

[The information contained in the within Appendix (D) was furnished, at the request of the Chairman, by Mr. James Stirling, the Land Officer of the Omeo district, whose local experience gives great weight to his views. It is very valuable, as presenting an epitome, in the most succinct and convenient form, of all matters which it was desirable to be acquainted with for the purpose of the Commission's Report. It, in fact, constitutes Mr. Stirling's evidence given in the most detailed and elaborate manner within his power.

WM. J. O'HEA,
Chairman of the Commission.]

APPENDIX D.
 OMEO SURVEY DISTRICT.

No.	Name of Run.	Lessee.	Area.	Rental.	Selected.	Sold.	Reserved.	Approximate Area suitable for Selection.	Approximate Area for Grazing.	Inferior Grazing Land.	Climate.	Soil.	Vegetation.	Physical Conformation.	General Remarks.
1	Benambra ..	Jas. Pendergast	Acres. 20,000	£ s. d. 57 10 0	Acres. ..	Acres. ..	Acres. 320	Acres. 5,000	Acres. 12,000	Acres. 2,000	Cold, liable to late frosts; snow lies in surrounding peaks two and three months during depth of winter.	Rich black on flats along Benambra Creek; rather shallow loam on surrounding ranges.	Splendid herbage on open flats during summer months; surrounding ranges thickly timbered with gum and well grassed.	Open marshy flats along Benambra Creek; sloping spurs, steep in places proceeding from higher ranges forming watershed of Benambra Creek; generally mountainous country.	Used at present as a cattle run; good agricultural land along flats on Benambra Creek; good field for selection, the severity of the climate the only drawback. This run could stand subdivision into two or three smaller grazing areas with the flats for agriculture. Adjoins Lucumbra.
2	Bindi..	Wilson, Dougherty, and Co.	70,590	225 0 0	3,733	2,227	701	4,000	50,000	8,000	Moderate genial springs rather warm during summer months.	Light and dark chocolate, occasional limestone hills, alternating deep and shallow on valleys and surrounding ranges rather barren in places.	Timbered with she-oaks, acacias, honey-suckles, and native cherry-trees on limestone area, all well grassed; in spring; good spitting timber River.	Graduating swelling limestone hills, lying a natural amphitheatre, surrounded by high partly scotic ranges; granite ranges forming watershed of Tumbo River.	Used as a sheep run for which it is well adapted; well watered; becomes parched up in hot summers; selection still going on; would stand subdivision into four or five sheep-grazing areas. Adjoins Tumbalongumje.
3	Buenbra (let under Land Act 1869)	J. Murphy ..	45,000	20 0 0	..	..	..	2,000	30,000	12,000	Cold, similar to Benambra; owing to difference of elevation it is slightly cooler.	Good black fertile soil on flats along Gibbo Creek; moderately good coating of loam on surrounding ranges.	Similar to Benambra, but more undergrowth in valleys.	High ranges surrounding thickly timbered flats on Gibbo Creek; ranges rather steep; peaks attain an elevation of 3,000 feet.	Cattle run; the flats, although fertile, are not altogether suitable for selection owing to late frosts; moderately good grazing country; could stand subdivision into two or three cattle-grazing areas. Adjoins Benambra.
4	Bundaramunje (let under L. A. 1869)	J. Higgins and O. Young	37,000	30 0 0	..	78	..	2,000	30,000	5,000	Cold, similar to Benambra.	Moderate depth of alluvium on flats along Bundara River, not of any extent; sloping spurs from Begong High Plains covered with volcanic soil.	Moderately thickly timbered; well grassed; scrubby in places.	Cattle run; no agricultural land worth mentioning; as a rule, good grazing land; snow lies on ranges towards High Plains during winter; good summer country; might be subdivided into two cattle-grazing areas to advantage. Adjoins Bingumunje.	
5	Bugomunje ..	G. and T. Worcester	About 30,000	62 10 0	..	..	..	1,500	27,000	2,000	Cold; late frosts very prevalent.	Good brown and black loam on ranges.	Broken rangy country; comprises watershed of Bingomunje Creek. Adjoins Bundaramunje.	Cattle run; would hardly stand subdivision for pastoral purposes.	
6	Black Mountain (let under L. A. 1869)	E. O'Rourke ..	40,000	10 0 0	..	..	..	2,000	20,000	18,000	Cold snowy country	Decomposed trap rocks, shallow on ranges.	Broken rangy country; some open sloping flats of limited extent.	Moderately good summer run; valueless in winter on account of snow.	
7	Beecher's Hill (let under L. A. 1869)	M. Mackintosh	160,000	7 10 0	..	..	..	..	20,000	140,000	Similar to Birregun	..	..	All rough mountainous country; valueless for any purpose except grazing with a large area.	
8	Birregun (let under L. A. 1869)	H. O'Reilly ..	23,000	23 0 0	..	..	..	1,000	20,000	2,000	Cold on ranges; moderately warm in valleys.	Inferior shallow loam on ranges; a few small flats on Wentworth River.	Moderately grassed; hand rather thickly timbered in places.	Cattle run; comparatively valueless country; on the Wentworth by packers trading between Onco and Dargo.	
9	Begong High Plains (let under L. A. 1869)	H. and J. Campbell	90,000	25 0 0	..	..	..	30,000	30,000	30,000	Cold bleak snowy country; snow lies to a depth of 12 feet during winter; generally seven months snowy weather.	Rich volcanic	All well grassed; slopes covered in parts with low stunted gum in belts; moderately timbered open country on slopes towards Bundara and Bundara rivers.	High undulating table-land, 6,000 feet above sea level; steep fall towards Little River and headwaters of Cobangra, Bundara, and Big rivers; abounding in steep moss beds.	This is the coldest region in Victoria; upon this plain is situated Mount Begong, 6,500 feet above sea level, and surrounding it are Mounts Feathertop, Hotham, Copc, and Wills. The proprietors use it as a summer run for cattle, transferring them from the lower lands during November, and bringing them back in March. This appears to be the only legitimate use to which this piece of country can be put; stock cannot exist on it for four months in the year.
10	Culgarnudi North (let under L. A. 1869)	John O'Reilly ..	22,000	18 12 0	..	..	..	1,000	10,000	11,000	Varied, cold, and moderately warm.	Inferior decomposed schistose.	Stringy-bark ranges, moderately well grassed.	Rough mountainous country.	Would hardly stand subdivision for pastoral purposes.

	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Cattle run.	Cattle run; generally inferior grazing land; too steep and mountainous.	Cattle run; is adapted for sheep; good available land for agriculture on flats in gum forest; well grassed. Adjoins Tamgumunji.	Cattle run; although the soil on the plains is well adapted for agriculture, the severity of the climate would interfere with agricultural operations; selection still going on in this locality. This is on the road between Omeo and Bright. Adjoins Hinmumjie.	Cattle run, similar to Cobungra East; selection still going on. Adjoins Darbarly.	Cattle run; very little land remaining suited for agriculture, the flats along Dargo River having been sold down to the water's edge; might be subdivided into two smaller areas. Adjoins Dargo.	Well adapted for grazing during summer months; snow falls heavily during winter; situated on Omeo and Bright road; would stand cutting up into three summer grazing areas. Adjoins Cobungra West.	All the richest land on Dargo Flat has been sold down to the water's edge, thus making the back range country comparatively valueless for selection. The selectors here are principally residents who have increased their holdings. Cattle run. Adjoins Cuigumundi.	Cattle run. The proprietor of these plains uses them during summer months, taking his stock down the ledges on to Dargo River during winter. This run might stand subdivision into six summer grazing areas. Adjoins Darbarly.	Not suited for agriculture; too mountainous; the flats along Wonnaungatta River are too small. Cattle run.	The best flats along Tambo River have been sold down to the water's edge. This is a splendid spring run; becomes parched up in summer; selection still going on; could be subdivided into four or five smaller grazing areas. The pick of the run is purchased, and the next in value reserved under 110th section. Sheep run, with 1,200 head of cattle. Adjoins Cassillas.
	Similar to Cuigumundi North	Rather inferior on ranges; good depth of alluvium on flats along Dargo River which are only of moderate extent.	Varied, principally decomposed schistose; good brown soil on undulating ranges in gum forest and along flats of Swift's Creek; rather barren on ranges.	Rich black on Victoria Plains; good chocolate on slopes from High Plains.	Generally poor, except flats along Dargo River, which are exceedingly fertile.	Volcanic dark chocolate; steep bare rocky ledges towards Dargo River.	Rich black soil on flats along Dargo River; most fertile in the district; shallow decomposed schistose on ranges.	Rich volcanic and chocolate and black soil on High Plains; rather bare on steep slopes towards Dargo and Crooked rivers; good depth of alluvium on flats along Dargo River.	Poor soil on snowy plains; moderate depth of alluvium on flats along Wonnaungatta River.	Good brown on ranges; chocolate and black on flats along Tambo and Little River and tributaries.	All well grassed; covered along valley of Little River with belts of she-oaks, wattles, native cherry, and gum trees.
	Moderately cold	Moderately warm	Cold; snow falls heavily during winter months; liable to late frosts.	Similar to Cobungra East; slightly colder in parts towards High Plains, owing to difference of elevation.	Moderately warm; snow lies on surrounding peaks during depth of winter.	Colder than Cobungra. Snow lies on table-land during winter months; liable to late frosts.	Surrounding ranges cold and bleak; warm spring along Dargo River.	Too severe for selection, owing to snow and late frosts.	Moderately cold	Warm; liable to become parched up during summer months.	
	7,900	18,000	1,300	2,000	18,208	5,000	7,733	71,000	50,000	41,261	
	5,000	20,000	9,000	8,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	30,000 in summer time; 10,000 in winter.	50,000	60,000	
	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	If climatic influence could be overcome about 10,000, would be available for selection.	2,000	About 20,000 if climate could be overcome.	1,698	6,000	
	316	296	188	60	6	..	100	80	302	633	
	50	30	..	31	476	..	300	..	..	1,198
	200	181	687	687	670	..	1,337	..	..	2,686
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	
	18,900	40,000	12,300	12,728	37,450	30,000	21,470	121,000	103,680	101,788	
	M. Mackintosh (let under L. A. 1869)	J. McDonald and P. Long	C. Hayward	H. and C. Mass	J. Parslow	M. Mackintosh	(let under L. A. H. Box 1869)	D. Connolly and J. Whitbourne	A. and W. E. Jones (let under L. A. 1869)	C. S. Holmes	H. and J. Campbell
	Cuigumundi West	Cassillas	Cobungra East	Cobungra West	Cuigumundi	Darbarly	Dargo	Dargo	Dargo	Eaglevale	Ensay

APPENDIX D.—OMEO SURVEY DISTRICT—continued.

Name of Run.	Lessee.	Area.	Rental.	Selected.	Sold.	Reserved.	Approximate Area suitable for Selection.	Approximate Area for Grazing.	Inferior Grazing Land.	Climate.	Soil.	Vegetation.	Physical Conformation.	General Remarks.
		Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.					
22 Forlorn Hope (let under L. A. 1869)	E. O'Rourke	29,000	21 0 0	..	..	..	1,500	10,000	18,000	See Black Mountain, which adjoins this	..	..	..	Cattle run; cold and bleak in winter.
23 Gillinall	S. and H. Riddell	About 30,000. Area not exactly known; the boundaries are too ambiguous.	62 10 0	..	..	..	3,000 Principally along valley of Timbarra and Wilkinson rivers.	17,000	10,000	Hot; during summer months becomes very much parched up.	A great portion of this run consists of ranga limestone hills with a thin coating of light chocolate soil; some good black soil on flats along tributaries of Timbarra River.	Good grass land; moderately timbered with gum; tops of higher ranges rather barren in places, with stringybark and mountain-ash.	Rough abrupt ranga country, with flats of limited extent along the Timbarra River and its tributaries.	The soil on flats is rich (and climate is suited for agriculture), but there is no extent of it (i.e., the flats); used as a cattle and sheep run combined. Adjoins Eussy.
24 Gibbo	M. Crawford and J. D. Carmody	110,700	62 10 0	..	..	..	3,000	40,000	67,000	Cold	Shallow on ranges; moderate depth of loam in valleys.	Well grassed in valleys; tops of ranges rather barren, and covered in parts with scrub.	Ranga mountainous country, well intersected with small streams.	The areas suitable for agriculture are along Gibbo Creek and Mitta Mitta River; no available good access to this country; used as a cattle run.
25 Glenmore	H. G. Biggs	About 30,000. Area unknown, owing to ambiguity in boundaries.	25 0 0	..	..	..	2,000	15,000	13,000	Same as Gillingall.	..	..	..	Cattle run.
26 Hinmounjje	Wilson, Dougherty, and Co.	138,857	725 0 0	6,800	1,400	600	15,000	60,000	49,957	Rather cold in winter; genial spring. Snow lies for weeks on surrounding peaks and Dividing Range.	Very varied; rich black on flats along Mitta Mitta River. Livingstone Creek and tributaries; and good depth of light-brown on undulating ranges flanking Great Dividing Range.	All well-grassed land; lightly timbered on lower lands with gum; heavily timbered on surrounding ranges.	Undulating ranges flanking Great Divide, and broken ranga country forming watershed of Livingstone Creek; some rich alluvial flats along Livingstone Creek.	Omco township is within this run; used as a cattle and sheep run combined; could stand subdivision into a number of smaller holdings; selection is going on rapidly in this locality, notably around Omco township and on undulating ranges near Omco Plains. Adjoins Omco E.
27 Jungle Creek (let under L. A. 1869)	J. Nolan	15,000	8 0 0	..	..	..	1,000	10,000	4,000	Cold	Rocky and rather shallow.	Inferior grazing land; ranges covered with dense pleasant scrub.	Rough precipitous mountain country; watershed of Jungle Creek and Crooked River.	Used for cattle.
28 Limestone	J. Pennington	45,000	30 0 0	..	..	..	5,000	30,000	10,000	Cold bleak snowy country.	Fine dark chocolate along Limestone Creek; shallow loam on ranges.	Good grass land; ranges covered in parts with native hop.	Ranga mountain country; small open sloping flats on table-land along wide ranges; open flats varying from half a mile to a mile on Limestone Creek.	Used for cattle. The winter months are very severe, and late frosts very prevalent.
29 Mitta West	Wilson, Dougherty, and Co.	54,450	62 10 0	..	..	..	4,000	80,000	20,000	Similar to Limestone	Parts composed of light coating of loam and parts basaltic rocks.	Moderately well grassed, and thickly timbered with gum.	Broken and abrupt mountainous country, with some flats of limited extent along Mitta Mitta River and some of its tributaries.	The climate would interfere with agriculture, except on the flats along Mitta Mitta River, which are of limited extent. There is some very fair mountain country on this run; used as a cattle and sheep run. Adjoins Hinmounjje.
30 Mountain Lodge (let under L. A. 1869)	J. Gould	25,000	30 0 0	320	..	..	5,000	10,000	10,000	Not quite so cold as Limestone.	Good volcanic soil on undulating ranges along Morass Creek; higher surrounding ranges covered with loam; outcrops of rocks, granitic.	Well grassed; rather thickly timbered in parts; tops of ranges covered with native hop.	Rolling ranges flanking Mitta Mitta, with some undulating flats along Morass Creek, with a small area of rich thickly timbered table-land.	Cattle run; selection has commenced in this locality, extending onwards from Omco Plains settlement. Adjoins Omco A.
31 Mount North	H. Christian and W. C. Peterson	57,500	20 0 0	..	..	..	2,000	30,000	25,500	Cold bleak barren snowy uplands.	Same as Gibbo, which adjoins this.	Same as Gibbo	..	Same as Gibbo, only this run is on opposite side of river.

TOTALS.

<p>No. of Runs.</p>	<p>43</p>	<p>Area and Licensee. Acres. 2,070,292</p>	<p>Rental. £ 3,988 8 8 s. d. 8 8</p>	<p>Selected. Acres. 38,055</p>	<p>Reservoir. Acres. 4,983</p>	<p>Soil. Acres. 7,931</p>	<p>Suitable for Selection. Acres. 166,698</p>	<p>Suitable for Grazing. Acres. 944,000</p>	<p>Inferior Grazing Land. Acres. 902,311</p>	<p>Climate. Generally the climate in this district is cold and moist, owing to the elevation; it is as a rule liable to late frosts and snow every winter, the highest peaks being covered for two months in the year, and the high table-lands for a longer period; but generally those lands north of the Dividing Range are colder than those south of it.</p>	<p>Soil. On the flats along the margin of the principal rivers there is a good depth of alluvial soil; on the undulating ranges, a good coating; and on the limestone and basaltic areas, a good depth of chocolate and black soils; but the largest area comprises shallow decomposed schistose and granitic formations. The soil, as a rule, is more of a sandy nature to the south than to the north of the Dividing Range.</p>	<p>Vegetation. As a rule well grassed mountain country; the timber south of the Dividing Range being more stringy-bark, mountain-ash, and box, while that north of it (the Divide), is more white gum, messmate; the acacias are more abundant south of the Divide than north of it; and, as a rule, more undergrowth and scrub south of the Dividing Range. The timber of the high table-lands consists of clumps of stunted gum scrub.</p>	<p>Physical Conformation. See under this heading in foregoing list.</p>
<p>There are several other runs named as being in the Omeo district; but I have simply included in my report those comprised within the boundaries of the survey district.</p>		<p>The total area may be a thousand acres more or less. The boundaries of the runs are in many cases so ambiguous that an accurate approximation of their areas is almost impossible, the gazetted areas being either in defect or excess of the true ones. An adjustment of these boundaries should be made in view of the continuance of the pastoral leases and licenses after 1880, in order to enable the department to arrive at a near approximation of the respective areas. This total is not that of the survey district, but simply the areas under license in this district.</p>	<p>It will be seen that although some of the runs are apparently assessed at their proper value, yet taking the total rents paid per annum for both runs and grazing license, the average amount paid is only a little over one farthing per acre per annum.</p>	<p>The principal areas selected are on the Omeo B, Omeo A, Hinmunnjie, Bindl, Knsay, Culgimundi, and Dargo runs.</p>	<p>The areas included in the above are chiefly 110 and 102 section reserves; but in addition to this there are mining reserves, consisting of three chains on each side of the Livingstone and Swift's Creek and part of the Mitta Mitta River, together with three chains along each side of the tributaries of the Mitchell River. As this reservation includes the only available river flats along the courses of these streams, action should be taken to simply reserve those particular localities known to be probably unproductive, which can easily be determined without needlessly absorbing the greatest part of the available river frontages.</p>	<p>The areas under this heading comprise the river frontages principally along the Tambo and Dargo rivers, where the land has been sold down to the water's edge, thus preventing the back country from being selected.</p>	<p>This includes the flats along the mountain gullies and the undulating ranges abutting on the principal streams in the district. The runs likely to be selected upon in the immediate future are Moun-tain Lodge, Benambra, Knsay, and Hinmunnjie.</p>	<p>This consists of more or less lightly timbered, well grassed mountain country, including the small flats along the watercourses. As will be seen by the preceding list, a large area of table-land which in summer has splendid herbage cannot in winter be utilized on account of snow, as Dargo High Plains, Bogong High Plains, &c.</p>	<p>Is composed of barren stringy-bark and mountain-ash ranges, rocky and sandy in different parts, and steep precipitous spurs and ranges, covered a good deal with native hop and undergrowth.</p>	<p>Generally the climate in this district is cold and moist, owing to the elevation; it is as a rule liable to late frosts and snow every winter, the highest peaks being covered for two months in the year, and the high table-lands for a longer period; but generally those lands north of the Dividing Range are colder than those south of it.</p>	<p>On the flats along the margin of the principal rivers there is a good depth of alluvial soil; on the undulating ranges, a good coating; and on the limestone and basaltic areas, a good depth of chocolate and black soils; but the largest area comprises shallow decomposed schistose and granitic formations. The soil, as a rule, is more of a sandy nature to the south than to the north of the Dividing Range.</p>	<p>As a rule well grassed mountain country; the timber south of the Dividing Range being more stringy-bark, mountain-ash, and box, while that north of it (the Divide), is more white gum, messmate; the acacias are more abundant south of the Divide than north of it; and, as a rule, more undergrowth and scrub south of the Dividing Range. The timber of the high table-lands consists of clumps of stunted gum scrub.</p>	<p>See under this heading in foregoing list.</p>