

Report for month of April 1899  
Seccion San Sebastian.

Fencing: This work has been at a standstill all the month, the wire ran out, so the men were otherwise employed, repairing some fencing which was damaged by guanaco. I have borrowed from Estancia "Pava" 87 coils of wire, which will be erected during May. I could not get carts and carters to bring from that settlement the six tons as arranged, so now the fencing for this year will soon be finished.

Movings: I have had planted at the Bay two large posts, well set in the ground, for the convenience of the shipping.

Carts: All the carts have been busy getting down posts and firewood from the Monte, the camp houses have all their winter supply at their doors. The tracks are now  
overleaf.

breaking up very fast, especially the one from the Monte.

Rams; These were turned out to the flocks on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and <sup>(turned)</sup> were a better lot of rams than those of last year.

200 were bought from the Caleta Josefa section, the best of which I have put with 500 of the best ewes I have on the Station, and which will be kept as a stud flock.

This section is much handicapped by not having a few purebreds to breed up from. I sold to Estancia "Dara" 140 rams this month.

There has been no clipping to do, but it is hard to say what the next month will bring.

Yours faithfully  
Ogden G. Wood.

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Junta Arenas,

1899

Report for the month of May 1899  
Veron San Sebastian

Dipping: During this month I dipped 12000 of the Hoggets with the result of only three cases of seal among them, this is the second time they have been clipped, but expect to give them one more in June or July.

The Hoggets are not all feeding together as there is not one camp large enough to carry them, the remaining 4000 are now in the Argentine Camp, but will soon have to be moved to another, as that piece of ground lies too low during the winter and spring, most of it now is under water.

When clipping these Hoggets again, I shall part off the wethers from the ewes, and keep them separated, the wethers will go out to the new camp which is partly fenced in, and the ewes will remain in the San Martin Camp, by having these parted

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all the wethers will come to the shed for shearing together, and then the ewes which is better than being mixed.

Taking all the sheep together they are in far better condition at the present time than they were at this time last year, there certainly was more clipping last year, which always keeps the condition down, and the weather was then far colder than we have yet had it, for so far we have had very little frost, but three falls of snow, and since that tremendous rainfall which has been rather advantageous to the high camps than otherwise.

Fencing; Fifteen (15) miles more or less have been erected this season 1908 & 1909 of which about (12) twelve miles run parallel to the Tanu Maru river dividing two flocks as the river does not surmount as a boundary.

The line to be fenced in next spring is in the North easterly direction from the Settlement, and will strike the Argentine boundary at right angles, near about Pyramid No 14.

There will be some useless ground enclosed in the shape of lagoons, but which cannot be avoided, the next block will be all good camp again.

Monte; all the carting from the Monte is finished for this winter, during the last time the carts were there for firewood they were delayed ten days through bad weather, and when they did return their loads were small, which was not to be wondered at, as tracks then were very bad, and now are far worse; the carting from the Bay is done under great difficulty although a lot of time has been spent in improving the road.

9/2 "Torino" This steamer called in with a cargo on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the month, bringing a small supply of provisions for the winter and other necessaries, but did not have the same luck as before, owing to bad easterly gales, bad anchorage, cable parting etc; the

overleaf.

Report  
Jan. Feb.  
May.

1111

the vessel was left high up on the beach, where she is now and will have to remain until higher tides float her again.

To uphold the good name of San Sebastian Bay as a Port for steamers I should advise a good mooring or buoy was placed in the Bay, opposite to the shed more or less 100 fathoms out from the beach so as steamers when wishing to get away could haul off to, instead of having to trust to small anchors and thereby running great risk of them dragging, and the vessel being left in the same predicament as the steamer "Torino" is now.

To enable the vessel to float the Captain has discharged all his cargo which was for other ports, and it is not expected to be taken on board the "Torino" again, as the propellers are disabled to a certain extent, thereby being unfit to complete the remainder of her contract. She will therefore proceed direct to Punta Arenas as soon as she leaves the beach,

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V  
Junta Arenas, 189

Comisaria; This establishment which was formerly situated at the Baranco is now stationed at our buildings at the Bay. The Comisario has the use of one of the houses belonging to this Section there, until the new Comisaria buildings are erected.

Having the Police force so near (to) has its advantages as well as disadvantages, one of the advantages is, when there are any men at all unmanageable, they can at once be taken charge of by the Soldiers, and a disadvantage is the number of guanaco hounds which are kept by the force are frequently seen in the sheep-camp alone, and which are capable of doing a deal of damage when not checked.

There is also another small Establishment to be erected at the Bay shortly, namely an Hotel and liquor-selling business, which will undoubtedly be a great nuisance to this Section, and affect the Store trade on the Station considerably.

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however we may find the Comisaria  
a great assistance if this Hotel  
is the cause of much trouble with  
the men on the Station. At present  
I do not believe the land has been  
granted for that building, as the  
permission has to be obtained through  
the Head of Police, who is Mr Pizzoli  
now.

Yours faithfully  
(Sgd) H. G. Wood.

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Junta Arenas, ..... 189

Report for month of June 1899.  
Seccion San Sebastian

Dipping; I brought the first flock of ewes to the dip for their winter bath, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, the weather being more settled I decided to give each flock a dip now which is more a preventative, than a case of necessity.

It is best if it can be arranged to dip the ewes not later than June or July for after that the ewes become heavy in lamb, and often is the cause of many deaths, with a smaller increase in the Spring, besides pulling the sheep down in condition, but this cannot always be ~~arranged~~ done, not if there is much seal in the flock, the dip which I am using now is "Farrells Tobacco Powder" mixed with a little "Coopers Powder", a combination of which I have not much faith in, but as the flocks overleaf,

are clean I believe this bath will serve them until next shearing.

It is my firm belief there is no other dip so effective as Little's Fenid in barrels, especially when used at this time of the year, that being the dip I cured Seal with on this Section, and still maintain it to be the best and cheapest in the end.

Wool-flock; I have drawn out this winter and kept apart five hundred (500) of the best ewes there are on the Station to serve as a wool-flock, with fifteen (15) of the best rams, but as the present sheep of this country are too near bred it would be ~~inconvenient~~ a great assistance to Jan Sebastian to do as is done on the other Section viz to import a few pure-bred Lincoln & Merino rams, as the flock of sheep is growing now, and extra rams will be required each year would it not be better to have in readiness for next seasons use some pure blood which has the making of a larger

frame and more wool, and of a better quality.

Shipping. The steamer "Torino" which was chartered here left for Punta Arenas on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, after a detention of 21 days, although she was much damaged she delivered safely the cargo she took from this Port.

I am very anxious that the steamer with the English cargo will arrive here early in the Spring, for last year the boat did not come until November, and as so wet a summer and autumn followed a great quantity of work was neglected.

The carting during some months was carried on under the greatest difficulty on account of bad tracks, the working months in this country are very few, and unless everything possible is done to facilitate the advancement of the work, it is impossible to keep ahead of the flock with the fencing etc, and make up for the lost time and months when the work cannot be done,

Building; A new fence has been erected in the Camp, north westerly direction from the settlement, the Wether Hoggets are going out to that camp in a few days more, it is not fenced yet, two sides remaining open still, but it is necessary to put some sheep out there this winter, as there is not enough camp inside the fencing.

Horses & Oxen; These animals are in very good condition still, the horses rather better the oxen as there has been rather much carting from the Bay just lately, and the track has been terrible.

There is still plenty of hay to last this winter, which is a great help to the animals when they are working.

Weather; The first fortnight in this month continued very wet, as the month before, but the latter part has been dry with hard frosts at night, the streams during this time have had an opportunity of running down a little, but are still very much swollen and from appearance the camps will be very heavy and wet in the coming Spring.

(Sig'a) N. G. Wood

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Copy

Punta Arenas, ..... de 1

Report for month of July 1899  
Region San Sebastian

Climate: July has been the worst month I remember seeing in this country, there have been very heavy falls of snow, and terribly severe frosts at night, causing the snow to remain all the month on the ground, with no sign at present of a thaw; during the snowstorms there were heavy winds, which were the cause of large drifts completely burying most of the fences in places and pens + corrals around the settlement.

Stock: Up to the present there have been no losses amongst the stock, and it is marvellous how the sheep have lived during this bad time, as there has been no trace of grass on the low lands for a long time, and on the range the bushes are quite covered up with snow.

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11 Report July. Jan. Feb.

The stock being in such good condition this winter has been a great assistance to them during this month, but it is hard to say how the sheep will manage through August if this weather still continues.

I have been fortunate this year having so little dipping to do, which is the reason of the sheep being in such good condition, there are yet about 16000 which I want to dip during August if weather allows, as they have only been dipped once since shearing.

Troop: A troop of six (6) horses cleared out from the New House at the Plain, during this bad weather, and have not been found since, two men are now in search of them and have been away over a week.

Mount: On the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month the fencers went to the Mount, with the intention of cutting some timber, but they have not cut many boards as the weather has been too bad.

Two carters went up the same time to drag out posts, but they soon had to return, as there was no grass for the oxen.

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111  
Punta Arenas, ..... de 1 Jul.  
Report July 1<sup>st</sup> 1911

Carts: It is very difficult to get carts strong enough for this country, somehow or other they all seem to go in the axle, one more was broken this month at the Monte, and two in the settlement, which make three carts now useless.

I suppose the frozen ground has a lot to do with the breakage, it is not for want of grease, as some may imagine, as I have been most particular about that this winter.

All the carting ought to be finished with at the end of May, but it is seldom that one can manage that when the summers are so bad as our last which throws the work all behind; having so much carting from the Monte necessitates having more carts, which it will be necessary for me to have in the spring, with the two axles which I sent to Punta.

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Report July Jan. Feb.

Areas to be mended, otherwise  
without the necessary carts the  
work cannot be carried on as it  
should, as the working months  
in this country are so few  
compared with the winter  
months.

(Signed) J. G. Wood.

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San Sebastián

Punta Arenas, August de 1899.

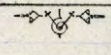
Monthly Report for August

During the month very little work has been done owing to the very severe weather.

Sheep. The Hoggets I had on hand on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for reason of porting the wethers away from the ewes as the Camp was not large enough to carry the whole of them: the wethers are now feeding outside the San Sebastián North fence, called the Plain Camp owing to the flatness of the Country in that direction.

The Hoggets were very weak when turned out especially the ewes. I expect there will be many deaths amongst them in the Spring, for when they lie down at night time their wool freezes to the snow, and many of them have not strength to get up in the morning.

Amongst the old ewes in the Cuñadon Grande Camp there have been a few deaths this month - half a dozen or so were found buried in the snow & about fifty dead besides and in the adjoining called 'Swan Camp' where the fencing is all covered up with snow, the ewes have been walking over the



fence & mixing with the wetters. on the other side of the fence belonging to the Caleta Josefina Section, & some of the wetters have come into the ewe camp - there are lots of places where the fence cannot be seen at all from 2 to 300 yards at a stretch.

Animals

The working horses & oxen are very poor now, & I have no more hay for them: the troupe which was lost has been found & brought back again. The work this Spring will be more backward than ever, as it will be quite impossible to cart from the Moule for it at the earliest another month & that is where most of the work lies -

Every year there is more to be done on this section & worse seasons to do it in: for the late years the Winter months have been getting longer & the Summer ones shorter, thereby hindering the advancement of the work.

Yeners

These two men have been at the Moule all the month cutting some boards & posts but they have not been able to do much on account of the snow

111

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Punta Arenas, ..... de 1

The last bad weather we had in this month came on the 27<sup>th</sup> + 28<sup>th</sup> bringing a lot more snow + dripping into every crack + crevice in the buildings: so we are now about to begin our Spring with about 6" inches of snow on the flat, and 6' ft. on the ranges. I hope all the rough weather has come now for this winter & that we shall get some change next month - in September.

Yours faithfully  
'82' A. G. Wood

Report for month of September 1899  
Finca San Sebastian

The weather this month was a very little better than that of August, there was a lot of rain and snow up to the last week, then we had just a couple of days of sunshine.

Lambing: This commenced about the 15<sup>th</sup>, being terrible weather at the time, and a good many of the lambs died as well as some of the oldest of the ewes, which die off every winter, but I do not expect a heavy loss this spring as the sheep on the whole were in the best of condition to stand the winter owing to the little handling they had since last shearing.

If there had been scab among the flock and dipping necessary, the losses this spring would have

overleaf.

been much greater, for it is the cleanliness of the sheep which has saved the lives of a good many.

It is early yet to say for what of a lambing there will be, but up to the present there seems to be a fair fall among the ewes lambed.

Manada: Most of the mares are looking very well, and there are about eight (8) foals already.

I drew off twenty (20) horse colts for breaking in October, they are rather small, but as I am short of horse flesh they will be turned earlier than they would otherwise have been.

The two (2) studs which were running with the old manada I have taken away, and have placed one of quite a different breed with the mares, and hope to obtain another from the section Caleta Josefina to fill the other place.

The stud from Buenos Aires has been in good condition all the winter, and feeding with the mares, next spring there will be some of his colts to come.

Cows: These have been feeding

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—DE—  
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III.

Report Jan. Feb.  
September  
189 1899.

Junta Arenas,

on the north side of the range through the winter, and stood the rough weather very well.

I do not think there have been a dozen deaths since the last tally was taken in June.

Carting; no carting to speak of has been done this month, owing to bad tracks and weak oxen, they are poorer this spring than I have ever seen them, and also the horses are in a very bad condition, but it is not to be wondered at, the grass is very backward this spring, and so will all the work be, especially the fencing, for it will take at least two (2) or three months to repair the damages done to the fences before we start to erect any new ones.

Labour; The few peons have been working in the settlement doing a little pruning and also some ditching, and mending roads &c, there is however a

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Report Jan. Feb.  
September 1899.

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a deal of work yet on the roads  
especially that one through the  
vega which has been quite  
useless for some time owing to  
the large amount of water round  
about it.

Yours faithfully  
(Signed) H. G. Wood.

Copy.  
Junta Arenas, 189

Monthly Report for October 1899  
Region San Sebastian

Weather; This month the weather has been very fine and dry, there being a great deal of wind which has done a lot of good to the wet camps, it is only the rivers and vegas which are bad for water now, and sharp frosts every night which has kept the young grass back.

Carting; I have two or three carts working now bringing up parts from the Bay Settlement, some which remained there through the winter, and taking out material for lamb-marking pens in the camp. Nothing has been done at the Monte yet as the track is very bad and even still rather weak.

Shipping; The vessel arrived this month with cargo for the Station, although the stores and other materials were badly needed, it was November before.

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before any cargo for this Section arrived.  
When the shipping is left until November all the work (~~does~~) comes at once, and it often happens when men and carts are wanted for discharging they are away elsewhere, therefore the facilities for discharging a cargo after October are less than a month or so before.

Wooling: After this month there are not many ewes left to lamb, so from the appearance now there will be a good increase this year, the marking will commence about the 9th of next month November when I shall be able to give the exact figures respecting that work, the ewes have picked up in condition for they were very weak at beginning of spring. The haggets are very old for getting down on their backs this spring more so than any year I remember thereby losing a few extra wools. Shepherds are more careful in seeing all their camp each day these sheep (the haggets) have got very good fleeces for the time of year which may be the reason of them getting down so much they ought to

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Rep. Oct. Jan. Feb. 111  
Punta Arenas, ..... de 1

to cut good weight at shearing time.  
Mamadas y These animals are all  
Cattle looking well and a good  
many of them have their foals and  
calves at their sides, the marking  
will take place after shearing.  
Washing in particular has taken  
place this month, labour so far is  
plentiful round this way and I do  
not think there will be any scarcity  
of shearers for this season's clip.  
Yours faithfully  
Ed. M. G. Wood.