

SOCIEDAD ESPLORADORA  
—DE—  
TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Capital: \$ 1,250,000

Copy

Punta Arenas,

de 190...

Report for the month of August 1900.  
Reccion Tan Relartian

Dipping; Commenced this month by dipping the ewe hoggets, there was not any real amongst them but if it should break out later on the wool would be damaged by dipping late in the year, and they are now quite safe for this shearing. Do not anticipate any more dipping before the clip as the flocks are all in good condition and clean, they are also better wooled up than they were at this time last year.

Weather; a heavy snow storm fell about the early part of this month, but fortunately it did not drift, and it was immediately followed by a general thaw throughout the island which is taking it rapidly away, the ice on the river is also breaking up a good over

good sign of coming Spring, so do not expect there will be many orders from the Stock.

Mount Carting; Am still cutting posts in the Mount shall be obliged to start carting as soon as the snow melts a little, because we are ~~now~~ in great need of fire-wood, shall be also obliged to order a little coal as the demand for firing will be more than can meet. we also require a good supply of posts in the Estancia before can commence felling.

Woodshed; The framework of this building is now almost completed with the exception of the timber which did not arrive in June, so shall be obliged to wait until the steamer comes again in the Spring. I shall commence to erect the building in about a week's time as soon as the frost leaves the ground.

Odd-men; The few odd men that are here this month have been clearing up the dip, paddocks and collecting wool lying

about in them, there will be plenty of work in a week or two, repairing tracks, ditches and fences, some of the latter have sprung up in places, especially on the range owing to the fall of snow.

● Tracks: The track to the port is the most important. There is still a lot to be done to this and I trust it will be finished this summer.

● All the carting was done from the port this winter through the centre of vega, it being frozen over, this same vega or valley is always in a state of swamp during the summer months, should suggest that a sledge would run better in this country in the winter time as axles of carts are frequently breaking through the severe frosts.

Having nothing further to add this month

I am etc  
Sigs G. C. Rigby

Copy.

Santa Arenas, ..... de 190...

Report for month of September  
Person Juan Sebastian <sup>1900</sup>

Commence this month by caring ports from the huts, but cannot bring much in the carts on account of the bad tracks, a large amount of ports are required for the woolshed so will put on all power possible to get a supply of them.

Woolshed; Will going ahead with this building, expect it will be of good service this shearing, if the zinc arrives here in time, the dimensions of the shed are <sup>ft</sup> 126 + <sup>ft</sup> 90.

Cattle; Have parted out twenty-two catts for tanning purposes which have been placed in a paddock by themselves ready for the tanners

bad men; Have been employed  
pulling up all the stumps in  
the settlement also repairing  
tracks and ditches round the  
settlement which are bad in  
places.

Sheep are all in first class  
condition and well woolled up  
shall expect a good lambing  
season.

Buttle and mares are also  
doing well as the young grass  
is now rapidly springing up

Sheep - Stealing; a very serious  
charge has been made against  
Mr McBlennan manager of the  
Leguanda Argentine, Rio Grande,  
by Mr A. D. Cameron of stealing  
sheep from Estancia "Dara". The  
McBlennan has given a written  
document confessing he is guilty  
of the robbery; it appears that  
Hans Hyslop a man who was  
employed on this section for a  
number of years, together with

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with another man are strongly suspected of having been paid by the Chilean so much as a hundred to bring strange sheep into his Estancia, when they are immediately clipped and their ears cut clean off which is the stamp of a robber, it is very possible that some of our sheep also W. Bay have been taken away at various times, as apparently this sort of thing has been going on for several years. I should think that it is necessary for all his neighbours to demand an inspection of his flocks and divide the sheep that have no legitimate mark amongst us according to our losses.

This man M.C. has frequently lured our men away by

by writing them or causing to be written letters promising higher wages, and now that he is proved to be a rogue should suggest that the sooner such a dangerous individual is placed where such actions are not possible, that it would be a great benefit to every sheep-farmer on this island.

Mr A. D. Cameron who found out this robbery is now on his way to Pt Arenas with hundreds acknowledgement in writing of having taken sheep from Estancia "Pare" and will endeavour to let him feel the utmost rigour of the law.

Steamer; We are now running short of stores and materials for the farm use, I trust a steamer will be round to this port before long.

Weather; Has been splendid here lately and the young grass.

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Luz. Pau Del. Leper  
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Grass is growing rapidly  
all over the camp.  
Having nothing further  
to add at present  
I am etc  
(Sg<sup>ra</sup>) G. C. Rigby  
por el administrador.

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Report for month of October  
Lesson Pan Relartion<sup>1900</sup>

Commenced work this month by repairing a few fences which were slightly damaged by the effects of the winter and clearing up the paddocks round about the settlement.

Cocks; Started taming a few of the cocks which were parted out from the mare's last month, there is a great demand for horses just now and it is necessary to tame all that we can even then we shall be short of them as the rapid increase of our sheep will require a lot of attention.

Mounte Parts; This month

we finish cutting posts etc  
 in the month I think that  
 we have sufficient to last  
 us several years as about  
 eighteen thousand are now  
 ready to be carted down  
 to the settlement, this is the  
 hardest part of the business  
 the distance being so great  
 from the Estancia and over  
 a bad track through boggy  
 camp, however shall send  
 up all the carts available  
 for the purpose and bring  
 down as many as possible  
 this summer (summer)

Steamer: The "Torino" arrived  
 here on the 22nd of this month  
 with her and her wood  
 aboard and some of the  
 English stores, but the  
 remainder will soon follow  
 as several of the principal  
 things required have not  
 arrived, and the remainder

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of the timber necessary for the completion of wool shed. has not yet been shipped whereby the work will be greatly delayed, had it arrived, the shed in all probability would have been of great service for the shearing this year. The vessel was heavily laden with goods for this Estancia, also Estancia "Para", and the Baluche at the Bay, the latter counted principally of liquors for this notable establishment on this Coy's freehold camp. All the cargo had to be carried ashore by hand, almost three hundred tons of it and a large quantity was considerably damaged by the treatment necessary to such

primitive methods of landing. While something is done to facilitate the discharging of steamers here it will always be a considerable loss of labour and material suggested some time ago in a report a simple and inexpensive contrivance, if this is not of any service perhaps a launch would be better, but it is certainly advisable to have something as soon as possible.

Sheep: We are all in A1 condition, do not think we have a really sheep on the Estancia out of a flock which will shortly represent 70 thousand head with this year's increase, are now putting up pens for lamb-marking in the San Martin Camp and by the general

appearance of all the flocks we can expect a very good full of lambs this season.

Weather: It has been very good this spring with an occasional heavy rainfall and very little wind which is an unpleasant necessity to dry up the camp.

Bay Track: I have now several gangs of men working on this road to make a final job of it, expect in a month or two it will be in good order. I have nothing further to add

I am etc  
(Sg<sup>a</sup>) G. R. Bigley (G. E. Bigley)

Copy

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Report for month of November 1900  
Section San Diego

Shipping: The "Torino" arrived at this port on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month with a good cargo, but not all for this Section as a part of it was for Estancia "Nara", and also a big supply of liquor for the liquor sellers, from which quarter we get all our trouble with drink.

The Steamer had a quick dispatch and left again on the 9<sup>th</sup>, it is quite easy to do the shipping from this port provided the boats come at the proper time and at full and change of moon when the tides are highest.

Woolshed: The cargo for this

this Section consisted chiefly  
 of timber and fencing battens,  
 the former for the woolshed  
 and pens, there are other  
 buildings to go up which  
 are necessary such as camp  
 houses and small shed for  
 the wool washing which  
 will be erected when the  
 woolshed is finished. There  
 have been two carpenters work-  
 ing at the shed nearly all the  
 month, but still the work is  
 much behind and only a part  
 of the new erection can be used  
 this season. I expect to start  
 shearing on the 12<sup>th</sup> December  
 shall only have room for  
 twelve shearers at the  
 commencement but hope about  
 the 20<sup>th</sup> to have space for  
 another six men.

The sheep are well woolled  
 this season but are not fit  
 for shearing yet as the

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Weather has been so cold.

Lamb marking: This was started on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month but not finished until the 23<sup>rd</sup> as the bad weather was so against the job, the increase is good, number marked being 24,149 lambs, averaging 103% throughout the flocks, the percentage of lambs amongst the old ewes was 112% but the younger ewes (not Hoggets) spoil the average having an ~~average~~ increase only of 79% which is chiefly owing to them being all young ewes and also the rains which went to that flock were young and in poor condition as they were brought just before they were wanted for use as there were not sufficient on this station for the demand.

Each year I can see more plainly the necessity of having some pure bred rams imported for this Station as we cannot breed good sheep from bad ones, and our neighbours will never sell anything but their worst rams which does not give this Station any chance of improving the wool. If a pure bred stud flock was kept on this Station (the same as most others on the Islands) the farmer could then change one with the other and likewise improve the flocks, but up to the present not one pure bred sheep has been brought for San Sebastian, which is I believe the only farm in Terra del Fuego without pure bred rams, and the few

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1/2 B. and 1/4 B. sheep, which have been bought from our neighbours were none of the best, and as there is now a wool-classer on the Station a better sample will be expected, and the charges on classing good wool are no more than on the bad, therefore I beg of the Company to reconsider this question which I have mentioned in many of my former reports.

Rio Grande Sheep Stealing: On account of the sheep stealing which has been taking place from that direction, it was arranged and approved of by the manager at the "Reguinda Argentina" that this Section as well as Wireless Bay sent each a map to represent the Sections with a view of



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Would it not be better to build a shed for it another year? as the wet weather which we get in this country sometimes during December and January must do it a certain amount of harm, and any care it cannot improve it and the shed would <sup>need</sup> neither lining or flooring but simply lime and flooring.

Mareadas:

This month there have been overhauled, branded all the young animals, and castrated the horse colts etc the mares are rather later this year before foaling, the new stud from Buenos Aires is now in good order.

I bought one stud this month from Wrekers Bay 1/2 B. off the horse which came from Valparaiso for that section.

Weather: November has been a terrible month for bad weather there has been a large quantity of rainfall and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month we had from four to five inches of snow fall on the flat which remained on the ground for 24 hours, consequently the outside work has been much delayed, the carting from the Monte has been very slow, making sometimes only 1 trip a week. Let us hope next month will be dryer so as to make up for some of the lost time.

(P. 21) N. G. Wood,

Copy.

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(ESTRECHO DE MAGALLANES)

Report for month of December 1900  
Section Tan Sebastian

Thearing: I started this work on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December being a little earlier than anticipated, but with only twelve (12) shearers on the board, as the new part of the shed was not ready, but have since made room for six (6) men more, although only four pens have been taken yet, but expect soon to fill up the others.

The runs came in for clipping first with very fair fleeces, clean but very light in weight, and the wethers followed on, being much about the same in

in condition; all the wool  
 so far is beautifully clean, but  
 very light and springy in  
 the bale, consequently cannot  
 get much weight in the  
 bale but there are no means  
 of getting them heavier or  
 smaller, as we have already  
 broken two (2) plungers (rams)  
 and one (1) steel rope in try-  
 ing to make a better bale,  
 but considering all I think  
 they are as good as this  
 press can turn out. The  
 locks, belly, and dirty fleece  
 wool is heid over for  
 washing after the shearing.  
 "Torms"  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; This steamer called  
 again with some material  
 for building on the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec  
 and loaded back with the  
 wool which was then  
 ready at the beach by 153  
 bales and 33 bales skins.

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Wool Washing: As soon as the shearing is finished this work will take place, but in the meantime, a shed, or in addition to the woolshed has to be erected, and a ditch cut by means of getting water to the shed must be done, and when completed, I think will answer <sup>very</sup> well as it will be a great advantage to wash the wool at the woolshed, instead of carting it to and fro to the stream, for that purpose, the ditch will cost about \$500.- for cutting being a little more than I anticipated, but will quickly pay for doing.

Route Work: There are now four (4) carters at work bringing  
- ing.

down ports at a slightly reduced price of 3<sup>cs</sup> per port, with this number of carts at work there I shall soon have a nice lot of ports at the Station for fencing etc. Two more carters have the wool-contract to the beach at 9<sup>o</sup> per bale (being 10<sup>o</sup> per bale cheaper than last year) and return with a full cargo from the port,

Fencing: This was started on the 27<sup>th</sup> December which is a very late beginning, and have only three (3) men on the work, the cause of delay is owing to repairing and altering pens at the woolshed and much delay from bad weather, but during the last fortnight we have experienced better weather, which is a great help to the work which is now going on

(S'g'a) N. G. Wood.