

C. S. O.

(Formerly)

SUBJECT:

CROP REPORTS.

0 5 7 9	0 5 7 9

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER AND YEAR.

No. 0579

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)



MINUTE.

15th December, 1947. L

To The Honourable, _____

The Colonial Secretary, _____

Stanley. _____

From The Officer-in-Charge,
Agricultural Department.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I feel that I must inform you of the damage done to our crops as a result of the recent frosts. The potatoes (about 3 acres) have been cut down completely to the ground, I would estimate about 25% loss of potatoes as a result of the frost.

About 15 to 20 acres of our oats have been flattened down, although these will grow up again it is bound to make a difference in our hay crop. As I have never seen oats frosted down at this time of the year I am unable to say to what extent it will effect the crop.

(cut hay)

pp
ABC
16.12

J. B. Browning
Officer-in-Charge.

21

YE

1. f. mly.

A. Bl
20/12

Sad.

INC. 20
xii

PA
A. Bl
22/12

No. 6/2/1

0579

MINUTE.

3

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)



2nd. January, 1948.

To The Honourable, *my friend*

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

From The Officer-in-Charge,
Agricultural Department.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Further to my minute of December 15th, 1947, regarding damage to crops by the frosts. I am now in a position to estimate the damage more accurately. Oats about 20% loss. Potatoes more than 50% loss.

V. serious & is not, I hope, general

J. B. Browning
Officer-in-Charge.

YH
3 with 1 of. The night loss is most serious: * in ~~the~~ ^{night} was the public that strange economy will be necessary? but ~~that~~ ^{we} feel they must retain this ~~on~~ ^{may} be well. *Call*

4
A.

Ought we to do anything about impatation in bulk
when the actual results of harvest are known?

$$\text{M.C. } \frac{5}{\frac{1}{48}}$$

B.

CA

R. advise, in conjunction with
O.I.C. Ag. Dept.

ABH
S.1

D.

H.C.S.

I have spoken to Mr. Browning, O.I.C. Ag. Dept., and we agree that potatoes can be purchased in bulk, and the distribution carried out by the Ag. Dept., if such action is found to be necessary upon harvest results being inadequate.

2. The main difficulty will be to find a reasonably cheap source of supply. South American potatoes cost 4d at source and retail here at the high price of 6d. The F.I.C. say that this is due mainly to the high % of waste and complain that it is hardly profitable to import potatoes from that source at all.

The /

only alternative source as far as I can see is the U.K. South Africa, New Zealand or Australia might be out of the question due to shipping difficulties? 5

Burb.
C.A.7.1.48.

There is a shortage in UK!

C.A.

Can you Mr. Browning estimate (by enquiries from the farms in the S.O.S.) what crop prospects will be?

able
9.

H.C.S.

The following replies have been received to our enquiries pl:

<u>W.Falk.</u>	Port Howard	"some loss but hope to have sufficient to meet needs".
	Fox Bay, East.	-do-
	Pebble Island.	-do-
	Roy Cove.	"crops not affected".
	Hill Cove.	"crop average".
<u>E.Falks.</u>	P.San Carlos.	"badly affected but hope to have sufficient to meet needs."
	Fitzroy.	40% loss.
	Teal Inlet.	50% loss est.
	San Carlos.	-do-
	Darwin.	-do-

2. From various enquiries made in the Town, I think it safe to assume the most people have lost nearly 50%. There are exceptions of course.

3. Mr. Browning and I would suggest a small trial shipment if it were ultimately decided to import from abroad.

Burb.
C.A.7.1.48.

Since the ration in U.K. is 3 lb. per head per week when we get here how is it what price?

I still think in the way the public. I have observed the tendency to feel potatoes in a most wasteful manner. In the end there will be a dire shortage.

Burb. will be blamed.
able
23/1

important to ...
in spirit of ...
the ...

A

6. O. & C. Ag. Dept. How would you suggest we meet the imminent potato shortage, pls

J. B. B. 23/1/48

Hon Col Sec

B

I would suggest small quantities at a time from S. America, say 5 or 7 tons, as is required.

J. B. B. O. & C. Dept 26/1/47

cc
1
1/10

C

7E. (on return)
4-6

I have spoken to C/C & O. & C. Ag. Dept. & it was agreed that importation from S. America shd. be left to the firms who, selling at 6/- per lb., only clear expenses. The high price of potatoes effectively limits use of foreign currency: since there is no likelihood of serious shortage of carbon hydrates we prefer that Govt. keeps clear of trading & importing in bulk.

2. Let it be at that?

A. B. E. 4.2

es. D. It looks like an overall shortage of 50%. Is Norwegian currency 'hard' or 'soft'? I am most reluctant to interfere in fashion marketing of potatoes if it can be avoided but do not wish the people to suffer through shortage of such an important article of their diet. 1948

A. B. E.

A.T.

Will you please answer A.C.'s query at 6 D.

[Signature]
19.2.48.

YE
[Signature]

6 D

Safe currency pt.

[Signature]
19/2.48

If we do get stuck we might ask whaling companies to bring some but they would be here before October by which time we shall be in sight of new harvest?

MC. B.
ii

(The Norwegian (Pasta) potatoes I have eaten about England).

[Signature]
24/2/48

YE.

1. i. Boston reported a 70% shortage of T.I. last evening - fears a grave shortage in Camp generally. He suggests Govt. importation + subsidy.

2. I have connected YE. C.A. O.T.C. As. Dept. Captain Roberts (F.I.C.) has arranged with the latter to keep up for 30 tons for N.2. in the forthcoming opportunity. He will see it a reasonable price to cover normal losses - will dis. from N.2. in bulk to the Camp

8

(I am going to speak to the Boston
about Camp demands) - retail
to Stanley. Govt. will subsidize
c 2° c lb. F.I.C. will see
to Govt. if requires it - cut
price.

3. I prefer this to Govt. entering
the market. Politically, it is sound
& may form a useful picture to
combat requests for increases C.O.C.B.

4. My conversation & agreement
with Capt. R. was of a 'gentleman'
character & I think he will help us
out to the best of his ability. If
by any chance in war time, it
will work the money (£560).

Abel
D. 4

works out at about 30 lbs per head of population.
I think it is a proper step to take.

MO 2iv

9

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

S E N T.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
				14. 4. 48.
To				
WESTERS FOX BAY				

Falkland Islands Company have ordered supply potatoes from New Zealand of which Government will subsidise sale price if necessary stop Grateful you inform me anticipated requirements for West having regard to failure of local crop stop They should arrive May.

See 11

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Time

LJH.

0579

10

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE MANAGER

ESTATE LOUIS WILLIAMS

SUCCESSORS TO CHAS WILLIAMS

ESTD 1863

GENERAL MERCHANTS

Ref/448/223

PORT STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS

RADIO ADDRESS
"WILLIAMS"
CODES USED
BENTLEYS
ABC 5TH ED.
A.I.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary
Stanley.

13th April 1948.

Sir,

re Potatoes.

We understand that there is going to be a serious shortage of potatoes in the Colony this year.

May we therefore bring to your notice what we wrote in our letter of 12th April 1946, addressed to the Competent Authority (Supplies).

"Prices as at 31st March 1946."

"Potatoes.

We are firmly of the opinion that the Colony can produce sufficient potatoes to meet the whole of its requirements.

Almost every house has garden attached where a sufficient crop of potatoes could be grown to amply meet the needs of inmates thereof.

People who will not till their gardens or pay others to till them for them, would have to buy potatoes from others, AND THE REMEDY IS TO DO AWAY WITH ANY LIMITATION OF RETAIL PRICE FOR POTATOES, or make it high, say 6d. per lb., and those people who will not till their gardens can pay accordingly.

There is one batch of Government owned houses here where no gardens have been provided for. We refer to the 8 houses on Davis Street commonly known as the 'Hodson Villas'. These people, and others similarly situated, could be assigned suitable garden plots elsewhere. "

Nothing was done on the lines suggested by us and no incentives provided (by doing away with limitation of prices) thus we reach a stage where those who can, and will, grow potatoes, only grow sufficient for their own immediate requirements, and this year owing to adverse conditions, the crop will be even smaller than usual. While those who cannot, or will not, cultivate a potatoe patch seem to contain a certain element of pilferers who are raiding others' gardens.

Yours faithfully,
p.p. Estate Louis Williams.

IA'd. 14/4/48
SA.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

SENT.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
				15. 4. 45.

To

WESTERS FOX BAY.

⁹
My telegram 14th April have received telegram from New Zealand stating vessel expected will not repeat not now be routed this way stop para 2 should nevertheless be grateful for reply to second sentence by telegram.

See 12

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Time

BW 22/4/48
 [Signature]

Copy sent S.O.A under complementary slip.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

12

RECEIVED.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
155	Fox Bay	56	09.20	19.4.48

To COLONIAL SECRETARY
STANLEY

WE STRONGLY PROTEST AGAINST ANY PUBLIC MONEY BEING USED TO SUBSIDISE THE SALE OF POTATOES THE LATEST AGRICULTURAL ADVISER INFORMED US THAT PLENTY OF POTATOES COULD BE GROWN IN THE COLONY AND EVEN EXPORTED AND AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THE FAILURE OF THIS SEASONS CROP IS MAINLY CONFINED TO STANLEY.

WESTERS

Time

See 11 Reply at 13

mp
AR
194

Copy to S.O.A. under complementary slip
GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

SENT.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed In at	Date
				20. 4. 48.

To

WESTERS FOX BAY

Owing

Your telegram 19th April Comparative failure this seasons crop due frost
Barton co-chairman Sheep Owners ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Association recommended and
Roberts other co-Chairman agreed potatoes be obtained for re-sale with
subsidy if necessary in interests primarily of Camp where they form
staple article food stop para 2 In view your telegram it is assumed
adequate supplies available West Falkland and no further action will be

taken.
Time

[Signature]
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

L.J.H.

204

A.

10 I believe that land is now all
taken by occupants of Hudson
Hills at the back (Common)
side of the houses?

Abler
21.4

B.

Office Ag. Dept.

A above. Can you say, pl.

Abler
21.4.48.

15
Hon Col Sec

Five of the occupants have cultivated some land attached to their respective houses, the other three have no male occupants.

J. B. B. O'c of Dept
22/4/48

0579

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

16

RECEIVED.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
184	Fox Bay etat	15	0910	21
To	Colonial Secretary	Stanley		

Potatoes owing to uncertainty of shipment we do not required any

Howard

ABC

B

Time