

Scientific Department
(Forestry)
No. 453/21

C.S.

Governor

SUBJECT.

1921

27 June

Previous Paper.

West Falkland Island.

Visit of Forest Officer to West Falkland Island.

MINUTES.

Minute from Governor dated 23rd June 1921

Encl (1)

Minute to Forest Officer, dated 22nd June

Encl (2)

H.E. the Governor,

I have arranged with Mr. Slaughter and others to see the young trees, with the Forest Officer, this afternoon.

Butcher
A. C. S. 24/6/21.

24 June 1921

Minute from the Governor dated 15 May 1922 Encl (3)

Report by Forest Officer Encl (3a)

P.A.
27/7/38

Subsequent Paper.

496/22

DATE... 22nd June 1921

From Governor to Colonial Secretary.

The Forest officer should proceed by next voyage of S.S. Falkland to Hill Cove and if circumstances permit rejoin the ship at Fox Bay. Mr Miller will I am sure be good enough to make arrangements for losses & I shall take an opportunity of speaking to him about this.

2. The Forest officer should advise Mr Miller & any ~~other~~ managers or owners, who may desire advice, as to planting of trees. He should also ascertain whether there is any ~~arrangement~~ desire on their part to obtain young trees from England for planting. The trees would be issued on repayment at actual cost of trees to Government. This does not mean that, if on arrival of a consignment a large number of trees were found to be dead, the cost of trees would be increased proportionally. The Govt must bear that loss. This is only a temporary arrangement pending the establishment of a nursery & raising of trees from seed if demand increases.

3. The Forest officer should take note on his journey of any areas, especially those marked on chart Government Reserve, which are likely to form suitable

for the planting.

4. An opportunity should be taken to show to
Mr. H. J. Slaughter + any others who are interested
the young trees which have been planted.

5. Will you please communicate this to
Forest Officer for his guidance.

Yours,
S. H.

22nd June 1921.

(2)

CS. 453/3

No. ~~155/21~~

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

MINUTE.

.....22nd June,.....19 21.

To.....The Forest Officer,

.....Stanley.

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I am directed by the Governor to communicate to you, for your guidance and subsequent report, the contents of the attached copy of a minute from His Excellency, dated the 22nd June, 1921.

W. A. THOMPSON,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

DATE.....

From Governor to Colonial Secretary



~~A report on the~~

A report by the Forest Officer on certain areas in
East + West Falkland, which he visited last year,
is attached. Will you please report on C.S.O.

2. Of the place visited the enclosed Hill Cess with
experimentation
the most suitable for tree planting

3. In Kew Bulletin (no 5. 1919) it is stated that Mr. Blake
is willing to undertake the preparation of land
at Hill Cess for experimental planting provided that
an expert man is provided to control the work.

4. I spoke to Mr. Miller (in June 1921) about experimental
planting at Hill Cess but he told me that owing to
reduction in number of employees ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~was~~ ~~to~~
could not spare any labour for tree planting.

5. Mr. Miller was to write to Mr. Blake + suggest that
Kew paddock should be handed over to the Govt for
use as an experimental plantation. I know that
Mr. Harding has also written to Mr. Blake on the
subject. Nothing can be done unless Mr. Blake consents
to Kew paddock being made over to the Govt and a
reply from him must be awaited.

6. In any case seeds of trees are now secured in
sufficient time to permit of sowing being made at Hill Cess

In the Spring of 1921. I had further intended
to plant at Hill Cove some of the cornets which
were shipped in November 1921 but they did
not arrive in a fit condition for planting (see 890/21)

M.

15 May 1921.

To His Excellency
The Governor.
Port Stanley.

Sir,

In accordance to C.S. 453/21
I have the honour to submit to you a
report on the areas visited by me in the
East and West Falkland Islands.

Arriving at Seal Inlet on the 18th July I found
the situation very exposed to South and North
Easterly winds, the soil in the vicinity of the
settlement is very shallow, but on going farther
afield into the camp, wet and sour peat is
very prevalent to various depths.

At Rincon de Moro. the area is also very
exposed, and in any low lying parts the
ground is very wet. There are patches which
are very much exposed, with a few inches
of soil and for a sub soil they have
clay and rock.

Salvador, also being exposed has a few
small valleys with some fairly decent soil.
I was informed by Mr. J. Pitaluga that in
some places where he had been digging,
he came across 12 to 15 inches of good
black soil, but it was only to be found
in small patches.

On arriving at Pebble it was too dark to
visit this area, but on looking from the
ship next morning, it was obvious that
this place was very exposed also.

The same day Saunders Island was passed
and it had the same appearance as Pebble Island.

I arrived at Hill Cove on the 22nd, and during the period I stayed there, I walked over a good bit of the area round the settlement. Hill Cove lies in a very favourable situation being sheltered by undulating hills from the West, South, and South West winds. The soil is found here in various depths from 12 to 15 inches and in some parts a greater depth is to be found. The area round the settlement is mostly covered with small patches of the *Tachina* bush, this denotes a supply of black soil, the richest found in the colony. When this soil is broken up which I saw being done by ploughing, it is of a fine mouldy texture.

At the top settlement there is a small area of trees of various species comprising ^{the} Scots fir (*Pinus sylvestris*) Austrian pine (*Pinus Austriaca*) West coast Beech (*Nothofagus* sp.) Willows and Poplars. The ages of these trees range from 20 to 35 years and are from 12 to 25 feet high. There are a few good healthy trees, but owing to lack of knowledge how to thin them, the majority have been suppressed for want of sufficient light and air. Many have got double leaders and others have their leaders switched off with the branches of the adjoining tree.

Advice was given to Mr Millar the manager with regard to a slight thinning, which would improve the predominant survivors. Mr Millar informed me that he would be able to let the Government have Kent paddock if permission was obtained from Mr Blake the owner. Kent Paddock lies in a favourable

position near the top settlement, with an area of approximately from 7 to 10 acres. The area is covered with grass and many *Jachina* bushes and is bounded by a gorse hedge 3 to 4 feet high affording an excellent shelter, the soil is black peaty mould of a free and fairly porous texture.

There is a natural stream running through the said area, which would carry away any water from any ditches that may be made without doing any damage to adjoining lands.

From Hill Cove to Charters the camp is very wet being mostly peaty soil.

There are a good many valleys with an abundant growth of *Jachina* bushes.

The settlement at Charters is very exposed and it is found difficult to grow shrubs in the gardens there.

At Fox Bay the camp in this area is all wet and sour peat, also being very much exposed to the South coast.

Fort Stephens is very much exposed, but fairly good soil is found in some parts round about the settlement.

Speedwell Island is pretty well wind swept and there is quite a lot of sand drift. George and Sea Lion Islands are much the same, and are very exposed being situated on the extreme South coast of the East Falkland Island.

North Arm, is very wet round the settlement, the area beyond the settlement is quite marshy, some patches of clay are showing on the surface and in the outlying camp peat is in abundance.

On arriving at Bleaker Island it was too dark to see the nature of the ground but Mr Bobb informed me that the soil was all peat and pretty well exposed. Some small patches of good soil can be found round the settlement and in the gardens *Veronica elliptica* makes splendid hedges.

On the whole the most of the areas visited were found to be very bleak and very much exposed. The soil being mostly wet sour peat with rock and clay as a sub soil. Hill Cove is likely to be the most favourable area for tree planting having by far the best situation and the best soil.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

James Reid
Forest Officer

18th August 1921.