

Afforestation.

AGR/FOR/1#2

C.S.

1920.

No. 568

Ex: Council.

SUBJECT.

192⁰

23rd July.

Suggested appointment of a Forestry Officer in the Falkland Islands.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

Extract from Minutes of the Meeting of the Ex: Council 23/7/20:

"With reference to paragraph 6 of the minutes of the meeting of the 24th March, 1920, His Excellency laid before the Council a dispatch from the Secretary of State in reply to a despatch from Lt: Col: St: Johnston, and suggesting the appointment of a forestry officer at a salary of £250 to £300 per annum with free quarters to be paid from the Colonial Funds. In point of view of the prosperity of the Colony, His Excellency considered that such an appointment should be made, and suggested that a reply be sent to the Secretary of State agreeing to the proposal, and requesting that the candidate selected for the position be sent out before the end of the summer"

H. E.

I regret I omitted to draw attention to the action necessary in connection with the above when Your Excellency telephoned me yesterday.

G.R.B.
for C.S.
5/8/20.

C.S.O. (2)
I have telegraphed to the S. of S. on the subject. vide P.H. File No. 76/20.

(3) *W.M.*
6.8.20

Subsequent Paper.

H.E.
Minute from Colonial Engineer of 21/10/20
Ex Co. on 25.10.20 (4)
G.R.B. for C.S. 21/10/20
W.M. 22.10.20

Extract from the minutes of the Executive Council, Meeting of the 27th October, 1920.

"In connection with the provision of quarters for the Forest Officer.....a telegram had been received from the S. of S. requesting particulars regarding the quarters available and asking if the Colonial Government were prepared to recommend that furniture be procured for same at the expense of the Colony. The Council were agreed that the only quarters available were at the old Colonial Wireless Station which might be found unsuitable for a married officer, owing to the distance from the town.....and that the Government would agree to purchase furniture as previously procured in connection with these quarters in 1912."

G.H. Brown

⑥

Extract from the minutes of the Legislative Council, Meeting of the 1st of November, 1920.

"The Hon. H. C. Harding expressed the opinion that ~~that~~ it was important that the Forest Officer should concern himself largely with the improvement of the grasses of the Colony, and in this connection requested that the Colonial Office be addressed asking them to see that Kew rendered ~~the~~ every assistance and advice possible in the selection and the supply of seeds".

*G.H. Brown
Clerk of Councils
14th Nov 1920*

The question has been discussed with the C.O. vide Evans's files 76/20 and 309/20.

*W.D.
12. 11. 20*

H. E.

Copy of telegram dealt with in Executive Council on the 27th October, 1920 and reply thereto, attached in accordance with Your Excellency's instructions.

(Encls 4 and 5)

B. W. Thompson

A. C. S.
14th March, 1921.

H.E.S. I have now written a memo about F.O.'s quarters on G.O. 424/20 which seems Mr the appropriate paper.

*H.S.
18 March 1921*

PA

Reference to previous correspondence:-

Governor's Telegram of 1st June, 1920.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 79

Downing Street,

2nd July, 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the papers noted below on the subject of afforestation in the Falkland Islands.

I have etc.,

(Sgd.) Milner.

The Officer Administering

The Government of the Falkland Islands.

Date.

Description.

1920.

19th May,	To Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
10th June,	" " " " "
14th June,	From " " " "
14th June,	" " " " (with encls.)
30th June,	To " " " "

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 86.

Downing Street,

21st July, 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Colonel St. Johnstone's despatch No. 25 of the 17th March relative to the question of afforestation in the Falkland Islands.

2. I have read Colonel St. Johnstone's despatch with much interest, and the Colony is much indebted to him for this valuable contribution towards the solution of an important problem in its development.

3. In my despatch No. 79 of the 2nd July I have forwarded to you copies of correspondence with the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; and I Kew 7th July, 1920 now enclose a copy of a further letter from him relative to the appointment of a Forestry Officer, as to which I consulted you by telegraph on the 17th July.

4. As regards the various points raised in Colonel St. Johnstone's despatch I need at this stage only refer to the following.

5. It does not appear to me desirable to combine the functions of a geologist with those of a Forestry Officer; and, you will be aware from paragraph 7 of my despatch No. 61 of the 31st May, that I am considering other means of securing a geological survey of the Colony.

6. At the end of section 9 of his despatch,
Colonel

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Colonel St. Johnston suggests that the salary of the Forestry Officer might be met from the Treasury grant referred to in my Circular (B) despatch of the 11th June, 1919; but, apart from the question whether the proposed scheme of afforestation can properly be regarded as coming within the purposes for which the grant was made, which I am inclined to doubt, I consider that the resources of the Colony are sufficient for financing the project. I, therefore, stated in my telegram of the 17th July that the expenditure should be met from Colonial funds.

I have etc.,

(Sgd.) Milner.

Enclosure to despatch No.86 of 21st July,1920.

COPY.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

July 7th, 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Colonial Office letter (No.29918/1920) of June 30th,1920, with reference to the proposals for the afforestation of the Falkland Islands.

I note that there appears to be little prospect of its being possible to transfer Mr.Benton, the present Head Gardener at Government House, to another Colony, but I may mention that I have learnt from some of the Australian Botanical Departments that Mr. Benton find employment in Australia and have so informed the Colonial Secretary, Falkland Islands, at the request of whose predecessor in office I was led to make enquiries.

With regard to the appointment of an Forestry Officer, as to which the Secretary of State requests me to furnish him with my views. I think it should be possible to secure a suitable officer on the scale of salary £250-£300 with quarters, and I consider that the appointment should be for five years in the first instance.

As to incidental expenses for the purchase of trees etc. I do not think this would be a large item for the proposed experimental plots. A sum of £50 would cover the cost of the trees as young trees only would be needed, but I have not considered in this figure any freight charges that might be involved.

Other incidental expenses would be incurred in the provision of the necessary fencing, the making of stone walls and wind-breaks and the general preparation of the ground. The sum needed for these essential works I have not attempted to estimate.

Should the proposals receive favourable consideration I shall be pleased, if so desired, to depute one of my staff to select the trees from the most suitable firm of nurserymen for the purpose.

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

I am etc.,
(Sgd.) D. Prain,

(2) 5/68/20
Minute.

The Hon: Col: Secretary.

The other day His Excellency spoke to me as to quarters for the Forest Officer.

2. At the present time there is not a Government House available. The two houses vacant are indirectly connected with appointments, the Holders of same being absent on leave both should shortly be returning to the Colony.
3. I have made enquires as to the possibility of renting a house in the Township but have not so far been successful. Further I am informed that houses are bespoken a long time in advance as there are many houses containing two families.
4. There is the Government House at the Wireles Station which at present is occupied, but should it be thought suitable for the Forest Officer, no doubt other arrangements could be made for the Caretaker of the Power Station. The house could with a ~~little~~ little alteration be made into two. When it was built provision was made for ^{this} the alteration, should it ever be required. I think this suggestion could be considered with advantage.
5. There is a vacant house next to the First and Last Hotel (now shut) belonging to the Estate of the late Mr William Biggs. I have this morning seen Mr. V. Biggs, Agent for the Estate, and he informs me that he does not wish to again let the house but is anxious to sell it. The house is a very good one and as far as I can remember is most conveniently arranged, also there is a fairly large garden at the back. Seeing that the Government requires more houses I think that it would be well to go further into this matter with a view to purchase. There is only one objection which at the moment comes to

2.

my mind that is that the house is down at the other end o
of the town. I would suggest that a letter be sent to
Mr, V Baggs, asking him if he ~~ix wishfull~~ wishes to sell
the house in question, . In the event that he is that
arrangements may be made for an inspection of the property
to be made with a view to purchase.

RRB asdr.

C. E.

21/20/20.

(3)
List of Furniture supplied to
W/O in 1912.

Quantity.	Description of Article.
1	Dining Table
1	Dining Room Suite
1	Lamp.
1	Rug. Anglo-Indian, 5 ft. x 2 ft.
1	Kerb & Fire irons
1	Green and Brass French Bedstead with bedding complete
1	Servants Bedroom set
1	Black iron bedstead
1	Wool mattress
1	Pillow
1	Bolster
1	Servant's Bedroom set
1	Table 4 ft.
1	Easy Chair in leather cloth
1	Chair
1	Rug (Jeypore) 4 ft. x 2 ft.
1	Table Lamp
1	Black iron Bedstead
1	Wool mattress
1	Bolster
1	Pillow
1	Servant's Bedroom Set
4	Chairs
1	Table size 5 ft.
6	Large knives iverine handles
6	Small knives, ivorine handles
1	Steel
6	Large forks, nickel
1	Set of meat carvers, ivorine handles
12	Small forks, nickel
6	Dessert spoons
2	Table spoons

Quantity

Description of Articles.

1 dozen	tea spoons
2	Salt spoons
1	Mustard spoon
1	Single toilet service
1	Servant's dinner set 27 pieces
6	Servant's Set tea.
3.	Pudding Basins
3.	Pudding Dishes
3	Candlesticks
2	Tea pots.

Hardware.

1 set	Iron saucepans (6 in all)
2	Kettles 1 large, 1 small
2	Frying pans
2	Baking tins
1	Knife board
1 set	Jugs (3 in all)
2	4 gallon buckets
3	Bedroom mats

(2)

564/20

TELEGRAM:

From: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To: The Governor.

Dispatched: 18th October, 1920.

Received: 18th October, 1920.

With reference to your telegram of 21st August,
"Forest Officer": Are quarters furnished? If not
telegraph particulars of quarters and whether any,
and if so what sum may be allowed for purchase of
furniture price of which has risen 200% over pre-
war. Officer will bring wife.

Milner.

(5)

568/30

TELEGRAM:

From: The Governor.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dispatched: 28th October, 1920.

October 28th: With reference to your telegram of 18th October, "forest officer:" only available quarters are at old Government Wireless Station 2 miles from Stanley. They might be unsuitable for married officer owing to isolation of position. Should he on that understanding decide to bring wife, am prepared to allow purchase of furniture as supplied previously by Crown Agents, Colonial Indent No. 599 7th June, 1912 which was estimated at £48.

Martin.