

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PASTORAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS,
1876 – Extract from:**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA :

ITS HISTORY, RESOURCES, AND PRODUCTIONS.

EDITED BY

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ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN THE COLONY.

WITH MAPS.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND DEDICATED
(BY PERMISSION) TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR ANTHONY MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G., &c.,
GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE COLONY.

L O N D O N :

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,
CROWN BUILDINGS, 188 FLEET STREET.

1876.

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tinental varieties. Olive oil of the most delicate character has been expressed, and gained awards at the various Exhibitions. Its purity and general superiority over the imported article of commerce has acquired for it a first position in the market. The produce of the plantations is eagerly purchased by persons who have entered upon the business of the manufacture of oil. It may be stated, as showing the importance which is attached to the cultivation of the olive, as of the mulberry (of which several plantations of the most suitable kinds exist for the development of sericulture), the almond, vine, orange, fig, and hop, that the land laws provide that the planting and cultivation of one acre of land with any of these trees shall be equivalent to the cultivation of six acres of cereals.

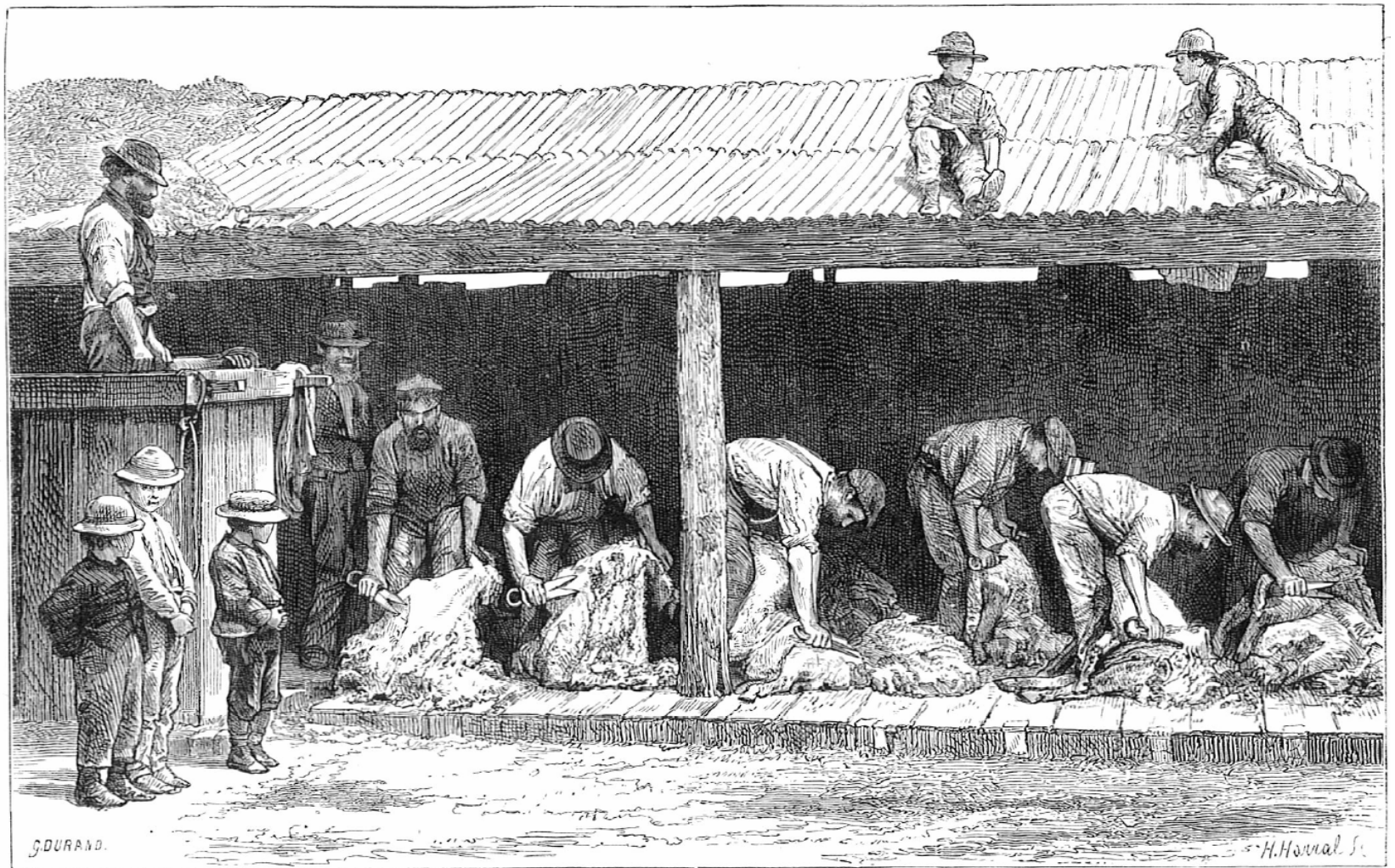
Orchards, gardens, and vineyards abound, and, in short, the variety and excellence of the fruits and vegetables produced in the Colony cannot be surpassed. The climate and soil enables the productions of temperate and tropical regions to be cultivated almost side by side, and throughout the year; and offers an unlimited field of profitable occupation in connection with ordinary farming pursuits.

PASTORAL OCCUPATION.

Notwithstanding the large area of land lately alienated from the Crown, and the extension of agricultural operations, the acreage of land taken up for squatting purposes and the increase in the number of flocks and herds have been very considerable. All descriptions of stock, whether horses, cattle, or sheep, have thriven and increased rapidly.

Of late years the enclosure and sub-division of runs (enabling the sheep to roam at will during the whole year) has been found to produce greatly improved results, both as regards the quality of the stock and of the wool. Large numbers of sheep are owned by settlers, who advantageously combine sheep-farming with agriculture.

Some conception of the growth of the pastoral interest may be formed from the fact that, whilst in 1851 the total area of land leased from the Crown for pastoral purposes was 15,000 square miles, at the present time there are no less than 200,000



SHEEP SHEARING.

square miles in occupation. During the same period the number of horses has increased from 6500 to 93,000; of horned cattle from 75,000 to 185,000; and of sheep from 1,000,000 to over 6,000,000, whilst the exports of wool have increased from 4000 to 118,000 bales.

The following table shows the progressive increase in horses, cattle, and sheep, at each quinquennial period between 1856 and 1875:—

Years.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1856	22,260	272,746	1,962,460
1861	52,597	265,434	3,038,356
1866	70,829	123,820	3,911,610
1871	78,125	143,463	4,412,055
1875	93,122	185,342	6,120,211

With reference to the slight comparative increase in cattle it should be noted that more profitable results are found to accrue from the breeding of sheep than from great cattle. The latter pursuit is more extensively followed in the neighbouring colonies.

During the last ten years the average price of first-class fat bullocks has averaged £14 10s., and of first-class fat wethers, 15s. per head.

The enclosure of the sheep runs, the formation of dams and reservoirs in which large bodies of water can be stored, and the sinking of wells, are the most important improvements required, and are those to which the greatest attention is now being paid. By these means an immense area of land has been opened up, and stocked with both sheep and cattle.

Almost limitless tracts of country bordering on the trans-continental telegraph line, as well as land laid open by recent explorations, are awaiting pastoral occupation.