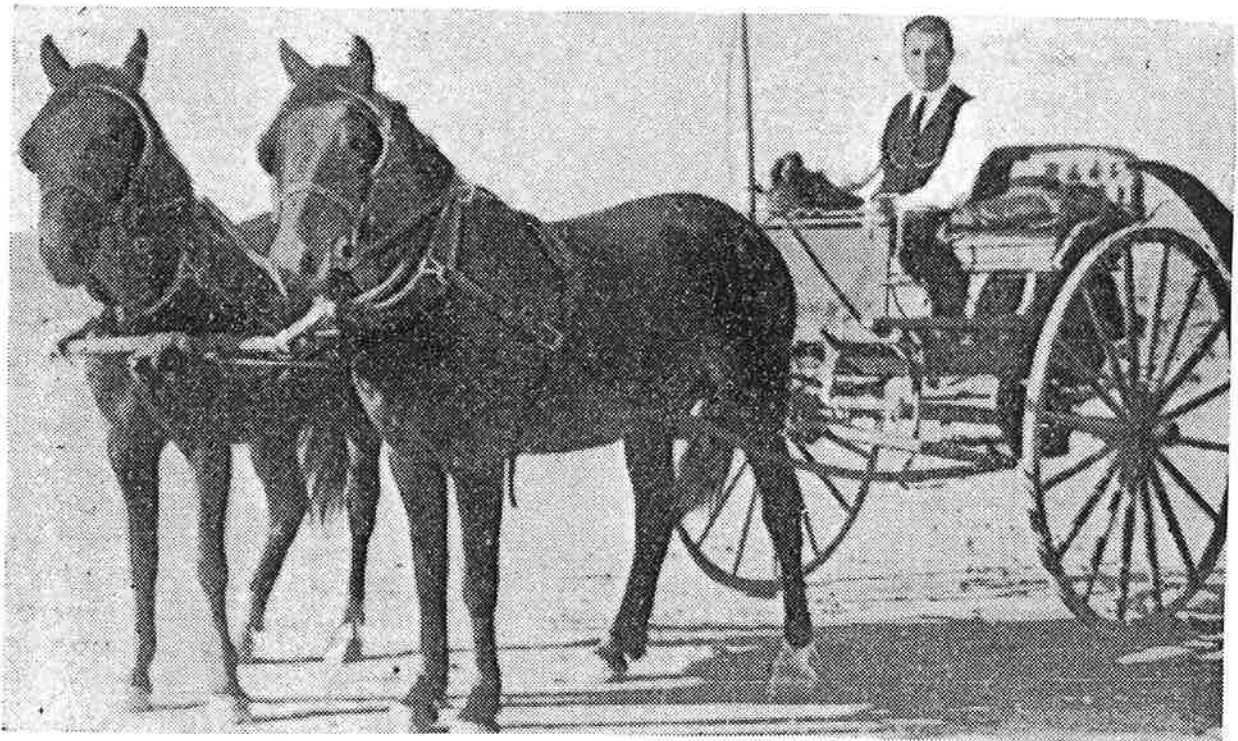
In the 1977 Presidential Address, Phil Ahrens welcomed Frank Madden to the V.I's Conference. Frank had only missed two meetings since the first one he attended in 1918. He was 88 years of age. Frank Madden died in December 1981 at the age of 93.

IN THE HORSE DAYS (1946 Year Book)

Before and for several years after the advent of the motor car in the early nineteen hundreds, Inspectors travelled by horse drawn vehicles, the type of vehicle depending largely on the class of country in the District.

“In the coastal or more closely settled areas a sulky with a horse was popular. In the plain country Frank Madden at Tibooburra preferred a light Abbot buggy and pair, and he maintained three pairs of harness horses, two hacks and a pack. Frank Hildred at Ivanhoe always used a pole sulky and a pair of good, nuggetty, 14 hands ponies, of which he kept four pairs, besides a hack. (Our Institute – a Short History by EA Lucas, Inspector of Stock, Maitland and official Historian from 1945 *Year Book*.)

From the 1946 Year Book



F Hildred, Inspector of Stock, Ivanhoe

“The change from horses to motor cars was very gradual; as owing to lack of mechanical knowledge by Inspectors, bad roads (none at all in places) and unreliable cars, they were not favoured. George Johnston, at Broken Hill, was the first Inspector to use a car on official duty – in 1913. Other Inspectors gradually followed his example.”

At Forbes, the first car for the Stock Inspector was purchased in 1928.

(From “In the Horse Days” by F Hildred in the 1946 Year Book)

THE FIRST FORBES STOCK INSPECTOR (on record) WILLIAM GIBSON DOWLING

Article in the Forbes Advocate, January 1927 "The Human Stock Encyclopaedia".

WG Dowling was born in Tasmania in 1853. He was reared with knowledge of pastoral pursuits, his father being one of the early pioneers of Tasmania.

He was appointed stock inspector at Forbes in 1886 where he remained for over 40 years. When he came, there were no telephones, railway or motorcars. They used buggies or sulkies in the summer and owing to the state of the roads, used the saddle in the winter.

There were no rabbits and the Pastures Protection Board dealt with wallabies, dingoes and hares. The first rabbit seen in the district was in 1895.

WG Dowling had appeared in print on numerous occasions, under the nom-de-plume of "Crowfoot" in the "Pastoral Review".

Dowling Street in Forbes was named in his honour.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF STOCK INSPECTORS – 1918 (1945 Year Book)

In the 1945 edition of the Year Book of Stock Inspectors, EA Lucas of Maitland wrote an article on "A Short History of Our Institute". He was the official historian.

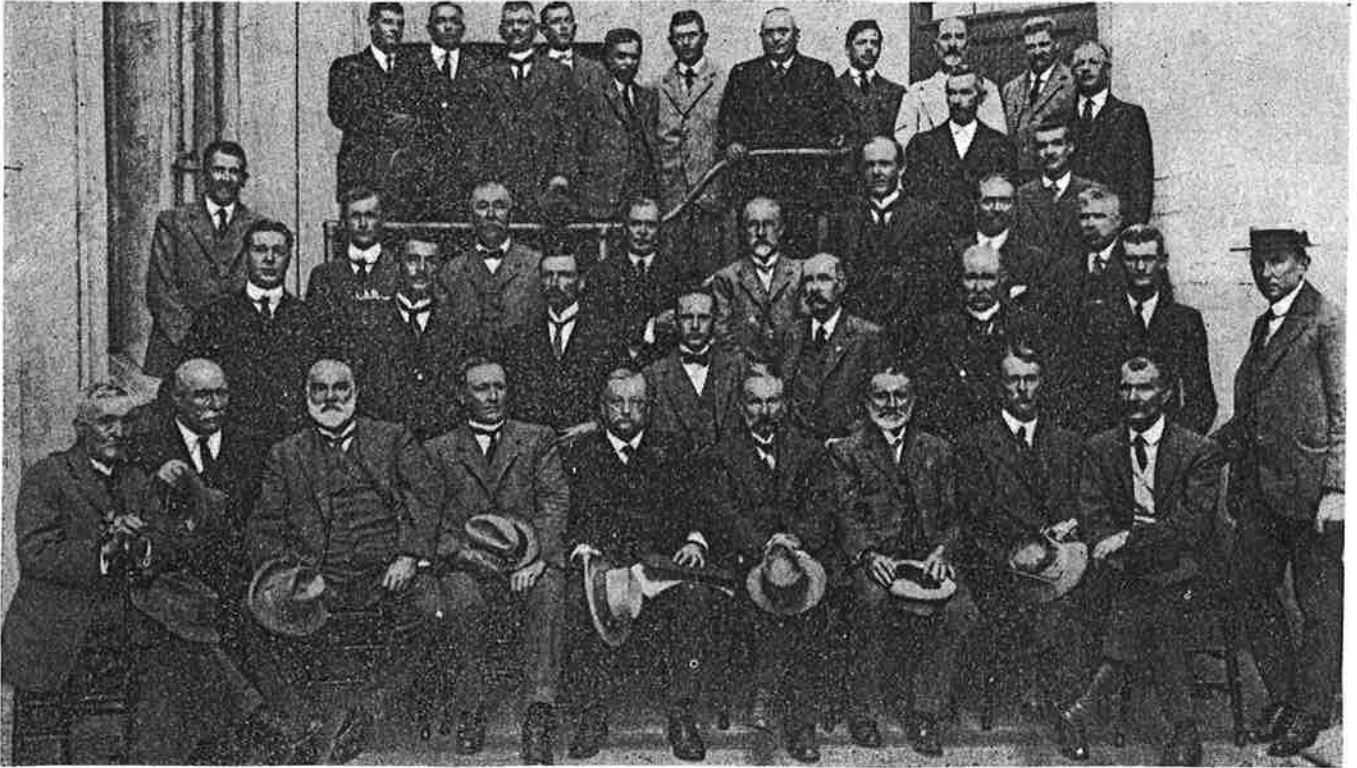
In it he gives details of the first annual conference in 1918, which was held at King's Hall, Hunter Street, Sydney on Monday 25 March 1918. The total membership then had risen to 87; of whom 52 (37 Inspectors of Stock, 11 Secretaries and 4 Rabbit Inspectors) attended this inaugural meeting. The association was designated the "Institute of Stock Inspectors and Pasture Protection (PP) Board Officials" it being contended that Inspectors of Stock were not legally PP Board Officials. The interests of other PP Board Officers were so different from those of Inspectors of Stock that the Institute would have had difficulty in meeting the needs of all. As a result, the Secretaries and rabbit Inspectors dropped out before the date of the Second Annual Conference and the "Institute of Stock Inspectors of NSW" came into being. The first president was PH Dawson of Goulburn.

One of the main and earliest of the many achievements of the institute was associated with the enactment of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1923. During the drafting of this Bill the Executive explored many avenues that the members of the Institute would be able to register under the Act when it became law.

Due to the efforts of EA Hamilton, not only was the opportunity to register granted, but the Institute was given a representative on the Veterinary Surgeons Board.

In the 1947 Year Book, Mr Frank Hildred, President since 1943 forwarded the photograph taken during the Annual Conference of 1921 or 1922, at the lecture hall, School of Arts, Pitt Street, Sydney.

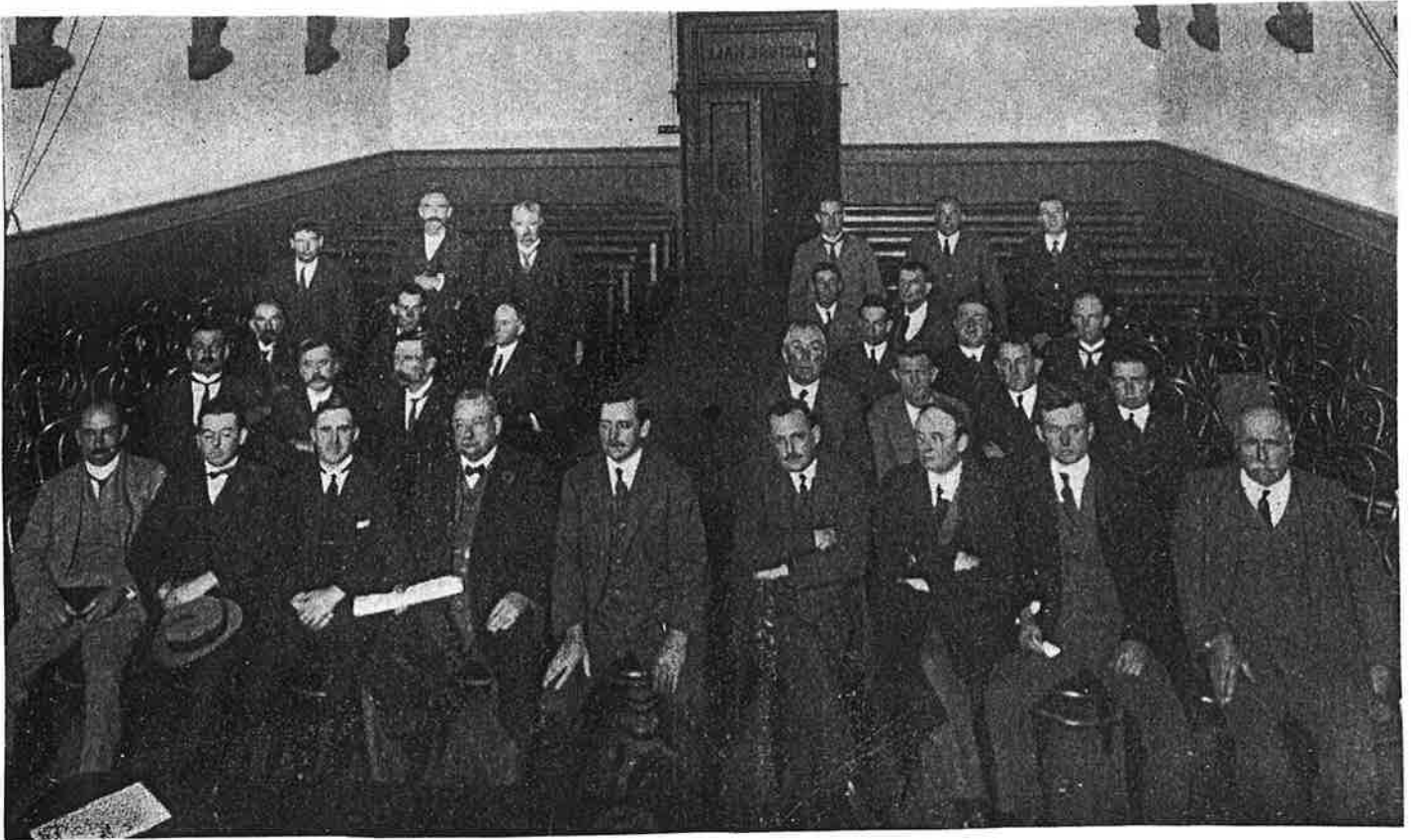
From the 1945 Year Book



Delegates to 1st Annual Conference, 1918

“a photograph of the majority of those who attended our first conference has been made available through the courtesy of CJ Woollett. Any faults in reproduction no doubt will be overlooked in view of the age of the original; and although the names of all appearing could not be ascertained, the following will be noted with interest: - Front Row: RW Dawson (2nd from left – first President), FC Palmer (3rd from left), CR Brett, STD Symons (Chief Inspector of Stock) DFW Hatten (7th from left), Bucknell (9th) and EC Bluett, Secretary (standing). Second Row: WJ Smith (left), S Edwards, A Hessin, F Whitehouse, BVSc (Head Office), C White (2nd from right), EA Lucas (right). Third Row: F Whyte (left), CJ Woollett, Freeman (4th from left), E Reuss (6th), J Faulkner, H Pillinger (behind Mr Faulkner), FW Adams. Back Row: H Copeland (left), FJ Madden, WL Rees, FF Forster, MT Little, HM Bloomfield, AH Nevell, EA Hamilton, E Kearney, C Brooks and CO Furness”

From the 1947 Year Book



Annual Conference of Inspectors of Stock, 1921-1922

Mr EA Hamilton (Berrima-Picton-Kiama Districts), who was President of the Institute at that time, is seated in the centre of the front row.

On the left of the photograph, reading from left to right, are: Front Row – C Fielder (Armidale), probably F Hinton (Sheep and Wool, Branch), R Stewart, BVSc (Practitioner) and STD Symons (Chief Inspector of Stock). Second Row – S Edwards (Lismore), M Little (Hay) and A Hessin (Eden). Third Row – J Roachfort (Jerilderie), A Doust (Balranald) and S Phillips (Yass). Back Row (standing) – H Copeland (Moree), H Pillinger (Carcoar) and C White.

On the right of the photograph, reading from left to right are:- Front Row – J Kenny (Bombala), paper reporter, CJ Woollett (Tamworth), and R Dawson (Goulburn). Second Row – HL Mater (Braidwood), EA Lucas (Warialda), FF Forster (Gundagai) and F Hildred (Coonamble). Third Row – Fred Madden (Dairy Inspector), WJ Smith (Young) and E Reuss (Cobar). Forth Row – HM Warburton (Pilliga), and L Bucknell (Coonabarabran). Back Row (standing) - HG Belschner, BVSc (Canonba – the first graduate Inspector, now DVSc and DCDAI), Frank Madden (Mudgee) and CH Nepean (Dairy Inspector).

IN 1937, THE FIRST YEAR BOOK OF THE INSTITUTE OF INSPECTORS OF STOCK OF NSW WAS PUBLISHED.

It records the 18th Annual conference of the Inspectors of Stock. There were 22 Stock Inspectors present.

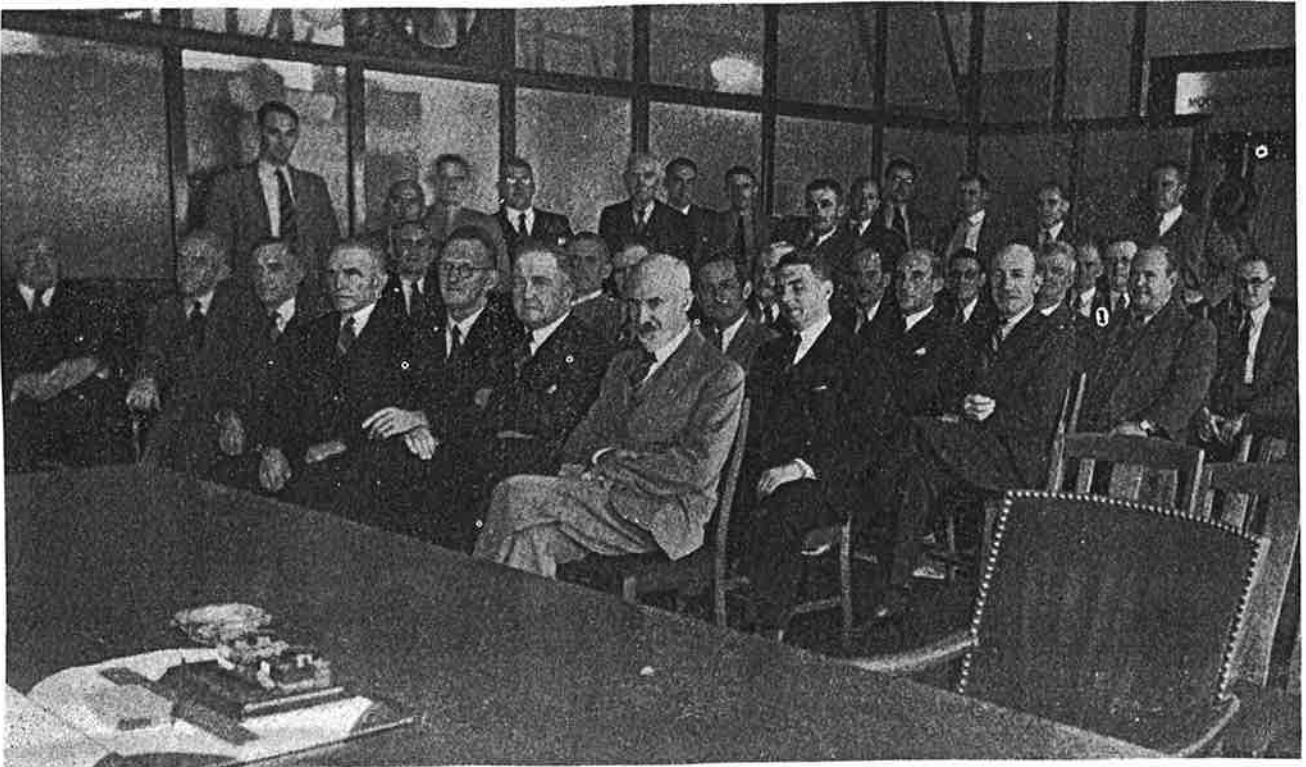
The President of the Institute JG Johnston paid tribute to Mr Max Henry, MRCVS, BVSc whom he said was largely or perhaps wholly responsible for the efficiency of the organisation.

Max Henry's first appointment was to Board of Health as Veterinary Inspector in 1907. In 1908 he transferred to the Stock branch as a Government Veterinary Officer. He served in the First World War from 1914-1918 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and was awarded the DSO. He was appointed Chief Veterinary Surgeon in 1923 and became Chief of the newly created Division of Animal Industry in 1938. In 1947 he retired.

The Institute of Stock Inspectors said a farewell to him in 1947 at which 20 Stock Inspectors paid tribute to him.

For nearly 40 years, Max Henry had been associated with the work of the Inspectors of Stock to the Pastures Protection Boards. As a mark of their esteem, Max Henry was presented with a solid silver cigarette case and a wallet of notes.

From the 1947 Year Book



Annual Conference of Inspectors of Stock, 1947 – Presentation to Mr Max Henry

Seated (left to right): FJ Madden (Tamworth), GJ O'Neill (Armidale), JG Johnston (Albury), TK Ryan (Wagga) RP Mayer (Condobolin), JC Beardwood (Bathurst), F Hildred (Goulburn), HR Peisley (Gundagai), RP Gilder (Coonabarabran), Max Henry, E Scott-Rogers (Deniliquin), EA Hamilton (retired), HM Ware (Balranald-Moulamein), KSF Bray (Hay), RE Fairfax (Braidwood), JN McCulloch (Cumberland), MS Anderson (Canonba), EA Lucas (Maitland), A Doust (Yass), AT Ellis (Dubbo), NL Litchfield (Young) and GE Charles (Carcoar).

Standing (left to right): D Rennell (Inverell), G Fielder (Jerilderie), WJ Lockerby (Molong), C Foster Powell (Secretary), J Faulkner (retired), D Mumford (Eden), JW West (Denman-Singleton), KV Byrne (Narrandera), EA Farleigh (Walgett and Walgett North), JA Berriman (Scone), RD Irvine (Pilliga), JH Irvine (Brewarrina) and TR Jones (Forbes).

THE FLYING STOCK INSPECTOR SERVICE (from “A Short History – Our Institute”, 1955 The Stock Inspector)

In an article in the 1955 edition of “The Stock Inspector” the writer said:

“As a direct result of the glaring shortage of Inspectors, by 1950 the whole of the western Division of the State was covered in some fashion by four Inspectors only. This certainly led to an important perhaps historic development in the activities of an Inspector of Stock, the inauguration of the flying Stock Inspector Service, based at Bourke and with Doug Mumford the pioneer. The writer said that it was a fact that the Flying Service filled a considerable need and performed an excellent job of work and in 1955 the service was being extended, with the location of another Flying Inspector based at Broken Hill.”

CHANGE OF NAME TO VETERINARY INSPECTOR (1957 The Stock Inspector Presidential Address – H Maitland Ware BVSc)

Veterinary Inspector Narrandera said “This probably will be the last time we will be addressed as Inspectors of Stock. Our new title is to be “Veterinary Inspector”. This title will be more in keeping with our changed status, although still not quite what we wanted. The general opinion of members was that the word “Inspector” should be eliminated from our title.”

“This change in status has been brought about directly by the depletion of our ranks due to death, retirement and resignation. At present we are reduced to approximately 30 active members. Rangers are appointed to assist us in certain disease control work and to perform the lay duties formerly carried out by us. We are divided entirely from duties under the Pastures Protection Act although still employed under it and in future our duties will be purely veterinary.

Before the scheme was brought into operation, a preliminary approach was made to us by the Minister. He suggested that we all should become officers of his Department and that certain Districts be amalgamated permanently. For various reasons we preferred to remain apart from the Public Service and rightly or wrongly we made the decision.”

PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH PASTURE PROTECTION BOARDS

In 1960 in his presidential report Doug Mumford from Dubbo said that there was a rather determined assault against Pasture Protection Boards through a proposal submitted by the Shires Association, to the effect that the functions of Pasture Protection Boards be taken over by the Shires but by an active well organised campaign, the Boards were able very effectively to counter the proposition.

COUNCIL OF ADVICE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR VETERINARY STUDENTS (1962 Presidential Report)

In his Presidential address of 1962 Bill (WB) Harding of Tamworth said “The Pasture Protection Boards are very aware of the necessity for an adequate veterinary service in country areas.” To provide more Veterinary Inspectors the Council of Advice set up a

Scholarship Scheme in 1957 in the faculty of Veterinary Science at Sydney University to train these officers. Their first trainee, Mr John W Plant, graduated in 1961 and was posted to the Gundagai District early in 1962.

These trainees were bound to serve in a Pasture Protection District as a Veterinary Inspector for five years. (See Addendum 1)

1967 – 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In 1967, the 50th Annual Conference of the Institute of Veterinary Inspectors of NSW was opened by His Excellency the Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler.

The President of that year was Graham Charles from Forbes. In his Presidential address he said that over the previous 50 years there had been a very gradual replacement of the non-graduate inspectors by veterinary graduates. The first graduate inspector was HG Belschner in February 1922, and the last non-graduate was NH Litchfield who retired from Maitland in November 1966, so it took 44 years to complete the change. (See Addendum 2)

From the 1967 Year Book



50th Annual Conference – Opening Ceremony

Left to right: R.J.L. Williamson; Governor's Aide; His Excellency the Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler; G.E. Charles; The Hon. W.A. Chaffey, Minister for Agriculture.

Graham Charles died later in 1967 on 23 September, only one month after transferring from Forbes to Camden with Moss Vale Board. He was 51 when he died or thereabouts.

He graduated from Sydney at the age of 20 and was a Stock Inspector in three districts before enlisting for service in World War II from 1942-1945 as a Captain in the Australian Army Corps. He then served in the Carcoar District, and after that at Forbes for over 17 years, before going to Camden. He was Editor of our Journal for five years and President for 18 months before he died.

RC Denyer from Cooma said he was a man of very considerable professional skill, great tolerance and courtesy who was ever ready to assist others.

OUR JOURNAL (from 1937)

- 1937 First issue of the “Year Book” of the Institute of Inspectors of Stock of New South Wales.
- 1951 Change of name to “The Stock Inspector”.
- 1958 Change of name to “The Veterinary Inspector” of the Institute of Veterinary Inspectors of New South Wales.
- 1972-73 No editions of the journal.
- 1974 First edition of the proceedings of Annual Conference of the Association of Veterinary Inspectors of New South Wales.
- 1990 Joint conference of District Veterinarians and New South Wales State Veterinarians at EMAI, Camden. Loose leaf folder from NSW Agriculture and Fisheries over three days of the joint conference with a Veterinary Inspector supplement.
- 1991 First proceedings of annual conference published under the name of the Association of District Veterinarians of New South Wales.

The Editorial of the 1962 issue states that the publication has included some very interesting “Firsts”.

For instance, Walker (1939) recorded the first confirmed occurrence of Salmonellosis in sheep at least in NSW, if not in Australia. Madden (1943) made the first report of the disease in cattle known now as Sporadic Bovine Encephalomyelitis (SBE), while Mactier (1948) recorded the first known case of Mycotic Dermatitis in cattle. Charles (1949) recorded some of the earliest detailed reports of post-mortem findings in neonatal lamb losses; Byrne (1951) made the first report of Nutritional Encephalomalacia in chickens.

Many new field techniques have been evolved and recorded by members of the Institute; one being by Lowe (1961), who described a new method of collecting blood samples from sheep.

In the 1987 Proceedings, Chris Dent of Carcoar reported on the first submission of samples in NSW from a Post-Mortem of a ewe in 1979 (November) which was diagnosed as Ovine Johne’s Disease.

The Editorial of 1962 goes on to say: “Over the years this book has acquired, from many sources, an extensive mailing list; and we find now a demand for copies from scientific institutions in many parts of the world.”

This comment is repeated in the 1972 editorial and it stated that the journal is included in many scientific libraries, both in Australia and overseas. That was the last edition of the Veterinary Inspector, there being no publications in 1972 and 1973.

In 1974, there was the first edition of the proceedings of the Annual conference of the Association of Veterinary Inspectors of NSW.

In 1990, there was a joint District Veterinarian and NSW State Veterinarians Conference at EMAI, Camden, with a Veterinary Inspector supplement to the proceedings.

In 1991, the first proceedings were published under the name of the Association of District veterinarians of NSW.

INSTITUTE OF INSPECTORS OF STOCK OF NSW (Year Book 1943 – Office Bearers and Members in the Forces)

Even though the Annual Conference was abandoned during the War Years of 1940 and 1942, the Year Book was still published during these years.

In the 1943, 1944 and 1945 Year Books were placed the names of the members of the Institute in the Forces.

From the 1943 Year Book

INSTITUTE OF INSPECTORS OF STOCK OF N.S.W. YEAR BOOK.

INSTITUTE OF INSPECTORS OF STOCK OF N.S.W.

OFFICE-BEARERS, 1943-1944

President:

HILDRED, F., Goulburn.

Vice-Presidents:

LUCAS, E. A., Maitland.

BRAY, K., Hay.

Council:

RYAN, T. K., Wagga Wagga.	JONES, T. R., Forbes.
LONG, R. H., Gundagai.	FREEMAN, V. P., Casino.
WARE, H., Maitland.	LITCHFIELD, N. H., Young.
Moulamein.	LOWE, E. G., Coonamble.
HARDING, W. B., Walgett.	YEOMAN, F. T., Moree.
ARTHUR, P. W. V., Cobar.	

Hon. Treasurer:

HILDRED, F., Goulburn.

Secretary:

C. FOSTER POWELL, A.F.I.A., 26 Hunter Street, Sydney.

Auditors:

Messrs. HENSON & GATES, Barrack Street, Sydney.

Members in the Forces:

BEARDWOOD, J. C., formerly of Bathurst.
CHARLES, G., formerly of Bega.
BYRNE, K. V., formerly of Narrandera.
FAIRFAX, R. E., formerly of Coonabarabran.
MULHEARN, C. J., formerly of Pilliga.
PEISLEY, H. R., formerly of Cooma.
ROGERS, E. S., formerly of Deniliquin.
SIDMAN, W. R., formerly of Glen Innes.

REFERENCE TO TWO PAPERS IN THE 1997 & 1999 PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT VETERINARIANS

1. In 1999 Alan Glassop spoke on “District Veterinarians and Rural Land Protection Board Animal Health Services – to Date”

Alan said that “In this era of change, that in many ways, the more things change, the more they stay the same.” As an example on “accountability and reporting” he quoted Graham Charles’s paper in the Year Book of 1949.

Alan also gave many examples of past papers in the proceedings.

It would be of value to have all the papers indexed from our journal at some future date starting from the 1937 issue.

2. John Ever’s paper in 1997 Proceedings titled “District Veterinarian 2000 – Chameleon, Lemming or Dinosaur” on the role of the District Veterinarian. This was based on John’s then 23 years of service to the Veterinary Inspector/District Veterinarian service and on information provided by Veterinary Inspectors/Rangers to the Review of the structure and function of Board animal health services from the 1940s to 1970s. In his paper are listed 13 areas of concern and emerging problems for District Veterinarians. In it John Evers said then in the mid 1970s the Bull Report recommended transfer of the Veterinary Inspector service to the Department.

AVAILABILITY OF OUR JOURNALS AND PROCEEDINGS FROM LIBRARIES

The only Proceedings available from the NSW Agriculture libraries are the 1986 to 1989 Proceedings of our annual conferences from Tocal. They have recently thrown a number of other copies out.

Tocal’s records show that the Fisher Library has the District Veterinarians Proceeding from 1974 onwards. Therefore none before that.

The Secretary of the District Veterinarians Association has the past copies except for the first one, for 1937. He now has a Photostat copy.

The Australian Veterinary Association Historical collection has past copies including the 1937 edition. These are kept in storage at Fyshwick in ACT. Bob Taylor of Harden is the curator. John Evers has been supplying Bob with copies of our Proceedings.

STOCK INSPECTORS, VETERINARY INSPECTORS, DISTRICT VETERINARIANS – FORBES

1886-1926	WG Dowling (born 1853)
1926-1928	WG Goodsir
1928-1937	MT Little
1937-1949	TR Jones, BVSc
1950-1967	GE Charles, BVSc (died 23/09/67, aged 51 years) <i>D.O.B. 13/2/1916</i>

1967-1971	ER Tuohy, BVSc (born 1923, died 1971)
1972 - Current	JB Kemp, BVSc (Sydney), Dip AH (London), MSc (London) <i>DOB. 31/5/1939</i>

VENUES FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1918 (1 st Conference)	King's Hall, Hunter Street, Sydney on 25 March 1918
1919-1939	Sydney
1940	Abandoned due to World War II Superannuation for members by an amendment of the Local Government Act
1941	Sydney
1942	Abandoned due to World War II Sydney
1943-1988	Sydney
1989 (72 nd Conference)	The Theatrette, State Office block, Phillip Street, Sydney
1990	Camden (EMAI) NSW State Veterinarian's Conference (combined DV & VO Conference)
1991	Sydney
1992	Orange
1993	Ballina
1994	Wagga
1995	Canberra
1996	Camperdown
1997	Armidale
1998	Dubbo
1999	Berry
2000	Moama
2001	Coffs Harbour
2002	Canberra
2003	Newcastle

HONOUR ROLL OF PAST PRESIDENTS

1918-1920	RW Dawson
1920-1925	EA Hamilton
1925-1927	J Faulkner
1927-1929	FF Foster
1929-1936	CJ Woollett
1936-1939	JG Johnston
1941-1943	FJ Madden
1943-1949	F Hildred
1949-1952	JC Beardwood
1952-1955	WB Harding
1955-1958	HM Ware
1958-1960	DH Mumford
1960-1963	WB Harding
1963-1966	MR Barry
1966-1967	GE Charles
1967-1969	RC Denyer
1969-1970	WB Harding
1970-1973	FL Clark
1973-1976	CHR Dent
1976-1978	PJ Ahrens
1978-1979	SN Carroll
1979-1981	RI Walker
1981-1985	GW Eggleston
1985-1987	JV Evers
1987-1989	KG Hart
1989-1991	JA Macfarlane
1991-1993	SJ Whittaker
1993-1995	DD Salmon
1995-1996	ESG Sergeant
1996-1998	HF Suddes
1998-2000	FK Nottle
2000-2002	Christine Haylock
2002 - Current	Shaun Slattery

REFERENCE

Proceedings of the 80th Annual Conference of the Association of District Veterinarians of NSW – Armidale 1997: “Reminiscences of a Pastures Protection board veterinarian 1943-1983” FL Clarke Honorary Life Member. (Certificate of Qualification for Appointment as an Inspector – Pasture Protection Act 1934 Regulation 89.)

REFERENCE BOOKS

1. John Brooks (2002) “130 Years On – Still going Strong – A Brief History of Narrabri Rural Lands Protection Board”
- Published by Narrabri Rural Lands Protection Board. (DSAMC Education Pty Ltd, South PO 81, South Tamworth, NSW 2340).
2. PJ Mylrea (1990) “In the Service of Agriculture - A centennial history of the NSW Department of Agriculture 1890-1990”
- Published by Griffin Press Limited, Netley, South Australia
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1965) – “Animal Health – A Centenary 1865-1965 – a Century of Endeavour to Control Diseases of Animals”
- Published by Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, London
4. The History of Forbes, NSW Australia (1997)
- Published by Forbes Shire Council

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank: Dr RI Taylor, The Curator, Australian veterinary Association Historical Collection, of Weirview, Harden 2587 for the loan of the first issue of the “Year Book” of the Institute of Inspectors of Stock of New South Wales, of 1937; Bob McKinnon, DV Tamworth, for the loan of the remaining copies of our Journal; Dan Salmon, DV Riverina, for copies of legislation associated with the Scab in Sheep Act of 1863; and Shaun Slattery, DV Narrabri for the copy of “130 Years On – Still Going Strong – A Brief History of Narrabri Rural Lands Protection Board”.

ADDENDUM

1. Council of Advice Scholarship Scheme for Veterinary Students

Current members of the District Veterinarian’s Association who were trainees under this scheme are:-

John Evers (DV Young), Tony Morton (DV Wagga Wagga), Dan Salmon (DV Riverina), Greg Simpson (DV Central Tablelands) and Steve Whittaker (DV Hume).

2. Note on the First Veterinary Sheep Inspector

WL Hindmash 1967 Veterinary Inspector (page 78) states:- “In 1895, at the first examination of which I have been able to find record, CJ Vyner, MRCVS, was successful and was appointed Sheep Inspector to the Armidale District. He was the first academically trained veterinarian to be appointed as an inspector. At the same time he was secretary to the Board.

3. First Women Veterinary Inspector

In Chris Dent's Presidential Address for 1974, he reported, "Miss Jamesina Mackenzie, a United Kingdom graduate, has been posted to Grafton District, and has the rare distinction of being our first lady Inspector."

In his 1975 address, Christ Dent reported that "Miss Jamesina Mackenzie resigned from her post at Grafton, since our last Conference."

4. First Woman President of the District Veterinarians Association

The honour of our first woman President went to Christine Haylock (nee Venning) of Cooma Rural Lands Protection Board who commenced at Cooma in 1990. Christine was President from 2000 to 2002.

TEN-MINUTE INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS OF FORBES.

No. 8—The Human Stock Encyclopaedia

Away from the rush and bustle of business in a little home surrounded by green hedges, delightful shade trees, the greenest of green lawns, and beautiful flowers, we were received with that old-time courtesy so rare in these modern days. William Gibson Dowling was the man we called upon for this week's interview, and no more interesting personality lives in the West. He is a man whose attainments, quite apart from his late job as Stock Inspector, are much above the average. A man to whom good reading is a hobby, when modern novels, filled with trash and drivel, are broadcast before the multitude, and read by a modern generation with avidity. Surely, a rare bird this ex-Stock Inspector, who finds consolation from his labors by reading John Ruskin from cover to cover, and quoting him with affection and assurance. We expected to find one from whom the scent of cattle had not yet departed; one, possibly, with the burrs still in his clothing, but we discovered a cultured gentleman whose speech and personality filled us with admiration. One of the "old school," as we are prone to describe them, without a measure of regret that they are fast disappearing.

W. G. Dowling has been associated pastorally with Forbes for the past 41 years. During that time he has proved himself the friend of the "man on the land," and many are there to-day who have to thank him for his good advice. You hear it admitted on every hand, and knowing the man the truth of it must be apparent.

Born at Verwood, Tasmania, some 10 years back, "W.G." learned all he knows of stock in the school of hard practice. No theoretical man this; he has done all the work himself which he ever called upon others to do. He could not enjoy the benefits of a college like Hawkesbury. There were no such things in his day. Yet when he sat for his original examination he took a first-class pass. He had never been to Sydney before, he told us. "I nearly got bushed," he remarked humorously. At any rate, it appears humorous to us to-day.

"When I came to Forbes in 1885," commenced Mr. Dowling, "there were

an everyday matter. The average annual production of wool per sheep in those days was worth about 7/6, or 10d. per lb. Nowadays the production per sheep must average 25/ to 30/ to pay."

"Land was worth from a pound to thirty shillings an acre on the average," recalled Mr. Dowling. "Conditional purchase land could be got from 12/ to 15/ an acre. The same land to-day, as you know, is worth from £6 to £7, and there you have the explanation of the "unearned increment" which we talk of so glibly."

Now and again Mr. Dowling would digress to recount some joke, and as a raconteur he is without equal. He makes his point tellingly, and without the need of emphasis, and we rather suspect a day or so—possibly even a week or so—spent in his company, would be a most interesting experience.

"I'm getting away from my life's history," he said with a smile. "So to return to our muttons, though this time it will be wheat. Wheat growing was not attempted to any great extent when I reached Forbes. Only two kinds were known to the farmer of that day, as Farrar had not given to the world his methods of breeding wheat. The two kinds grown were White Lamas and Purple Straw. There were no such things as Government lectures; nobody to teach the farmer. The only instructor was Nature herself, and a man had to rely upon his own capacity to learn."

"There were no wire fences; mostly brush and dog fences, and it was as these were burned that wire fencing gradually came into being. Ring-barking was slowly proceeding in all parts of the district."

"It was in 1895, when the railway came to Forbes, and from then on there was a gradual improvement in agriculture. There was a distinct move toward the higher science of the industry. Conditions generally were better. Instead of sending everything to Orange, goods were brought to Forbes. The old Albion Hotel in those days was of wood. When it was burned down it was rebuilt as you see it to-day by Mr. Richardson."

that their generosity would be returned to them a hundredfold, and it has for look at the price of wheat to-day as compared with then. Anyway that fence was erected out of wheat, and I put the inscription on one of the gates, "Let us not be weary in well-doing, for we shall reap in due season if we faint not." The quotation appeared to me to be particularly apt, as in those days the wheat was reaped by hand."

Again recalling the past, Mr. Dowling pointed out to us that the show-ground, when he first reached Forbes, was opposite the cemetery. Together with the committee, he, as secretary, got the present land resumed, and it was laid out by Mr. Sheppard, of Wagga.

"We conducted a sort of Paddy's Market for about a week. We secured gifts from Sydney in the shape of ploughs and farm implements generally, and for five days we sold, and on the sixth we celebrated. We raised about £2000. In those days of slow travel a man did not come to town and rush away, as they do to-day with their motor cars. They stayed in town a week when they came in. The Vandenberg Hotel was a busy place. So were they all for that matter. They stayed open until midnight, and sometimes all night."

"For just a quarter of a century I was associated with the Show committee. I was secretary in those days, when the work of establishing the place was hard. They had no paid secretary; but they awarded an honorarium. The secretary took all the abuse," commented Mr. Dowling, "but got none of the salary, because there was none to get."

"In 1906 the fat lamb industry was progressing," went on the ex-Stock Inspector. "The land was slowly changing from grazing to agriculture. It was found that crossbred sheep did better on enclosed areas, while the pure bred Merino required much country, as he is by nature a wanderer. In 1905 a crossbred sheep would fetch from 12/ to 14/, and nowadays they are worth from 22/ to 25/. The first crossing was the Lincoln to the Merino, and the Shropshire to the Merino. Nowadays they cross all breeds; but you must remember in those days the farmer was as a school boy, while to-day he has matriculated in agriculture, and in some instances has even become a professor."

"The area about this house was like a beautiful park with lovely weeping gums, and beautiful grass everywhere. I tried to save the trees; but the Council of that day were a purely utilitarian crowd, and they said the farmers wanted posts. They could see no beauty in anything, and to-day only one tree stands, and that is probably because it was hollow."

Referring to his experiences in getting about the country, Mr. Dowling stated that men had frequently been known to take five hours to cover four miles on Grawlin Plains, and once in 1895, at Prairielands, he met a man who had shown good sense in taking the wheels off his buggy, and was using it as a skid.

In reply to our query, Mr. Dowling



ing would not agree there had been any falling off in the quality of merino wool to-day. A number of big graziers were producing sheep by scientific breeding which were gems. "There is nothing promiscuous about merino sheep breeding," pointed out Mr. Dowling. "You must adapt the animal to its environment. You could not take an animal from here to Tasmania and expect to get the same results. Here the wool is more robust; but in that cooler climate a fine wool of excellent texture is obtained. Good sheep classers will watch these points, and introduce fresh blood into the flocks as the need is apparent. The subject is too big, I assure you, to be presented in a ten-minute talk.

"I spent 41 years, or thereabouts, with the Forbes P.P. Board, and during that time never had a harsh word from any member," was Mr. Dowling's proud boast. "In regard to the men under my control, I have had as many as 40 contractors cutting noxious weeds. I never had trouble with them, because I knew by my own practical experience what they were capable of doing as a fair day's work. In fact, I would often show them by practical example what could be done, so that they would know what I expected of them."

Needless to say that on this occasion we exceeded our usual ten minutes by about an hour and a half, and could have listened to Mr. Dowling for the rest of the day. Surely there can be no more interesting citizen of Forbes than this one. He has a fund of anecdote to intersperse with his more serious remarks, and it is the natural joyousness of his nature which has enabled him to carry out his arduous duties so excellently through the years. His ability to tell a good yarn, in addition to his undoubted knowledge of agriculture in all its branches, must have made him a heap of friends.

Mr. Dowling has appeared in print on numerous occasions. His writings under the nom-de-plume of "Crow-foot," in the "Pastoral Review," are well known, and under a variety of names he has written to a number of papers whose columns are used for the benefit of pastoralists. Mr. Gilder, editor of "The Land" column of the "Herald," personally told us that Mr. Inspector Dowling's reports were looked upon as the most valuable from the whole State so far as that paper's readers were concerned.

It is difficult to estimate just what this district owes W. G. Dowling. Those who know him best, and have had the benefit of his advice for the past 41 years, are better aware of this fact than are we. For his good citizenship alone, he is worthy of our greatest admiration, and in his retirement he should receive the consideration of all men, if only for the fact that he has done his duty by the district both fearlessly and well.

A visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dowling—we must not overlook his good wife and helpmeet—is bound to be fraught with interest, and the visitor is sure of a welcome. To his biggest enemy, if he has one, W. G. Dowling would extend every courtesy.

no telephones, no railway, nor anything almost which we have in these modern times. No motor cars, or anything in the nature of quick transit. We used buggies or sulkeys in the summer, and owing to the state of the roads, used the saddle in the winter."

"There were 300 stock owners then, and to-day there are 3000. Only three stations were encountered between here and Grenfell—Wandary, Ooma, and Bald Hills. Bogalong was at Grenfell.

"No crossbred sheep existed," went on the retired stock inspector. "If a man saw one he probably would have taken a rifle to it. The nearest railway was Orange, and those who grew wheat had to cart it there, and then they were happy to get two shillings and sixpence a bushel for it, and sometimes they didn't get more than one shilling and tenpence. While these figures seem beyond reason to-day, the farmers of that time were both happy and contented."

"Bush hospitality was wonderful in those days," commented Mr. Dowling. "You would offend a man if you didn't go out of your way to spend the night with him without so much as asking leave."

"How did sheep rates compare?" we asked with an eye to solving the mystery of men's content in spite of the different conditions.

"There was virtually no comparison," replied this interesting personality. "Mr. McMillan, of 'Rosebank,' Eugowra, sent a mob of sheep, fatigued on raps, to Sydney, and when he got 3/6 for them, thought his fortune was made. The average price at that time was from 7/8 to 8/, and steers brought from £5 to £6. There were no such things as fat lambs, as that industry had not been commenced."

"When I reached Forbes there were 500,000 sheep and 50,000 head of cattle in the district. To-day, there are something like 1,500,000 sheep, and 20,000 head of cattle. I came at the time when sheep were gradually superseding cattle. To give an idea of the improved breeding in connection with sheep, I would state that then it was considered good to get from 2 to 3 lbs. of wool from the average sheep's back. To-day 15 to 16 lbs. is

"I was appointed here by both the Sheep Board, under the Scab Act of 1878, and under the P.P. Board. The latter dealt with wallabies, dingoes and hares. There were no rabbits. The first rabbit seen in this district was in 1895, and ten years later a man trapped from 60,000 to 80,000 at three tanks in about a month. It has been known for a man to trap as many as 20,000 in one night, and to-day you can travel miles without seeing one. I say without seeing one, mark you, though there may be some about; but the quantity is negligible compared with those days."

At this stage Mr. Dowling sought his diary. "I have kept a diary for 55 years, and it has now become a habit," he commented. "I have the records here of all the prosecutions taken by me on behalf of the P.P. Board. Altogether I conducted 2066 prosecutions under the P.P. Act, and eighty per cent. were in connection with the failure of landholders to destroy rabbits. Throughout that time I only lost ten cases, which surely proves that I was justified in the steps taken. I don't think during all that time I made one enemy; but if I did I love him. 'Love thine enemies,' we are taught.

"I always taught my rabbit inspectors to be just in their complaints. If they adopt that attitude, and do not allow their personal feelings to enter into the matter, they will come out on top."

"I'm not telling you much about myself," pointed out Mr. Dowling; but we intimated that everything he had told us was interesting, and would interest our readers, we felt sure.

"I joined the Hospital committee soon after I arrived here. We only had a little bit of a shanty in those days, which could be lost in a fair sized cottage of to-day. For 21 years I worked on that committee, and with others was the means of getting the present building erected. Mr. Bates and myself were the means of getting the wheat growers of this district to erect the fence which to-day fronts the building. We appealed to them for donations of wheat by way of thanksgiving, and they used to throw off a bag at Mr. Raymond's mill, and he bought it from us. In my reasoning with them I used to tell them

ton &

Property

NGE
age every

at notice

staff al-
and auc

urn mail
rampton.

278. 842.

& Co.

n. and

any part
Property

Lowest

rbes and
Co., Ltd
Wool and

ments.

Fire

Ltd.,

Sydr.

J.P
vice.

Co.

TEN-MINUTE INTERVIEWS WITH CITIZENS OF FORBES.

No. II.—The Enemy of All Rabbits.

We called on Mr. Wallace Hunter this week for an interview and while we were received courteously, we had nevertheless to state a good case for ourselves before we finally won over this grand old man of the West. Mr. Hunter does not like publicity. He once had an experience with "The Daily Guardian" which has made him suspicious of all newspaper men. After asking the famous Far Western representative to withhold his name from publication, the next day's issue told of "Wallace Hunter, the man who single-handed broke the strike of '94." Ever since then Mr. Hunter has looked for his gun whenever a reporter has been seen in the vicinity of his front gate.

Possibly ours is a disarming manner for we must say that the Chairman of the Forbes P.P. Board dealt with us most cordially after he had overcome his earlier suspicions. "What can you tell us about Pastures Protection Boards?" was our query once we had settled down to business.

"P.P. Boards is the matter I can speak about best of all subjects," replied the warrior. "It is one of the things I know most about, considering I have been associated with the local Board for the past 34 years. With the exception of one solitary year, I sat for the whole of that period.

Naturally, we were inquisitive as to how Mr. Hunter had missed that year.

"There was a reason," stated the Chairman fearlessly. "Some aggrieved persons, who stated that we—and

I particularly—had been prosecuting too freely in regard to rabbit infestation, caught us on the hop, and out I went. Next year though, my friends rallied round, and I was put back again, and once again I occupied the chair. Understand, I have never asked for a vote, and

ed.

"I believe the abolition of the Boards will be the greatest calamity that could occur in this State," replied the Chairman. "While I am willing to admit that all of the Boards have not been doing their duty, and have not justified their existence; the majority have accomplished excellent work. I am aware that much dissatisfaction exists in the Eastern districts, and I am not prepared to say with what measure of justification. The smaller area of the stock routes in the Eastern district, on account of most of the country being fenced, leaving only narrow lanes, the same necessity does not exist for that particular phase of the P.P. Act which deals with those routes. Nevertheless, the same necessity exists in the east of the State for stock inspection, and supervision, as in any other district.

"The P.P. Act, as it stands to-day, with all its various amendments, is an excellent Act if properly administered; but I am of the opinion that a sort of Chief Inspector should be appointed to ensure that all Boards strictly carry out their duties. If they are not doing what is asked of them, they should be compelled to do so, or get out and make room for somebody who will."

Indignation overflowed as Mr. Hunter told us of the delinquencies of some Boards he had encountered. "They are composed of men whose own areas are infested with rabbits."

he averred, "and while that is the case they cannot prosecute others. You might say, why do not the landholders put them out, and put others in? The reason is that the trouble is general in these districts.

"I will give you the name of one Board which is open to criticism,"

Esse

8
E

Two
Wednes
made fi
townspe
around
dently
country
they de.

Havin
alleged
Entwisl
ing in t
car had
ing, and
position
vehicle
is said,
the two
with tha
familiar
they ba
into the

Mr. A
to recog
lar feat
few mo.
matter t
policeme
McWade
joy-rider
six miles
Road, th
side Mr.

It trar
occurred
the men
earlier ;
under th
plies ha
certain
Ihorntor

The po
to return
ly round
them to
told tha
ton's th
horse, w
ride to
plies. I
notice to

P.

the

A
day
and
cha
or
owr

Co.
and
ance

DNEY
100.
STOCK
& CO.
bes.

urance
INGS,
lley Street

ad Stocks)
Special Far
ling oating
ocal Agents)

London
urance
ion

CO., District
sonal Accident
ion and other
Insurance ac-
lication.

l by the Pro-
hington Brown-
f "The Forbes
Street, Forbes.

ength

again, and once again I occupied the chair. Understand, I have never asked for a vote, and never will. If I am wanted to carry on I will do my duty; but when they decide to find somebody else, I can look for something else to occupy my time.
"Out of the 34 years, I have spent 20 in the chair," continued Mr. Hunter. "I succeeded Mr. Thomas Leslie, and thanks to the good Board we have always had, we have managed to get this district practically cleared of rabbits. This has played no small part in its increased valuations."
"During the last drought, which was a very severe one, there were practically no stock losses here. The

Board which is open to criticism, stated the Chairman pugnaciously, "and I don't mind if you do publish it. The Coonamble Board's behaviour in the matter of rabbit destruction is most reprehensible. There are more rabbits to the acre in that district than in any other part of N.S.W. I have property there, so I know what I'm speaking about. It is not that the pest cannot be put down, because it can. I've cleared my land, and my stock to-day have grass up to their bellies, while my neighbors are seeking agistment. Some of them are realising, as the result of my precept and example, what can be done, and there



sheep managed to exist on the seeds which they are able to lick up from the ground. Had this land been fouled by rabbits, they would have starved before doing so.
"I have seen seasons which were comparatively good, during which more stock was lost than during that drought," continued Mr. Hunter. "Of course, we have received wonderful assistance from the various magistrates who have administered justice at Forbes from time to time. They have helped us with substantial fines, sometimes even to the extent of £100."
The worthy chairman at this stage

is a move gradually in the direction necessary."
After we had somewhat recovered from Mr. Hunter's fearlessly outspoken statements, we asked him if the present political situation might delay any action in the matter? "Yes, I think it will. No sane Government will abolish P.P. Boards," he replied emphatically.
Returning to the matter of rabbit extermination, Mr. Hunter informed us that the extermination of rabbits on his Coonamble property had cost him 9/4½ per acre, and that included 3/6 per acre for burning up fallen timber. "It is still costing me three men

became reminiscent, while we listened with ears well-pricked. "It has been an uphill fight," he mused. "We recognised that it was quite possible to rid the country of rabbits, except

merely to keep the rabbits out of my property," commented the P.P. Board's chairman.
"How do you feel about the noxious weeds question?" we queried.
"It is an absurdity that noxious

own
T
Dec
in
two
27
C
S
mo.
the
ern
ass
agr
tril
shc
1st
I
Ch
As
cip
ber
an
fisl
the
res
pe
fis
se
er
in
no
or
th
ag
fro

th
ca
at
th
st
al
at
to
an
of
th
fi

ngth
of--



ADSTEADS
RE, IRON

, 23rd, and

an uphill fight," he mused. "We recognised that it was quite possible to rid the country of rabbits, except in the stony, mountainous parts. By compelling the landholders to destroy rabbits on the plain country, these mountain areas would eventually be segregated, and that is what happened.

"Our policy was that members of the Board should be the first to be prosecuted. It was essential that they should clear their properties first, and at the beginning extra inspectors were put on to see that this was done. The big men followed, then we could justly go for the small man if he failed to clear his property. We endeavored to act fairly to all landholders, and some of my greatest friends have been prosecuted heaviest of all.

"As evidence of this fact, Mr. Hunter recalled that a few years back when he was looking for feed for lambing ewes, owing to being fully stocked, and a little short of feed, a friend came to the rescue in a most generous manner. Since then, the Board had prosecuted that gentleman twice for failing to keep down rabbits.

"Without fear or favor is your policy then," we commented, and Mr. Hunter agreed that such was the case.

"How about abolition? What are your views on that matter?" we ask-

Board's chairman.

"How do you feel about the noxious weeds question?" we queried.

"It is an absurdity that noxious weeds should be under the control of Shire Councils, while rabbits are under the P.P. Boards," replied the Chairman promptly. "It means 'double-banking' the work. The rabbit inspectors of the P.P. Boards could do the work of noxious weed inspections at the same time as they were covering rabbit areas. The position is an anomalous one, for while the Shires have control over their gazetted roads, they have no control over stock routes, nor can they prosecute a public body, such as the P.P. Boards.

"The Shires cannot cope with the work of the P.P. Boards," was Mr. Hunter's opinion. "The two matters are dealt with by a different franchise altogether. The P.P. Boards are self-supporting, the rates being collected from the landholders themselves and no others. Shire rating is general. The Forbes P.P. Board is one of the most important in the State. It has over 1700 ratepayers, and we are proud of its activities.

"It pays farmers to keep down pests on their properties," advised Mr. Hunter. "Land values only increase with better farming methods."

That brought matters to a close. It was not that either of us consider-

ne
ir.
ers
and
rds
ing
am-
is
is
the
ers.
wn
sed
in-
s."
ise.
ar-

ed that so broad a subject had been fully dealt with. Naturally, so important a question could not be fully covered, even though it occupied all the columns of "The Advocate." It merely gives us the opportunity to supply our readers with some views of the man who, of all men, should know most about the subject of Pastures Protection Boards.

With a shake of the head, as he again recalled the infamy of that "Guardian" man, Mr. Hunter bade us adieu, and we returned townwards, thinking how much more we knew of P.P. Boards' activities than before we reached "Koyong."

28
M
Met
nav
and
line
A
labo
Doc
Dro
J
ed
full
por
cov
the
me
sur
the
no
Pr
7
agi
"G
adi
thi
P.
we