

(*For which, see Appendix.*)

*Ordered*,—That the said Document do lie upon the Table.

Mr. SHEA presented a Petition from James J. Rogerson, President, and F. W. Rennie, Secretary, of the St. John's Agricultural Society, on behalf of the Members thereof, which was received and read, as follows :—

*To the Honorable the House of Assembly, in Legislative Session convened :*

The Petition of the Officers and Members of the Newfoundland Agricultural Society.

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That Your Petitioners are of opinion that Sheep-raising in this Colony would prove of incalculable benefit to its inhabitants, were the serious impediments under which those engaged in it now labour, removed, and that in the present depressed state of our fisheries, this branch of industry ought to be encouraged and fostered, as one chief means of ameliorating the condition of our fishermen.

That no better method could be adopted to induce our Colonists to take to the cultivation of the soil, than by affording them protection in the rearing of Sheep, a branch of husbandry which would place within the reach of their families remunerative employment during the winter season; when no other profitable work can be undertaken.

That the successful developement of this industrial pursuit, has been prevented solely by the ruinous losses to which owners of Sheep are continually liable from the ravages of dogs, in evidence of which, your Petitioners would draw the attention of Your Honorable House to the annexed Returns of the number of Sheep killed, in a portion only of the Colony, by those animals during the last five years.

No stronger evidence need be advanced by your Petitioners in proof of the great value of this branch of industry, than the facts set forth in these Returns, exhibiting an aggregate loss of 4136 Sheep, 82 Cows, 7 Horses, and 228 Goats, by dogs during the last five years; yet shewing that notwithstanding the many difficulties at present surrounding it, the Colonists still persevere in following it up; to a limited extent, and express a strong desire to have the restrictions under which they now labour in this respect removed, or even modified.

Without the slightest intention to dictate the method by which these restrictions might be removed, your Petitioners would draw the attention of Your Honorable House to the practice followed in the United States, where, with the view of protecting the Sheep-owner against the evil complained of, all dogs are taxed, the Male to the extent of One Dollar, the Female Three Dollars, and the funds thus accruing are appropriated to compensate parties who may lose sheep in the manner alluded to.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your Honorable House