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Minutes from Forest Office, 17th Aug. 1925 (1.)
Report on Afforestation experiments, (1a.)

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.



1.

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MINUTE PAPER.

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Date 14 August 1925

From The Forest Officer

To The Hon. The Col. Secy.

Report on Afforestation Experiments

Reference Numbers.

Sir,
I have the honour to submit to you, my annual report on Afforestation experiments carried out in the Falkland Island

I have the honour to be
Sir

Your obedient servant

James Reid
Forest Officer

Report on Afforestation experiments in the Falkland Islands

Since writing my last report in April 1924, the Forest Trees imported into the colony and planted at Mount Lowe continue to show little progress. Those that survive now, leave a very low percentage. The Broad leaved species have made a very poor show, only a few Alders (*Alnus Incana*) show any life, those have a few short shoots coming away from the base.

The Common Alder, Ash, Mountain Ash, Birch, English Elm, Wych Elm, Sycamore, and Black-Italian Poplar have failed entirely.

The Conifers have done a little better, there are a few plants alive mostly Austrian Pine, Corsican Pine, and Scots Pine, they look fairly healthy, and have made barely 1 inch of new growth. The Sitka and Norway Spruce are practically all dead, only a few have one or two live branches, but in most cases the leading shoot is completely dead.

The 200 *Nothofagus Antarctica*, and 200 *Nothofagus Obliqua*, received from Punta Arenas, South America, which were planted in October 1924, are standing fairly well, the majority of *N. Antarctica* are alive and healthy looking, although it was noticed a few have had their leaves scorched and blackened. Amongst the *N. Obliqua* a few deaths occurred, but on the whole they are fairly healthy.

It is surprising that the two latter varieties have done so well, because when they were received it was found they were very deficient

deficient

of fibrous roots, many of them having only the main tap root, and ^{even} those were badly broken and bruised.

From the results achieved, it has now been thought advisable to abandon Mount Lowe, and concentrate all planting at Hill Cove, West Falklands, (where better soil and shelter is available), which may prove more successful. The work carried out from April up to the present date, has been devoted mainly to raising trees from seed in the nursery at Port Stanley, and the preparation of ground in Kent Paddock at Hill Cove. In the nursery a fair stock of plants are on hand, 6,000 Scots Pine, (2 year seedlings) 14,000 Corsican Pine and 5,000 Sitka Spruce, were lined out from the seed beds ~~xxx~~ The Scots Pine just after being transplanted had the points of their needles scorched with the high drying winds, and had a very brown appearance for 3 months.

They began to survive and regain colour in January 1925, and have made strong and stocky growths from 3 to 8 inches, very few deaths occurred throughout the winter.

The Corsican Pine did not stand transplanting so well, a good number of deaths were found, and very little growth was made.

The Sitka Spruce also stood transplanting very well, a few deaths occurred among the weakest of the plants, and new growth was very rare. The seed beds with 2 year seedlings of Sitka Spruce, Scots Pine, Corsican Pine, and Pinus Insignis have done very well, many of

the plants are in a much better condition than those transplanted the previous year. A fair number will be obtainable for planting at Hill Cove in the spring of this year.

Additional seed beds were laid down in 1924 with Austrian Pine, Corsican Pine, Scots Pine, also Sitka and Norway Spruce.

The Sitka and Norway Spruce germinated very well, also the Austrian Pine. The Scots Pine and Corsican Pine did not germinate well at all, the seeds were sown within a few days of each other, and received the same treatment, so it is probable that the seed was poor. Small sowings of miscellaneous seeds presented to the Colonial Government were also made, but germination on the whole was very poor. In April 1924 H. E. The Governor brought from the Scilly Isles a consignment of interesting plants, mostly natives of New Zealand, including *Olearia traversii*, *Olearia semi-dentata*, *Brachyglottis repanda*, *Escallonia rubra*, *Escallonia macrantha*, *Pittosporum crassifolium*, *Corynocarpus laevigatus*, *Metrosideros robustus*, *Coprosma Bruniana*, *Myoporum* and *Veronica*.

These were started into growth in boxes, then put out in the nursery lines, where they have continued to flourish very well.

The *Escallonia's* flowered in April, and seed has been saved, but it is doubtful whether it will be fertile or not.

The plants of *Phormium tenax* which are still in the nursery, continue to do very well, they have recovered from the tar which was accidentally upset on them, on the journey out in 1920.

At Hill Cove in the autumn of 1925, cultivating and ditching operations were carried out, also the rank grass and herbage was cut down and cleared away.

Ditches were cut out at 15 yards apart, and led into a natural stream, which flows through the middle of the paddock. Holes were cultivated 3 feet apart over all with the cultivating iron, the turf was taken off 12 inches in circumference, and the soil and clay broken up to depth of 1 1/2 inches. ~~At~~ In several places the ground was found to be very shallow not having more than 4 inches of surface soil, where this occurred moor span was found, and had to be broken up with crop bars and pick axes.

In the small nursery there are 1,500 Scots Pine which were lined out from seed beds in autumn 1924, they are healthy, sturdy, plants and growths 4 to 6 inches have been made.

The Corsican Pine which were lined out at the same time, have all died with the exception of a few straggly plants.

The Poplars planted round in the shelter of the gorse hedge did very well, all were in full leaf during the summer.

Those planted out in the open paddock did not do so well, but most of them were alive and had young shoots coming away from the base.

James Reid
Forest Officer.
14 August 1925