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(Formerly)

175C

SUBJECT:

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Pasture Experiments.

CONNECTED FILES.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 0797 | Agric. Dept. |
| 0797/A | " " - Annual Reports. |
| 0797/B | " " - Disposal of Stock. |
| 0797/C | " " - Labour. |
| 0797/D | " " - Repair of instruments in the U.K. |
| 0797/E | " " - Pigs. |
| 0797/F | " " - Tours by Agric. Officer, |
| 0797/G | " " - Butter Making. |
| 0797/H | " " - Local Pound. |
| 0797/I | " " - Lorries, tractors etc. |
| 0797/J | " " - Policy regarding. |
| 0797/K | " " - Suggested importation good sheep dog and bitch. |
| 0797/L | " " - Grass Seeds. |

To.
The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

From.
The Agricultural Officer.
Stanley.
9th April, 1952.



In respect of cultivations of previously unbroken land in the Falklands: considerable difficulty is experienced in obtaining worth while crops. Usually the farms only attempt to grow oats and it is not until three years or more and after the killing of considerable numbers of sheep on the land is anything like satisfactory crop results obtainable.

The Common and environs of Stanley are particularly poor lands to attempt such improvement on.

There are relatively few substances in the Islands which could possibly be used to improve land: these are chiefly Beach Sand, Kelp or Seaweed off the beach, Peat Ashes, in places Clam Shells and Fish and possibly burnt Clay as was used in England years ago.

There are also several types of land that need improvement White grass flats, harder Diddle-dee ridges, Peat banks and lastly Green grassy areas.

I would suggest that in all but the latter areas the objective to be aimed at is to get in the easiest way possible a sward or cover of green grazeable grasses or sedges. To this end some English grasses and plants are most useful and some Falkland Island ones. However Yorkshire Fog is the one Farmers here are most and almost exclusively disposed to use.

I would therefore like to set up a number of experimental plots 6ft. x 6ft. square on various parts of the Common and on Kidney Island on the various different types of earths mentioned using different methods such as digging in the top sod, discarding it, breaking it up but not burying it and treating these plots with varying dressings of the substances available here singly and combined.

Owing to the difficulty of transporting the substances about to such plots I would like to place the plots near the source of supply of the materials i.e. one lot to the west of the Mile Pond this would be handy for fish from Mullet Creek and shell and sand from its entrance: another in Hookers' Point paddock these would be more subject to intensive grazeing and near to a supply of kelp and sand and another north of the new Wireless Masts near to ashes from the ash heaps there and able to occupy lands from which peat has been won.

If you would agree to my so doing I would start plot experiments of this kind this Autumn using the Common Ranger for labour and incurring no additional expenditure.

John P. Olive.
Agricultural Officer.

See 2.

Y.P. Ref ①
*I feel that the more experiments
A.O. can carry out with his limited
resources, the better.*

17/4

Agree + approve.

MC 12/iv

*PP. Mc
12/4*

2
21st April, 52.

To: Agricultural Officer,
From: The Colonial Secretary, STANLEY.

Pasture Experiments.

1. I am directed to refer to your Memorandum of the 9th of April, 1952, and to state that His Excellency agrees to and welcomes the proposals contained therein.

(Sgd) C. Campbell
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

8797/M

3

EXTRACTS TAKEN FROM THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FROM 1937-1946

" _____ (Y^r. Gibbs)

ELECTRIC FENCE.

As evidence of the above we have a small area of sixty acres on the Common which was completely eaten out by sheep, 2,500 in May 1945. The area was not stocked again until 27th April 1946 when 890 cast sheep were enclosed on twenty three acres with an electric fence. After five days, there was still at least one day's grazing left. The sheep were well filled and in good condition. The land was dry at this period and no grazing was lost through soiling or trampling such as would happen during the winter. The important point is that the area grazed bare in May 1945, grew enough fodder in twelve months to maintain 38.7 sheep per acre for at least five days. Theoretically seventy three similar areas would provide the grazing throughout the twelve months if each were grazed just once in the period, but soiling of the fodder in wet weather would make a greater area necessary. Feed is not entirely lost through soiling for the dirt is washed off by rain and sheep may be returned to the area to complete the grazing. The carrying capacity of the land in this trial was at the rate of a sheep to 1.88 acres and the pasture was some of the poorest on the Common. Simultaneously the land has been consolidated by the tramping and within a few years will change to a bent-pig vine pasture which has much greater productive power than white grass. Only experiments over two or three years will prove the economics of such an intensive system of stock management, but there is no doubt that if it were adopted on blocks of such size that a mob of sheep would graze them out in four to six weeks, the carrying capacity of the land would be more than doubled.

Controlled over-grazing of this nature can ~~only~~ bring only improvement to the native pastures, chiefly through consolidation, removal of surplus growth and the concentration of animal manure.

In this experiment the sheep were confined by an electric fence of two No. 8 wires supported on split stabs costing about

Sixpence/

sixpence each, at seven yard intervals. Within twenty four hours the sheep had a healthy respect for the fence and could not be driven within twenty yards of it without dogs. The sheep were directly from the camp: and the fence proved completely satisfactory. This is the first time an electric fence has been used in the Colony for sheep.

The general adoption of electric fences would revolutionise farming in the Colony, for ~~xxx~~ two wires would do the work of six, battens are unnecessary, and since there is no rubbing on the fences or reaching through for the fodder on the other side, posts can be lighter and maintenance is reduced.

ELECTRIC FENCES.

So far electric fences have not been tried in the camp and like most innovations in the Falklands are deprecated by the managers, but the animals grazing on Stanley Common have been successfully excluded for two years from an area reserved for tree plantings by an electric fence of two light wires. Another fence has been used to control pigs and horses at the Agricultural Station. It was found satisfactory for all except young pigs. Such fences are used fairly frequently in New Zealand for cattle and sheep and there seems no reason why they should not be equally satisfactory in the Falklands. There will be some animals that will break through during the first few months: but if they are trained or have become accustomed to the electric fence they treat it with respect. The wear and tear on such fences is very much less than on ordinary post and wire fence against which stock will rub or through which they graze what can be reached.

(Training consists of holding a mob of sheep in the corner of a paddock or yard by a single wire coupled to an electric fence unit until all have come into contact with the wire and received a shock. They learn quickly to avoid contact with the wire).

*Re. fire early
27/6*

Y.H.

3-4 is an extract dug out by the A.O. from Dr Gibbs' report attached.

Experiments in the use of electric fencing have been carried out successfully. I see little point in repeating. It is apparent that H.E. has not seen Dr Gibbs' report.

As to the report itself, no action appears to have been taken on any of the recommendations. It went to the S/S at 38 in 11/8/40. Months were spent in trying to decide whether it should and could be printed. A printed abstract is at 109 in 11/8/40. The position is summed up at 141 by Sir Miles Clifford - as the report did not meet with the farmers' approval, it died a natural death.

H.1.29/6

B

C.S.

1. Thank you.
2. Pl. discuss early - bringing the A.O. with you.
3. I can see every advantage, on a preliminary measure - in having an experimental plot enclosed with an electric fence - as a demonstration for farmers. At the same time as the seed is being sown at the forthcoming meeting of farmers with regard to an experimental centre - there would be no harm and some advantage in showing the doubtful ones that an electric fence will work.
4. At the same time the idea of an electric fence was only part of H.E.'s plan. He was anxious that some preliminary work should be done with regard to controlled grazing - and this must go ahead. A.O. should draw up and submit detailed proposals - on a small

and pilot project basis in the first place.

6.4.77
29/6

late

B of S was discussed by H.H., A.L. & O.A.O. on the 30th June

2. The A.O. is to make immediate arrangements to conduct a trial experiment with electric fencing and to have it ready by the time the farms are in Stanley in July for S.O.A. meetings.
3. Ref. controlled grazing. The A.O. is to draw up plans so that experiments can start as soon as the winter is over and grass begins to grow again (probably September).

A.L. 30/6

B.W. 9/7
14/7

A.O.

Please say how the electric fence experiment is progressing.

I understand that you are preparing plans for controlled grazing?

A.L. 14/7

H.C.S.

One of my 2 Agric. Assts is down with the flu. The other has been getting the fence erected. I got him a hand, collecting materials yesterday. No battery is available - H.C.S. Gettings has none. Eventually, Mr. P. Peck (H.E.'s Chauffeur) offered to lend us the battery for his own private car. This is now on charge and should be ready tomorrow morning. The fence is being erected alongside the sports house near the race course. This site has been chosen, in order to give the sheep some shelter these cold nights. The fence will be in operation tomorrow morning. Mr. Stewart (local butcher) is lending sheep, as in a price.

S.D. A/O 15/7/55.

Y. H.

The A.O.'s proposals for the controlled grazing experiment are at G.C. No funds are required unless we have to buy the sheep which is unlikely. It is proposed to begin the experiment in the Spring - September or early October so that it will be in full swing when H.E. returns.

P. 21/7

Thank you.

A.G.T.

22/7.

A.O.

Pl. retain your proposals at G.C.

P. 23/7

H.C.S.

I have received my proposals, as instructed.

E.T.F.

25/7/68.

pac
24/7

19 DEC 1956

8

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY ON
13th OCTOBER, 1956.

Present :- The Honourable the Colonial Secretary (Chairman)
The Honourable the Colonial Treasurer
The Honourable Mr. A.L. Hardy, B.E.M., J.P.
The Honourable Mr. M.G. Creece, J.P.
The Honourable Mr. T.A. Gilrith, J.P.
The Honourable Mr. H.C. Harding, J.P.
The Honourable Mr. J.T. Clement

~~minutes~~ The minutes of the meeting of Standing Finance Committee held on the 9th August, 1956 were approved.

Applications to Incur Supplementary Expenditure. The following items listed on the Schedule of Additional Provision required to 30th June, 1956 were approved :-

Additional Provision Required to 30th June 1956	Schedule Item	Head	Subhead	Amount		
				£.	s.	d.
	1	I Governor	2. Fuel and Light	34.	-	-
	2	II Agricultural	4. Prevention of Animal Diseases	2.	-	-
	3		N.I. Grass Seed	562.	-	-
	4	III Audit	2. Contribution to Central Office	60.	-	-
	5	VI Harbour & Aviation (Air)	12. Repairs etc.	325.	-	-
	6		1. Personal Emoluments	157.	-	-
	7		21. Materials	116.	-	-
	8		23. Insurance	1167.	18.	4.
	9	VII Medical	2. Drugs	259.	-	-
	10		4. Wages of Domestic Staff	32.	-	-
	11		8. Dental Drugs etc.	153.	-	-
	12		9. X-Ray Apparatus	173.	-	-
	13		11. Contingencies	16.	-	-
	14		10. Mtc. Motor Vehicles	23.	6.	4.
	15	IX Military	5. Incidental Expenses	2.	-	-
	16		6. Uniforms etc.	8.	-	-
	17	X Miscellaneous	1. C.A.A. Expenses	625.	-	-
	18		16. Marine Insurance Charges	266.	-	-
	19		18. Provident Fund	17.	-	-
	20		N.I. Charge Allowances	27.	-	-
	21		3. Books & Periodicals	6.	-	-
	22		9. Medical Exams. in U.K.	9.	-	-
	23		10. Passages	811.	-	-
	24		13. Expenses i.c.w. appointments in U.K.	75.	-	-
	25		6. Travelling & Subsistence Allowances	112.	4.	11.
	26	XI Pensions	Pensions	284.	-	-
	27	XIII Posts & Tels.	9a. Adding Machine	38.	-	-
	28	XVI Secretariat & Treasury	2. Temporary Clerical Assistance	11.	-	-
	29		6. Telegrams	67.	-	-
	30	XIV Public Works	4. Leave Pay - Artisans	98.	-	-
	31	XV Public Works	3. Repairs etc. Govt. House	717.	-	-
	32	Recurrent	4. " " " Buildings	347.	-	-
Carried Forward				£ 6600.	9.	7.

Schedule Item.	Head	Subhead	Amount		
			£.	s.	d.
		Brought Forward	6600.	9.	7.
33	XV Public Works	9. Tools and Plant	31.	-.	-.
34	Recurrent	12. Light & Fuel, Govt. Buildings	101.	-.	-.
35	XVIII Extraordinary	5. Nurses Home	467.	-.	-.
36	Expenditure	9. Stanley Water Supply	3384.	-.	-.
37	(P. & T.)	15. New Motor Vehicle	12.	-.	-.
38	(P.W.D.)	N.I. Purchase of Hut for School	75.	-.	-.
39	(P. & E.)	" Nissen Huts	1460.	-.	-.
40		" Truck	499.	-.	-.
41	XIX C.D. & W.	5. Stanley Water Supply	11876.	-.	-.
			<u>£ 24505.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>7.</u>

Arising from Applications to Incur Supplementary Expenditure - Additional Provision required to 30th June 1956

1. Planting of Yorkshire Fog at Narrows Point (Schedule Item 3)
 The Hon. Mr. Harding enquired whether some of the recently imported Yorkshire Fog might not be used for planting the burnt out area in the region of Narrows Point. It was agreed that this possibility should be investigated by Mr. Harding and the Agricultural Officer.

2. Pilot and Aircraft Insurance (Schedule Item 8)

The Committee agreed to a proposal by the Hon. Mr. Creece that Government should arrange with the Crown Agents for all insurance premia to be paid on the 1st July of each year.

Applications to Incur Supplementary Expenditure - Financial Period 1956/57

1. The following items listed in the schedule of additional financial provision required in the current financial year were approved.

Schedule Item	Head	Subhead	Amount		
			£.	s.	d.
1	II Agricultural	1.iv Two Agric. & Livestock Assistants	3.	6.	8.
2	VI Harbour and Aviation	11. Repairs & Engine Spares	200.	-.	-.
3		N.I. Removal of garbage from ships	80.	-.	-.
4	(Air)	N.I. Hangar Equipment	1000.	-.	-.
5	V Education	5. Board & Lodgings	1000.	-.	-.
7	X Miscellaneous	2. Fire Insurance, Govt. Buildings	228.	-.	-.
8		11. Grant to Stanley Town Council	400.	-.	-.
9		N.I. Write off of irrecoverable advance accounts	2560.	-.	-.
10		N.I. Payment to Town Council for upkeep of Arch Green	26.	-.	-.
11		N.I. Call to the Bar - Registrar, Supreme Court	207.	-.	-.
12		N.I. Provision of a hearse	100.	-.	-.
13	XIII Posts & Tels.	N.I. Special Duty Allowance to W/T Operators	368.	-.	-.
Carried Forward			<u>£ 6172.</u>	<u>6.</u>	<u>8.</u>

Q. 10

A.O.

Overleaf - you are investigating with
Mr Harding

W.F.S.
19/12

H.C.S.

Yes - this investigation has been carried out.
The work is in hand, but bad weather and
the absence of staff on other duties, has delayed
the completion of the undertaking.

S.H.

Sp.

20/12/56.

~~BU 13/1/57 W~~

~~W.F.S.~~

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