

C.S.

LIVESTOCK.

AGR/SHE/4#1

SHEEP.

1929.

~~1928~~

No.

34/29.

SUBJECT.

Prof. J. Buxton.

192 8

Previous Paper.

PROFESSOR. J. BUXTON REQUESTS ASSISTANCE  
IN INVESTIGATIONS INTO SHEEP DISEASES IN  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

MINUTES.

Letter to Under Secretary of State from Prof. J. Buxton

*Inspector of Stock and Agriculture.*

*For your remarks please.*

*J. Buxton*

17. 1. 29.

*Hon. Colonial Secretary*

*Lambs are handled ~~twice~~ once during lamb marking and again at shearing when they are weaned and dipped and at dipping time in March & April.*

*The export of sheep here is at present confined to South Georgia. Surplus stock is killed and boiled down for tallow on some stations. Stations without a boiling down plant simply kill the sheep for its skin the carcass being wasted. Would the inoculations have to be done by the Stock Department please.?*

Subsequent Paper.

*Faithful*  
*30/1/29.*

Import of Stock at Hyderabad.

What information is available, please, as to the local incidence of the disease .. caseous lymphadenitis - ?

J. S. [Signature]

1. 2. 29.

Hon. Colonial Secretary.

Cases are fairly numerous. Carcasses are not used for mutton.

Yours faithfully  
11/2/29.

Hon. Col. Jeger

(D? J. [unclear]).

Possibly you may be able to advise on the matter to ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> reference is made in vol 1. 1/20,

I should be pleased.

J. M. J.

13. 2. 29.

Hon. Col. Secy.

"Caseous lymphadenitis" certainly affects sheep in Falkland Islands. I am not aware of any statistics re. this matter.

As we do not export frozen meat no one has, so far, regarded this disease with any particular anxiety.

It has been mentioned to me, I think the source is reliable - that 60% of a certain shipment of sheep from the Falklands to the Argentine were affected.

Last year, in, I near Punta Arenas the Veterinary Surgeons inspecting meat in the freezer there, rejected 20% of total kill by numbers, & 10% by weight. It is said that if Chile & Argentine do not move in the matter of checking this rapidly spreading disease, that European markets will be closed to their frozen meat.

The inspectors expect to reject a large portion of the kill this year.

Although this matter does not affect the wool export very much, but in the long run diseased sheep we bound to affect the wool export.

I am sorry I have no better information. The maculation of sheep except on a small scale would be difficult, & I should say expensive. Professor Cassin does not inform us whether he has isolated a definite causal organism, or not.

I am willing to assist if anything is to be done. J. M. 14. 2. 29.

y. e.

Schall with a draft

Let's be nph. J. M.

18. 2. 29.

H.C.S

Page 1 of 2 to Mr. Ormsby Gore. M.

1927  
2

Letter to Professor J.B. Buxton of 5th March, 1929. 2.  
Letter to the Rt Hon W. Ormsby Gore, " " 3.

of 3 of 6/29.  
O.D.G. 7/3/29

Minute from P.M.O. of 4.4.29.

4-6.

J.P. Schell at. 1 with Rank

Now P.M.O. for his File May 1929

action is bringing this paper to the  
notice of the Govt.

2. A copy might be forwarded to

to W. Ormsby-Gore, at Prof. Buxton is

Continuation of work 3-2.

3. Inspector of <sup>Stock at</sup> ~~the~~ Agriculture to see.

5.4.29.



Memo from Han P.M.O. 3 May 1929.

9.

1. Submitted. I regret through faulty jacketing the submission of Red 9 has been delayed.

2. I will thank the Han P.M.O. for this useful analysis which I understand he received from Punta Arenas by the 'Orta'.

3. When Veterinary Officer arrives I will show him this correspondence and ask him to go into the matter of inoculation.

G.P. 13  
A.C.S.  
13. V. 29.

Id. C.S.

Please.

CH.

13.29  
5

Han P.M.O.

Accordingly.

G.P. 13

A.C.S.

14. V. 29.

J.M. 15.5.29.

C.C.

V.O. to see when he arrives.

G.P. 13

A.C.S.

18. V. 29.

Spoke to Mr. Johnson.

27. V. 29

27. V. 29  
30. V. 29

I. O. I shall be glad of your observations in writing on this subject.

M.B.  
A.C.S.  
13. 4. 29.

Hon. Col. Secy.

Statistics from the coast are not certified. The bulk of the carcasses from this colony would be condemned under "Bruises and Transit Fever".

Some doubt still exists as to the causal organism of this condition and Prof. Buxton does not give any information regarding the organism he has isolated, neither has he indicated whether he has produced the condition artificially, nor the type of vaccine he proposes using.

Experiments on a large scale in this colony are impracticable ( see Hon P.M.O. minute I4 .2. 29.) Experiments even on a small scale would not yield conclusive results as there would be no guarantee that the animals inoculated had been subjected to natural infection.

Should any case of Caseous Lymphadenitis come to my notice I intend to have the animal sent to Stanley that observations on the condition and if equipment permits, microscopical examinations may be made. It might then be possible to test the efficacy of the vaccine, by inoculating several animals and later artificially infecting them with the disease.

I am willing to give Prof. Buxton every assistance in this work, and would be glad to have information regarding the work already done as there are no reference books on this subject

Jh. v.o.  
10. 4. 29.

4. Submitted. Please Mr. Motion correspond direct with Prof. Buxton. in each case submitting drafts of letter before despatch? M.B.  
A.C.S.

14th S.S.

Please.

M

$\frac{19}{10} 29$

Returning Officer.

for info.

By

Ay C.S.

19. X. 29

John V.O.  
22. 10. 29.

PA. 25 X. 29.  
25



34/29.

5th March,

29.

Sir,

With reference to your letter addressed to the Right Honourable W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, P.C., M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the disease of sheep known as "caseous Lymphadenitis" I am directed by the Governor to inform you that in the probable event of the appointment in the near future to the service of this Government of a qualified Veterinary Officer with experience of research work it would no doubt be possible for test inoculations against the disease to be done in the Colony with the view to ascertaining their practicability under ordinary conditions in the Falkland Islands, which, however, would appear to be doubtful except on a small scale.

2. I am to add that His Excellency will be always happy to render you any assistance in this matter which may be in his power and to request that you will not fail to address me further in regard to any more detailed information in this connection which you may require and which I may be able to furnish.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

Professor J. B. Buxton,  
M.A., F.R.C.V.S., D.V.H.,  
Institute of Animal  
Pathology,  
Milton Road,  
CAMBRIDGE.

*J. B. Buxton*  
for Colonial Secretary.

File

Professor J.B.Buxton,  
MA., FRCVS., DVH.

Institute of Animal Pathology,  
Milton Road,  
Cambridge.

The Rt. Hon. W.G.A.Ormsby Gore., PC., MP.,  
Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Ormsby Gore,

I know how interested you are in research into animal diseases, and I am therefore sending you a copy of the brief Review of the activities of my Department covering the five years that it has been in existence.

You will be interested to note that during the past three years eight overseas Research Workers have visited the Department for a course of study. I naturally hope that, as the facilities provided by these laboratories become better known, more of our graduates will avail themselves of the opportunity of working here during their leave in this country.

I wonder if you could help me in the following matter. I understand that a disease of sheep known as "caseous Lymphadenitis" is causing very serious loss to stockowners especially in South America, Australia and the Falkland Islands. I am told that anything up to 33  $\frac{1}{3}$  % of the animals slaughtered for export are rejected on this account. For some time past I have been carrying out experiments in connection with this disease, and I believe it to be possible to protect lambs against subsequent infection by means of a vaccine. I do not know, however, if such inoculations are practicable under ordinary conditions in these countries. I am therefore endeavouring to get this information from the Argentine Government, and I wondered if you could tell me from whom I should seek it in connection with the Falkland Islands.

/Your

Your help will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) J.B.BUXTON.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY.

5th March, 1929.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Dear Mr. Ormsby Gore,

I enclose a copy of a letter written by the Colonial Secretary to Professor Buxton of the Institute of Animal Pathology, Cambridge, on the subject of the disease in sheep known as "caseous Lymphadenitis" which serves as an interim reply to the enquiry made in the letter addressed to you by Professor Buxton and referred to me. On the appointment of a trained Veterinary Officer to this Colony which I hope will be in the near future I shall not fail to communicate with you again in this connection.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

The Right Honourable  
W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, P.C., M.P.,  
Under Secretary of State  
for the Colonies,  
Etc., etc., etc.

December 1928.

GIBSON BROTHERS  
Calle San Martin 296  
BUENOS AIRES

MONTHLY CIRCULAR

A D E N I T I S   C A S E O S A

Hardly a month ago this name was unknown in general livestock circles. There had been some slight mention of a certain glandular defect found in some sheep carcasses exported from the Southern Territories but no more interest as to its effect on our meat trade was taken than that in the hump on the camel. We are now being informed that for many years the presence of diseased glands in sheep carcasses imported from both shores of the River Plate, Australia and New Zealand have been the subject of much preoccupation and of an increasingly strict inspection on the part of the sanitary authorities of the United Kingdom.

The pathology of the disease is briefly this. It is produced by a bacillus called Friez-Nocard, which gains access to the lymphatic glands of the sheep, principally those of the neck, loin, and quarter. How the bacillus enters its host has not yet been clearly established, but it is thought that it is by way of the navel cord or through some abrasive wound. Once established in the gland it transforms the tissues into a caseous mass, forming a kind of cyst which in some cases grows to a size weighing from two to three kilograms. It is not noticeable in young animals but is more frequently found in old ewes and mature wethers.

The breeders in the Southern Territories have observed that in years when feed is abundant the proportion of carcasses with infected glands is appreciably reduced, and they hold that, if the flocks can be done well during the winter and care taken not to cut the sheep when shearing, the attacks of the bacillus can be kept under.

Although it is sometimes possible to note the presence of an affected gland in the live animal, as a general rule it is only evident in the dressed carcass and even then it is difficult to detect without

making an incision.

It has not been determined whether the bacillus affects all breeds equally, or if it is prevalent more in one district or in others. It is worth noting, however, that apparently its presence is more common in pure and crossbred merinos which are common to Australia, Southern Argentine, Entre Rios and Uruguay.

The sanitary authorities in the United Kingdom place an embargo on any shipment if the first lot of carcasses inspected show a minimum number with affected glands or, which is the same thing, have had the glands taken out by incision. According to the latest figures received, some shipments have contained a very high proportion of carcasses so affected. Nevertheless, the frigorificos cannot be charged with carelessness. The mutton is carefully inspected and although an affected gland may escape notice, especially if situated in the fleshy part of the quarter, it is probable that the practice of cutting and taking out the gland, rather than its presence in the exported carcass, has given rise to the embargos to which the public press refers. What is needed is a more careful classification in the frigorificos and an immediate rejection of any carcass destined for export which shows signs of having had glands affected by adenitis caseosa.

It would also be of interest to breeders to know which are the regions where the bacillus exists, since it is doubtful whether the disease is to be found in the flocks in the West of the Republic or in the Province of Buenos Aires.

W E A T H E R.- Scattered showers have been fairly general over the whole country, in some localities the standing wheat has been damaged. Pastures, save in some localities in the South of the Province of Buenos Aires, are generally in good condition. Temperature has fluctuated but is seasonable.

E X C H A N G E.- The following are the sight rates at the close of December 1928, the figures in brackets correspond to the previous month:

No.

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

MINUTE.

From

*P. M. O.*

To

*4<sup>th</sup> April 1929.*



THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Perhaps it may interest you, in connection with your recent query on caseous lymphadenitis, to see this report. I had intended to send it to you sooner, but the matter escaped my notice. I do not wish the paper returned.

*James Mois.*

34/29.

9th April, 29.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 34/29 of the 5th of March, 1929, I am directed by the Governor to forward to you in case it may be of interest to you a copy of an extract dealing with the disease "caseous lymphadenitis" taken from a trade circular issued by Gibson Brothers of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic.

2. I am to add that as anticipated a qualified Veterinary Officer has now been appointed to the service of this Government and is due to arrive in the Colony during the month of May next.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

LS

Colonial Secretary.

Professor J. B. Buxton,  
M.A., F.R.C.V.S., D.V.H.,  
Institute of Animal Pathology,  
Milton Road,  
CAMBRIDGE.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY.

9th April, 1929.

ALKLAND ISLANDS.

Dear Mr. Ormsby Gore,

In continuation of my letter of the 5th of March, 1929, I enclose a copy, with enclosure, of a further letter addressed by the Colonial Secretary to Professor Buxton on the subject of the disease in sheep "caseous lymphadenitis".

Our newly appointed Veterinary Officer is due to reach the Colony in the course of the next month or so and I hope it will then be possible practically to assist Professor Buxton in his investigations.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

ARNOLD HODSON.

The Right Honourable  
W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, P.C., M.P.,  
Under Secretary of State  
for the Colonies,  
Etc., Etc., Etc.

K. E. M. Hospital.

3-5-29.

3  
9

Hon. Col. Sec.

Caseous Lymphadenitis.

In connection with the last shipment of sheep from Douglas Station by the Antarctic in April the following information may be interesting.

<u>No of sheep.</u>	832 Wethers.	yield of mutton	45,997 lbs
	1 M.E.		
	1 Ewe.	av. weight	55 lbs.

No. of rejects 307, or 37%.

caseous lymphadenitis	5?
Pleurisy & Pneumonia	16.
Bruises	138.
Poor or emaciated (fleece)	39.

There are some doubts as to the caseous lymphadenitis as these were not verified by a qualified V.S.

Analysis of Mutton.

By Weight. { First Quality.	under 50 lbs.	26 carcasses.
	51-60 lbs.	106 "
	61-70 lbs.	52.
	71+ lbs.	3.

Second Quality 339.

Rejects. 307 %.

The Cs were in the whole well nourished, & had a sufficient covering of fat, but were not of the mutton type. The bruising was only to be expected after a rough trip on board ship, & bleeding out was not what it could have been as the sheep were so exhausted.

J.E.M.