

SCIENTIFIC

(Forestry)

1923.

C.S.

No. 236/23

Forest Officer

SUBJECT.

1923

3rd April

Report on progress of Forest Trees  
in the Falkland Islands.

Previous Paper.

1923.

2

698/22

MINUTES.

*PA 24/4/23*

*Minute from Forest Officer of 3rd April 1923. Encl (1)*  
*Copy of Report by Forest Officer. Encl (1a)*

*Yr. submitted*

*with 4/4/23*

*Draft despatch submitted*

*by  
10 April 1923*

*Despatch to S. of S. no. 49 of the 11th April, 1923. Encl (2)*

*Yr. submitted  
by  
13 April 1923  
by  
13 April 1923*

Subsequent Paper.

*29 199/26*  
**326/21**

237/23

549/5

*S of S despatch no 69 of 22nd Aug. 1923 Encl (3)*



Y.E.  
I greatly regret that this despatch was  
not submitted to your Excellency in the  
ordinary way. I am quite unable to  
explain why it was overlooked.

W.H. 13  
- - - - -  
Di. Sec  
17 March 1924

Forest Officer

I send this kind to you as  
you are proceeding to the West at once  
I was certainly under the impression  
that the minute paper had been  
sent to you, but it has been  
overlooked

~~W.H.~~ 17 March 24

Di. Sec

Noted accordingly and returned

James Reid  
Forest Officer  
14<sup>th</sup> March 1924

PA.  
22/7/25



No.

MINUTE.

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

From *James Reid*.....

*Forest Officer*  
.....

To



THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Sir,  
I herewith beg to submit a report,  
on the progress of Forest trees in  
the Falkland Islands

I have the honour to be,

Sir,  
Your obedient servant  
*James Reid*  
*Forest Officer*

1a

1

Report on the progress of Forest trees  
in the Falkland Islands.

The condition of the various species of Forest trees imported in to the Falkland Islands have proved very unsatisfactory.

Practically all the broad leaved species except the Common Alder, Mountain Ash, and Sycamore have entirely failed.

A small percentage of the Alder have made several growths from the base ranging from 4 to 8 inches in length, <sup>and a few</sup> others are in good healthy condition and are in full leaf.

The Mountain Ash have not done so well, they have made very small growths from the base measuring 2 to 3 inches, the original stem having remained dormant.

The Sycamore are doing nothing, they came into full leaf, but were found to be rather scorched, the leaves were all burned brown and the young buds blackened.

The Common Ash, Birch, English Elm, Wych Elm, and Black Italian Poplar are all dead.

It was found on examining the roots of some of the dead plants, that they were in a state of decomposition, owing to the roots being surrounded by excessive moisture.



The boniferous species have done slightly better, Scot. Pine and Corsican Pine take the leading place. A few of each of those varieties are quite healthy and strong.

There are very few of the Sitka and Norway Spruce alive, the few that are left are not in a healthy condition.

A consignment of 3,000 Austrian Pine which were received here in January 1922, from Messrs Dickson's Edinburgh, and planted out straight away, are the most promising. A fair percentage are nice strong healthy plants with young growth measuring 2 and 3 inches.

The young trees showing any life have been protected by placing sods taken from ground in ditching operations all round them.

The condition of the soil at Mt Low has been improved greatly by the draining operations. Additional ditches have been dug the distance between each ditch being 6 yards.

In the nursery at Port Stanley 1,000 1 year seedlings of Pinus insignis, 500 Maritime Pine and roughly 5,000 Scots Pine have been lined out from sowings made in 1921.

Immediately after being lined out a South East gale was experienced which gave the seedlings a nasty check, many died and others were turned brown their leaves being sorely scorched.

It took the seedlings 3 months to recover from this check, but after doing so they have gone on well and have made an average growth of 4 inches.





In the spring of 1922 seed beds of Sitka Spruce, Corsican Pine and Scots Pine were made. The Sitka Spruce were very slow in germinating taking from 8 to 12 weeks. The Corsican and Scots Pine germinated in 4 to 5 weeks and fine brains were got on the whole.

At Hill Cove, West Falklands, seeds of Sitka Spruce, Corsican and Scots Pine have also been sown, the seed beds have been laid down in the ~~Farm~~ Manager's garden which is surrounded by a gorse hedge 6 feet high, but up to the present no details are available as to the condition of the seedlings.

~~[Neither have any details come to hand from the various Farmers and Farm Managers as to how they have succeeded with the various seeds supplied to them.]~~ omit: Libm is not available in form. In seeds and in experimental plant. 1/11 30/4/23

It is now anticipated that trees raised from seed locally will be more successful than imported trees.

James Reid  
 Forest Officer  
 2nd April 1923.



ENCLOSURE TO FALKLAND ISLANDS DESPATCH No. 49 of the  
11th of April, 1925.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF FOREST TREES

IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

The condition of the various species of Forest trees imported into the Falkland Islands have proved very unsatisfactory.

Practically all the broad leaved species except the Common Alder, Mountain Ash and Sycamore have entirely failed.

A small percentage of the Alder have made several growths from the base, ranging from 4 to 8 inches in length, and a few others are in good healthy condition and are in full leaf.

The Mountain Ash have not done so well, they have made very small growths from the base measuring 2 to 3 inches, the original stem having remained dormant.

The Sycamore are doing nothing, they came into full leaf, but were found to be rather scorched, the leaves were all burned brown and the young buds blackened.

The Common Ash, Birch, English Elm, Wych Elm, and Black Italian Poplar are all dead.

It was found on examining the roots of some of the dead plants, that they were in a state of decomposition, owing to the roots being surrounded by excessive moisture.

The Coniferous species have done slightly better, Scots Pine and Corsican Pine take the leading place. A few of each of these varieties are quite healthy and strong.

There are very few of the Sitka and Norway Spruce alive, the few that are left are not in a healthy

condition./



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A consignment of 3,000 Austrian Pine which were received here in January, 1922, from Messrs Dickson's Edinburgh, and planted out straight away, are the most promising. A fair percentage are nice strong healthy plants with young growth measuring 2 and 3 inches.

The young trees showing any life have been protected, by placing sods taken from ground in ditching operations all round them.

The condition of the soil at Mount Low has been improved greatly by the draining operations. Additional ditches have been dug the distance between each ditch being 6 yards.

In the nursery at Port Stanley 1,000 1 year seedlings of *Pinus insignis*, 500 Maritime Pine and roughly 5,000 Scots Pine have been lined out from sowings made in 1921.

Immediately after being lined out a South-East gale was experienced which gave the seedlings a nasty check, many died and others were turned brown their leaves being severely scorched.

It took the seedlings 5 months to recover from this check, but after doing so they have gone on well and have made an average growth of 4 inches.

In the spring of 1922 seed beds of Sitka Spruce, Corsican Pine and Scots Pine were made. The Sitka Spruce were very slow in germinating taking from 8 to 12 weeks. The Corsican and Scots Pine germinated in 4 to 5 weeks and fine brairds were got on the whole.

At Hill Cove, West Falkland, seeds of Sitka Spruce, Corsican and Scots Pine have also been sown, the seed beds have been laid down in the Manager's garden which is surrounded by a gorse hedge 6 feet high, but up to the present no details are available as to the condition of the seedlings.



It is now anticipated that trees raised from seed locally will be more successful than imported trees.

(Signed.) James Reid,

Forest Officer,

2nd April, 1933.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 49.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

11th April, 1925.

My Lord Duke,

With reference to my despatch No. 71 of the 16th of May, 1922, I have the honour to transmit herewith a report by Mr. J. Reid, Forest Officer, on the Forest trees which were imported from England in 1920 and 1922 and on the experiments which are being carried out at Government House and at Hill Cove, of raising trees from seed.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Middleton.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE,

P.C., K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

In duplicate.

(2)



1420



3

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO 69

DUPLICATE

22 August, 1923.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Middleton's despatch No. 49 of the 11th of April, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, New, regarding the report of the Forest Officer on the progress of forest trees in the Falkland Islands.

26th July 1923  
To G.A. [unclear]

2. The Crown Agents for the Colonies have been instructed (copy of letter herewith) to obtain a copy of the paper entitled "Northern Trees in Southern Lands" and to forward it direct to your Government.

MR 436/23

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

(Signed) DEVONSHIRE

THE OFFICE ADMINISTERING  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

KEW

26th July 1923.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of Colonial Office letter No. 27888 /1923 of 27th June 1923, enclosing a copy of the report by Mr. J. Reid on the afforestation experiments that are being carried out in the Falkland Islands, which I have read with much interest, and beg to offer the following observations.

The success of the experiments in afforestation appears to depend primarily on the provision of adequate windbreaks and on the drainage of the ground where the plantations are being established. The system already adopted of planting on "hills" made from the sods cut during drainage operations, which is the system which has given such good results on the peat lands at Corroun in Scotland, seems to be the only method of ensuring success in the water-logged peat bogs of the Falkland Islands. The more closely the Corroun methods can be adopted in the Islands the greater, I feel sure, will be the success of these interesting experiments.

Conditions in the Falkland Islands, as is well known, are not conducive to tree growth, and owing to the persistent winds growth must be expected to be very slow with the earlier plantations; but from the results already achieved I feel confident that in due course the experiment will prove successful.

It is evident that the sowing of seeds in the Islands and raising the stock of young trees in carefully selected

The Under Secretary of State  
Colonial Office  
Downing Street, S.W.1.



selected and prepared nurseries is a far better procedure than purchasing plants from England. Not only can young trees be moved to their permanent homes without risk of loss at the most suitable time for transplanting, but should any losses occur refills can be provided at once from the nurseries. No doubt this method is slower, but it has the great merit of sureness and is also far less expensive than buying in fully grown trees from home.

Until plantations that will act as windbreaks become established it will be desirable to devote attention more especially to Coniferous trees, and then later the experiment can be continued with broad leaved trees, though as a rule the broad leaved trees of the north are not so successful in the southern hemisphere.

An interesting and instructive paper on the results attending the introduction of trees of the northern hemisphere to southern lands has recently been published by Mr. E. H. Wilson, Assistant Director of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, and I would suggest that a copy of this paper should be obtained and forwarded to the Falkland Islands, as it would prove a useful guide to Mr. Reid in his selection of seed. The paper is entitled "Northern Trees in Southern Lands", by E. H. Wilson, and is published in the Journal of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, Mass., U.S.A. Vol. IV. 1923, pp. 61-90, and has been reprinted in pamphlet form.

I am etc.

(Sgd) Arthur W. Hill

Director.



37552/23

Downing Street

22 August, 1923.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Duke of Devonshire to request you to obtain and send out to the Government of the Falkland Islands if possible by the mail of the 5th September a copy of a paper entitled "Northern Trees in Southern Lands" by E.H. Wilson, which was published in the Journal of the Arnold Arboretum Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, United States of America Volume IV 1923 pages 61-90 and has been reprinted in pamphlet form.

2. This paper may be obtainable from Messrs. Wheldon and Wealey, 2-4 Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W.C.2, price 3s. or from Messrs. Dulau and Company Limited, 34, 35 and 36 Margaret Street W.1. It is understood that one or other of these firms is more likely

THE CROWN AGENTS  
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likely to have it in stock than anyone else, or if not that they could obtain a copy from America. If however, you find any difficulty in obtaining the paper you should refer the matter again to this Department.

3. The expenditure involved should be charged to the Colony and a copy of this letter is being sent to the Officer Administering the Government by the outgoing mail.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) G. GRINDLE