

INDUSTRIES .

MISCELLANEOUS .

C.S.

193

No. 105/33.

Mr. T.C.Norris.

SUBJECT.

1933.

21st March.

REPORT BY MR. TOM C. NORRIS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE SHEEPFARMING INDUSTRY IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Previous Paper.

COVER
NEW

See 121/31

MINUTES.

177

Letter from Mr. Tom.C.Norris. 21/3/33.

Y.E. Submitted. Mr. Norris has gone to a great deal of trouble in preparing his notes relative to the Sheepfarming Industry in this Colony. The question of breeding operations in the Colony was taken up in 1931, vide C.S. 121/31 attached.

2. The whole question might be re-considered when a Stock Inspector has been appointed.

3. Y.E. will wish to thank Mr. Norris for his valuable and helpful report and also for his kind offer of professional advice at all times on Sheepfarming matters.
M. Craigie Walker

Subsequent Paper.

How At C.S.

yes please do give my thanks
to Mr Morris for his fine report &
helpful observations. I promised the
Farmers that I would have such report
copied & supplied to them for their
consideration. Can this be done without
much cost & trouble?

Yours
12-5-33

J.E. copies of Notes by Mr. Tom Norris have now been completed / understand that J.E. desires a copy sent to the Managers of each Station on the E. and W. Falkland.

Draft covering letter submitted.

M. Rajin Kharwa
ag. et.

26. 11. 33

How atq C.S.

Yes that is my desire with the addition indicated in draft covering letter

J.E.
26. 5. 33

- 18. Letter to all Station Managers. 29/5/33.
- 19. Letter to Tom. L. Morris, Esq., 4/6/33.

b.f. 31/7/33.
c. et. 8/6/33.

(20) Extract of Letter from J. F. Baines Esq. 23/6/33

P. A. MCH
5. 7. 33

Letter from Mr H. Harding ^{30/7/33} (71-24)

Learn P. A.

M. C. Hallett
by C. L.

Letter from Mr B. Elliott ^{8.7.33} 14/7/33

(25-30)

M. C.

Refs 25-30 submitted.

C. J. G.
for C. L.
25/7/33.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Learn. Kindly acknowledge letters of Mr Harding and Mr Elliott and thank them for the detailed and helpful observations they have kindly furnished.

M. C. H.
Ry. 400^m
25.7.33.

Letter to Hugh Harding, Esq, of 25/7/33.
Letter to B. Elliott, Esq, of 25/7/33

(31)

(32)

P. A.
25/7/33

33-42 Letter from Mr A.V. Cobb. 26/6/33

YH

Submitted. ? Acknowledge receipt and thank Mr Cobb.

C. J. G.
for C.S.O.
9/8/33.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Yes, please. Mr Cobb in common with other Farmers who have furnished observations does not appear to agree with the views expressed by Mr. Norris.

McH
9. 8. 33

(43) Letter to A. V. Cobb of 10/8/33.

P.A.
11/8/33

44-7 Letter from Mr J. J. Bonnet. 15/8/33

YH

Submitted. ? acknowledge receipt and thank Mr Bonnet.

C. J. G.
for C.S.O.
19/8/33

Hon. Col. Sec.

Yes. please.

McH

27. 8. 33.

Letter to Chairman of Sheep Owners' Assoc. of 31/8/32.

48.

Letter to J. F. Banner, Esq. of 31/8/33.

49.

P.H. 21/8/33
50-51

Letter from Managers. F.S. Co. 7/9/33

McH

Submitted

? Acknowledge receipt

C.S. for 6/9/33

Hon. Col. Sec.

Please acknowledge and thank the managers, H.S. Co. Ltd for the observations he has kindly furnished.

2. I agree with Mr Young that comparison cannot be made with the Sheepfarming in Patagonia and this Colony. I took the opportunity during his recent visit of discussing with Mr J. Miller of Hamilton and Saunders, Ltd, the suggestions made by Mr Norris. Mr Miller stated that the land here could not be compared with that on the "Coast" and in consequence it was not possible to raise in the Foothills

the same standard of quality of Stock or to maintain a proper increase, and for this reason he did not consider that the suggestions were practicable. This appears to be the opinion of Farmers who have furnished their observations.

MCH

5. 9. 33

(52) Letter to Manager, Talk. Is. Co. Ltd., of 6/9/33

P.A.
7/9/33

(53) Letter from Mr. G. Scott 1/9/33

MCH

Submitted.

Acknowledge receipt

Co. Sec.
27/

Hon. Col. Sec.

Yes, please.

Pass to Stock Inspector

to Sec.

MCH

27. 9. 33

Letter to George Scott, Esq., of 24/9/33.

(54)

P.A.
28/9/33

Letter from Mr. Cameron. of 30/9/33. 55-56.

Y/6.

Submitted.
Acknowledge and
thank Mr. Cameron.

A. I. Jones
16/10/33

Hon. Col. Sec.

Mr. Cameron's observations
are the most reasoned yet
received. Kindly thank us
in first part of recd 49.

MCH
16. X. 33

Letter to W. Keith-Cameron, Esq., of 17/10/33.

(57)

P.A.
17/10/33

58. Letter from Mr. Pole Evans. 24/11/33.

JH.
Submitted,

C. J. P.
20/12/33

Hon. Col. Sec.

Acknowledge and thank Mr Pole Evans for his letter.

The letter is characteristic of Mr Evans. I am afraid I do not agree with him. The unsatisfactory condition of many of the Farms is due to lack of initiative on the part of the owners and also to the fact that they failed to carry out improvements when they were in a position to do so.

MCH
21- XII- 33

(59) Letter to R. C. Pole Evans, Esq. of 22/12/33.

cf. 28/2/34.
F.P.
23/12/33

Letter from F.I. Sheppfarmers' Assoc. 20/1/34 133 (60-61)

Y/B.

Submitted.

? Acknowledge and thank.

C. S. J.
for M.S.
19/1/34

Hon. Col. Sec.

On the whole the F.I. Sheppfarmers' Association do not agree with the views expressed by Mr. Norris. Yes, please acknowledge and thank the Association for their letter.

MCH

20. 1. 34

Letter to Chairman, F.I. Sheppfarmers' Assoc. of 20/1/34. (62)

P. A.
MCH
2. 4. 34.

~~21/3/34.~~
~~C. S. J. 22/1/34~~

Seen
MCH
1/8/35

P. A.
14/6/35

The Stock Adviser of the F.I. Sheppfarmers' Assoc.

see further

MCH
4/21/36

Stock advise,

to see.

C. J. J.
for est.
30/11/36.

Hon. Col. Sec.

seen
A.A. 16/6/39

P.A.
14/6/47

63

memo from H.K. of 17.12.48

64

" to " " 21.12.48 from H.C.S.

65.

a.o.

To see Mr. Morris's notes &
comment, pl.

22.12

66

Memo from Agricultural Offices of 26.12.48

Y.B. (66) submitted in reply to your queries
on (62).

I have used Morris's book

It on 66 - they have not yet seen
that the freeze will raise the quality.

Quis. me 3
1/29

Asst. Kinley when book H.C.S. 2/12.

Asst. Kinley

Book received J.R.O. 2/1/48

20/11/49.



SOME FALKLAND ISLANDS PROBLEMS.

From notes made during a visit, - February 12th to March 3rd 1933.

These notes and ideas were gleaned, firstly, during the week of the Centenary celebrations in Stanley, when most of the sheepfarmers and their managers were in town, so that I had an opportunity of meeting and conversing with a large proportion of those responsible for the management of the farms, - secondly, during 11 days actually in the camp on East Falkland, when I rode from Darwin through San Carlos, Port San Carlos, Douglas Station and Teal Inlet back to Stanley.

My impression was that the sheepfarmers are faced with problems of either having no surplus sheep to dispose of, or, in the case of those having a few thousands available, lack of means of liquidating that surplus except by boiling down, or "trying-out" as it is termed locally. At the same time the Government appears rather occupied with the unemployment problem, for considerable sums have now to be dispersed in relief works which take the form of making ribbon tracks, etc.,

It would appear as if these problems confronting the Sheepfarmers and the Government are interlocking and that given proper cooperation between all parties concerned, a practical solution of what is worrying the former would automatically solve the difficulties of the latter. In other words, I think that if a commercial business can be set up for the profitable marketing of all surplus sheep in the form of frozen meat, then, in keeping with the increased activity of the sheep raising business a large number of extra hands would be required, so that the entire local population could be profitably employed and all relief works eventually

dispensed with.

The total Sheep Stock of the Falklands according to figures kindly supplied by the Govt. Vet., now number slightly over 600,000 grazed on an area, which, after all is comparatively small; and were they all on the main-land the obvious solution would be to erect a freezing plant to which all sheep would be marched for butchering and freezing, preparatory to shipment overseas. Here the difficulty is however, the sheep are not pastured on one, but on many islands from where transport in a live state would be impractical, whilst, even on the same island the more distant flocks would find difficulty in trooping owing to the nature of the country, cut up as it is by so many bogs and ditches. A freezing plant at one fixed centre would therefore be unpractical.

An alternative would be a floating establishment, in the shape of a ship which could go round to each station in turn- they are all situated on the coast- and be so designed and equipped as to be able to receive on board at each port for killing and freezing the surplus sheep from that station. Skins would be skinned and dealt with on board and the ship with its cargo of frozen meat and by-products would make frequent trips to the nearest foreign port,- Montevideo for example- where transshipment would be made to any of the transatlantic liners regularly engaged in transport of frozen produce.

That such a system is possible I am firmly convinced, for I can imagine no physical obstacle to prevent it. The question then arises, would it be a commercially paying proposition.? For if not, it would be useless to further consider the matter.

Naturally the first enquiry would be,- How many carcasses are

13

actually disposed of annually on the islands by trying-out.? Alternatively, what is the actual available surplus.? I am informed that it is less than 20,000 sheep, mostly from East Falkland, as West Falkland, which embraces a very considerable area, has during recent years been hardly able to maintain its numbers, so, in reality has no surplus at all.

I am not an authority of freezing costs or profits, but nevertheless I feel quite sure that with only 20,000 carcasses annually such a ship would be a commercial failure. I doubt if even 50,000 would suffice, although I have heard that figure mentioned as a payable base number. Personally I consider that at least 100,000 should be the basis for calculating the financial prospect for such a proposition.

At the outset therefore, we are met by the fact that the actual number of surplus sheep is entirely insufficient to warrant the establishment of a floating plant as outlined. The next question to arise is, - Can production be so largely increased that an output of well over 100,000 carcasses per annum, be reasonably anticipated.? Here, I most emphatically answer, Yes. Always providing that the sheep owners can be prevailed on to bring their systems of breeding and handling ~~to~~ to up-to-date lines, and in this way give their support and cooperation to the industrial concern which would be responsible for financing and the working of such a freezing ship.

From personal observation on my ride round and from ^{many} ~~my~~ talks I had with breeders and shepherds, I formed the opinion that the sheepbreeding industry on the islands had got into a vicious

(2)

circle due to absence of any practical way of disposal of surplus stock except in the form of grease in casks for which the monetary return is not in any way commensurate with the labour entailed. Few therefore have troubled to breed surpluses, merely looking to the wool clip as a means of income, so that now they ^{have} reached the state when small lambings and heavy mortalities are considered normal. It would seem as if no attempt is made to counteract these drawbacks, probably because, if anyone did make an effort and produced more animals there would be no means of disposing of the surplus. Local systems of handling and the policy-in-general appear therefore to be based on the hard fact that there is no outlet for surplus sheep. Actual methods are therefore quite logical under the circumstances, being merely the natural result of breeders having for many years to adapt themselves to a state of affairs where a more prolific increase simply entailed increased trouble to kill off the surplus in order to confine numbers to what the camps can safely carry.

Furthermore it is quite evident that any attempt to change over to modern methods without having first of all secured an outlet for the increase which would automatically follow, would be madness, and similarly it would be equally idiotic to start a Freezer with no prospect of more output than what is actually available. The two phases are therefore definitely dependent, the one on the other, so without real understanding and cooperation right from the beginning between the sheep farmer on the one side and the freezer entity on the other there cannot be any hope of success.

A floating freezer would require capital for the purchase of

what is meant by surplus.

the necessary plant in addition to a regular business organization to enable it to continue functioning year in and year out, - consequently it would be quite outside the scope of an individual sheepowner, except possibly the Falkland Islands Company which I am led to understand owns about one third of the sheep stock. Even so it would seem rather too much to expect the Company to tackle the problem alone, simply trusting that, after having done the spade work and having demonstrated that the other farmers could make more money if they changed their systems, the latter would then fall into line and give the scheme their active support. It appears therefore a fit subject for Government consideration, bearing in mind especially the steady natural increase of population on the islands, where under existing conditions the whole cannot even now be profitably employed. In view of this latter problem a concrete decision may sooner or later have to be taken, either induce the surplus people to emigrate, or else re-organize the main industry, sheepbreeding, enabling it to profitably employ all those now out of work, with the added prospect of an expanding field for occupation as the new system becomes more definitely established,

X
I do not for a moment anticipate that the sheepfarmers will unanimously consent immediately to change their ways. As a class they are generally very conservative and loth to depart from established local customs, for a stockman is usually imbued with the idea that he knows better than anyone else how best to handle animals in his particular district. They would therefore require to be persuaded by one whose views and knowledge they respected. Right from the outset therefore the Government is confronted with the task of

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trying to convince the breeders that a drastic but at the same time properly conducted change in their system will eventually lead to much increased prosperity.

Speaking as one who has had the handling of large numbers of sheep in other countries but where the disposal of surplus stock was always possible, even if at times accompanied by great difficulty,- I have no hesitation in stating that, given a market at the door of each station such as would be the case with a floating freezer in working order, there is vast scope for development in the Falklands without any increase in the number of sheep to be carried during the winter, nor in any way decreasing the value of the wool clip.

I will endeavour to briefly indicate how this could be effected

First of all let us consider the composition of the sheep-stock at the end of 1930-1931, being the last figures I was able to obtain and which were as follows,-

Rams,	7,943	
Wethers,	181,535	
Breeding Ewes,	232,372	
Other Ewes,	62,781	
Hoggets,	<u>124,283</u>	Total 608,914

These I take to be the winter figures or say, at the time of lowest stock capacity during the year. On the face of it the above proportions would require radical modification should one of the main objects in view be to produce a large surplus for disposal at the most suitable age.

There can be no two opinions as to the capacity of the camps to produce sheep of suitable weights for modern requirements, provide they are slaughtered young enough. At the recent Centenary Stock

Show the Fat Lamb exhibits, aged about 4 months, killed out at an average of 37lbs of meat, an eminently suitable weight being just the age and size the freezers are paying top prices for. On the other hand the Wethers, all grass fed, were far too heavy, their killing weights ran between 80 and 99 lbs whereas in the frozen meat trade the best prices for mutton are paid for young sheep weighing from 50 to 60 lbs,- exceeding the latter weight their value declines. These show pens therefore demonstrated that the Falklands can produce fat lambs at an early age and of a size that will command top prices, whilst it was also quite evident that if the wethers were killed at an earlier age, or say immediately after their first shearing, ~~or say~~ when they are about 16 months old, they would then dress at the weight which is in demand. Under the reformed system therefore, the islands would retain no grown wethers until mid winter, so that stocks would then comprise, Rams, Breeding Ewes, Hoggets, and a few mutton sheep,- and it stands to reason that the elimination of the Wethers now numbering over 186,000 would leave room for a corresponding increase in the breeding stock.

I will now venture to make a few remarks about methods of handling,- it is a subject I approach with extreme diffidence as no stockman likes to hear his system criticised without opportunity for immediate explanation. I will however briefly tabulate some of the impressions formed.

1. In nearly every paddock I noted what seemed to me excessive variation in the condition of the sheep in that paddock, some being fat, others quite thin.

2. Bad doers or "Piners" as they are termed locally are numerous, in many cases these are motherless lambs, i.e. poddies.
3. I gathered that during lambmarking, there is what I would consider a general lack of care as regards the mothering of lambs.
4. Lambs are dropped in October and early November. Marking is effected during November, at which time many become separated from their mothers. All are definitely weaned when the flock comes in for shearing in January.

Comment. The lucky ones therefore enjoy their mother's milk for 4 months as a maximum, whereas many are deprived of that and have to fend for themselves at a much more tender age.

5. A general idea seems to be that young sheep do not thrive.
6. I gathered that it is usual to retain the best of the grazing lands for the breeding ewes.

Comment. Consequently, when lambs are weaned and thus deprived of the mother's milk and care, they suffer additional hardship due to more inferior grazing. Here would seem to be a definite cause for non thriving and retarded development.

7. It is evidently not the custom to breed from young ewes until they are 3 years old. i.e. they are first served by the rams at 2 years 7 months.
8. It seems quite usual to put out Ram lambs, only 7 months old, to assist the older rams in the service of the ewes.

Comment. It seems inexplicable that the male should be deemed fit for sexual duties at 7 months whilst the female is considered to be still immature at 1 year and 7 months.

9. The sheep generally seem small in bone, very independent in habits, do not run together in a normal way when disturbed and

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a large percentage appear to tire easily and consequently are difficult to work.

Comment. All above mentioned symptoms are probably traceable to retarded development and not thriving in their earlier days.

10. Considerable mortality is due to sheep falling into ditches from which they are unable to extricate themselves.

11. Cases of inverted uterus amongst ewes at lambing time appear to be excessively numerous on some stations.

12. There is no Scab in the Falklands.

13. Most owners claim their flocks to be free of all parasites. On the other hand I heard quite frequent mention of Tapeworm, also cases of hard excrescences on livers, which latter may point to Fluke.

14. Many sheep are found cast during the spring, especially during lambing, owing to the wool flattening out when they lie down. This adds considerably to the death rate.

15. The climate appears difficult for shearing, cold driving rain during that operation is a frequent cause of mortality.

Comment. The scarcity of natural shelter from the wind could possibly be met by erection of sections of walls or wind breaks made of grass sods in paddocks where the Clippies are first turned out to.

16. The camps appear to be well grassed, comfortably carrying actual numbers. Their condition however struck me as being very uneven

Comment. More fencing to subdivide into smaller paddocks would be an advantage and enable a fairer distribution of the grazing.

17. No artificial fodder appears to be grown, except oaten hay for horses and cows.

18. Each station is self supporting as regards labour. There is an entire absence of nomadic help to assist in the busy periods. The same permanent staff do everything. This means that shearing, for example, is not a continuous operation, for the same gang of men first of all muster, then shear, then press the wool of each flock in turn. Some of the shearing sheds have been made commodious enough to house ~~enough~~ ^{sufficient} sheep to last over two day's shearing.
- Comment. The hardiest sheep must lose condition if without food for over 24 hours.
19. The wire fencing is generally very slack. I only saw one line of good taut fence.
20. I understand it is not the custom for shepherds to have to attend to the fencing in their paddocks.
21. The standard of living is high. Shepherds are well and comfortably housed, cows are supplied, peat fuel is abundant, potatoes and vegetables easily grown.
22. Vehicular traffic is practically non existant. Settlements are built beside inlets of the sea, the woolshed generally next to the jetty so that ^{bales} can be loaded direct on to the steamer _x. Practically all cargo is water borne. Traffic on land is usually on horseback.
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I formed the impression that wool production is the one main object in view, even to the length of considering that as grown sheep clip the most wool it pays to give them the best camp and as a natural result the younger sheep have to rustle as best they can until fully developed. If such is really the case, it is no wonder

that the majority of the young ewes are considered as too backward to join with the rams at the normal age of 1 year and 7 months.

On a properly organized breeding establishment elsewhere in the world a flock ewe is normally cast for age after 5 years. That is to say she bears lambs during 4 seasons, at 2, 3, 4 and 5 years old respectively, so that the custom in the Falklands whereby the ewe is prevented from breeding when at 2 years old immediately cuts short it's useful life by 25 per cent. The mere fact that the ram lambs, which being bred in the stud are naturally kept on fairly good grass, are thought fit for sexual duties at the early age of 7 months, is definite proof that were their sisters given a reasonable chance they would be quite fit for bearing a lamb at 2 years old. I may also add that under normal conditions when a properly developed ewe is prevented from being served so as to lamb at 2 years old and held back for the following year, she runs a grave risk of afterwards proving to be barren.

There appears to me therefore to be room for a radical change in the system of handling the young stock.

I think I have already said enough to show that the number of breeding ewes could without difficulty be increased to about 400,000 from which an annual lambing of quite 300,000 could be reasonably expected. I am told that on the smaller islands lambings of 90 and 100 per cent are quite usual, so that given proper treatment 75 per cent would seem a conservative estimate. When that stage is reached the fat wether lambs exported should number at least 100,000 per annum, in addition to which hogget wethers and old ewes would take the total available to the vicinity of 200,000 carcasses per annum.

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It seems clear therefore that there is scope for material development and that the Falklands have a capacity for producing far more than what is being exported today. I also think it is a matter of sufficient importance to justify a more detailed and searching investigation than what I was able to make during my brief visit to the islands.

Statistics if properly compiled and tabulated over a series of years can prove very illuminating to anyone who has had the necessary training and experience to be able to read them. I would suggest therefore that as a preliminary to further investigation figures for the following items be tabulated year by year over so long a period as the records are available.-

- Rainfall.
- Total sheep stock
- Total wool clip in lbs.
- Number of lambs marked,
- Number of sheep tried out.
- Tons of tallow exported as result of above.
- Number of sheep exported.
- Number of sheep imported.
- Number of carcasses sold to ships and otherwise.
- Number of animals consumed locally.
- Population.

which records if studied in conjunction should give a fairly reliable idea of past results and be a useful basis on which to ~~fo~~ found predictions as to future probabilities.

I would also venture to suggest that as there is a Govt. Vet at Stanley much useful information might be gained by a proper investigation into the reason for Piners. There seems little ~~and~~ doubt that too early weaning to indifferent pastures would be sufficient to bring about that condition, on the other hand Worms or other parasites may be contributory causes, consequently an

extensive series of post mortem examinations
several of the stations should definitely tend to
matter, and if parasites are found remedies could be suggested and
tried out so as to alleviate the condition.

The same suggestion would apply to cases of inverted uterus
as a skilled Vet. will no doubt be able to locate the cause and
suggest some practical preventative.

Finally to establish the connection between the sheep prob-
lems and unemployment. The main idea would be for the crew and
the butchering gang on the floating freezer to be recruited from
Kelpers, the name given, I understand, to those born and bred in the
Falklands. The killing season would probably last about 4 months
from January to May being the period when the sheep would be in
their fattest condition as well as being the most appropriate time
to reduce numbers, largely augmented by the lambing in the spring,
down to the safe winter figure. All the men could moreover be
employed to great advantage on the stations during November and
December assisting at the lambmarking and shearing and thus enable
those works to be carried out far more expeditiously than at present.

As the system became organized more fencing would be required
and at which a number of men would be occupied for the remaining
months of the year.

Tom Brown

Buenos Aires.

21st March 1933.

76P
17

TOM C. NORRIS

U. T. 33, AVENIDA 4175

TELEGRAMS: "TOMNORRIS"

315 CANGALLO

BUENOS AIRES

21st March 1933.

The Colonial Secretary,

Hon. J. M. Ellis,
Stanley.
Falkland Islands.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with a verbal request formulated by His Excellency the Governor whilst I was in Stanley, I have now compiled and enclose herewith a brief resumé of my ideas on some of your problems.

I trust it will be realised at the outset that owing to the very brief duration of my visit there, these views may to some extent be rather superficial so that a more careful and prolonged investigation could possibly cause some modification in the conclusions I have arrived at. On the other hand I have been quite frank in recording my first impressions and any suggestions now made are from the point of view of what I would propose doing myself were I the owner of all the stock there.

I need hardly add that I have formed a very favourable impression of the potential capacity of the Falklands as a centre of production of fat lambs and good type mutton, in addition to the production of wool which up to now has been practically the sole source of revenue for the sheep farmers,- also that the problem of diminishing flocks and lack of increase can be remedied by improved systems of handling.

Meat is certainly just now at such a low figure as to be hardly a paying production, but such I feel is only a transitory state of affairs, sure to remedy itself with the resumption of world prosperity, so, as it will take time to modify existing methods to the stage when

100,000 fat lambs would be a regular quota for annual exportation, the sooner a move be made the better, so that by the time the markets of the world are more active and normal, the Falklands would be ready and equipped to produce to their full capacity.

You will note that I have rather stressed a desirability for modification in the treatment of lambs,- a subject I have dealt with rather fully in a book entitled "Practical Sheep Farming" which was to have been published for me in London on the 8th of this month by Messrs Geo. Allen & Unwin Ltd., I would suggest therefore that the book be obtained and the remarks there recorded on "Mothering" be read in conjunction with this report, as to a great extent they are applicable to conditions as found in the islands.

I should be extremely grateful if you would kindly pass this report on to His Excellency the Governor with the assurance that it has been a pleasure to make these few notes and suggestions for his information. Also that I will be only too glad to give to him, as His Majesty's representative my opinion and professional advice at all times on any of these subjects with regard to which my particular training and experience enables me to make a survey from a point of view probably not attainable by the average layman.

Yours faithfully,

Wm. P. Young

No. 105/33.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
29th May, 1933.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to transmit for your information, the accompanying copy of Notes made by Mr. Tom Morris of Buenos Aires during his recent visit to this Colony, and would be glad of your observations thereon. You will no doubt recollect that Mr. Morris visited the Colony for the purpose of acting as a Judge at the Stock Show which was held during the Centenary Celebrations in February last.

I am to add that Mr. Morris has recently published a book entitled "Practical Sheep Farming" which may be obtained from Messrs. Geo. Allen & Unwin, Ltd. London. It is understood that the book deals somewhat fully with the desirability for modification in the treatment of lambs.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

M. George Hall

Acting Colonial Secretary

10/33.

7th June, 35.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 21st March, 1935, addressed to Mr. J. M. Ellis, O.B.E., transmitting certain Notes and Suggestions relative to the Sheep Farming Industry of this Colony which were made by you during your recent visit to these Islands.

2. I am to say that His Excellency has read with very great interest your views together with the excellent and helpful observations put forward relative to problems dealing with the Sheep Farming Industry, and to add that copies of your Notes and Suggestions have been sent to the Managers of all Sheep Farms in the Colony, who at the same time have been invited to offer their observations thereon. The attention of Managers has also been drawn to your recent publication entitled "Practical Sheep Farming".

3. I am directed further warmly to thank you for the very thorough manner in which you have dealt with the matter in all its aspects, thus giving Sheep Farmers the benefit of your long and valuable experience in connection with Stock. I am also to thank you for the kind offer of your opinion and professional advice at all times on matters dealing with the Sheep Farming Industry of the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. Luigi Hackett
2

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Tom. Norris, Esq.,
315 Cangallo,
BUENOS AIRES.

JUNE

EXTRACT FROM LETTER, DATED 23RD JULY, 1933, RECEIVED
FROM J.F. BONNER. ESQ., THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS FILED
IN STOCK RETURN FILE.

..... I have to thank you for your letter of the 29th ult.,, No.105/33, together with a copy of notes made by Mr. T.C.Norris during his recent visit to the Colony, and will be pleased to submit my observations thereon after due consideration, at some later date.

I am, etc.

(Sgd) J.F.Bonner.

Page 2. Some remarks against the possibility of taking 100,000 surplus sheep as a basis for a Freezer.

1. Continual bad lambing percentages even although breeding ewes are grazing on the best camps.
2. The fact that the majority of farms have to keep ewes of 7 & 8 years old for breeding purposes, and would find it almost impossible at the present time to obtain enough ewes for breeding on their wether camps.
3. The impossibility of breeding even 50% of lambs on most grounds which are now being used for grazing wethers, owing to the camp being too wet and bleak.
4. The fat lamb exhibits at the Centenary Stock Show were by no means the general average of the condition of Falkland Island lambs but the best that could be picked out from the various flocks on each station.
5. Wethers killed at 18 months old could not be expected to average anything like 50-60 lbs. The earliest one could expect them to average this weight would be at 3½ years.

Methods of handling to be read with pages 2 - 3.

1. Would probably appear excessive to a stranger to the country as sheep are usually not run together according to age, namely he would most likely see sheep running in one flock from 1½ to eight years old, and would also not understand the time it takes for a young sheep to grow to maturity.
2. Breeding from poor and old ewes even although the lambs were with their mothers up to January would tend to increase the percentage of piners.
3. It would have been interesting to have had more details re 'the general lack of care'.
4. The main cause of this would appear to be the practice of gathering ewes and lambs for marking in large mobs. About 100 ewes to each pen should be the average.
5. It is generally recognized that young sheep do not mature in the Falklands as quickly as in other countries, say Patagonia for example.

24

6. It is always usual to retain the best grazing camps for the breeding ewes and their lambs after being weaned. It is not correct to say that as a general rule lambs are put on to inferior grazing after being weaned.
7. This is correct as ewes of 13 months old are not considered to have grown sufficiently to put to the ram. Whenever this has been tried it has retarded their growth and only produced about 40% of lambs at the outside.
8. On most farms it is not usual to put out ram lambs.
15. Where a good sheltered clipped sheep paddock is provided and if necessary freshly clipped sheep are run back in the shed during heavy cold rain storms, death does not occur immediately following shearing.
16. More fences would certainly be a great advantage and enable some sort of rotation grazing to be tried on the wet camps. Unfortunately times are so bad just now that owners have not the money to spend on this sort of work. It is not possible to erect fences during the worst of the winter months.
18. It is not by any means the general practice to keep sheep in the shed for 48 hours without food or water.
If nomadic help was engaged to assist at the busy periods every farm could employ considerably less labour than they are now doing, during the winter months, and so appreciably aggravate the present unemployment problem.
19. It seems remarkable that only one good taut fence was seen over the distance ridden. In order to keep any large amount of fencing in proper repair it is usually necessary to have four men out round the fences for a month to six weeks in the spring and the same after shearing.
20. Some farms insist on their shepherds executing ordinary repairs such as, driving in odd standards, mending broken wires, and putting in tie downs.
21. It is generally recognized that the working man in this country is as well if not considerably better off than his fellow workers in other parts of the world especially as the majority of the labour out here is not skilled.

To be read with pages 8 & 10

The apparent impression that young sheep are given the worst camp to graze on is certainly the wrong one.

The ideal age to cast a ewe in this country, if enough young sheep are available for replacement, is at 6 years old, that is, she bears lambs at 3, 4, 5, & 6 years old respectively.

As remarked elsewhere ^{ram lambs} are not generally used for service.

If it is not possible to obtain an average lambing of 60% in the Falklands over a number of years by using the best grazing camps for breeding ewes, how much more difficult it would be to obtain 75% by using, in addition to the best camps, those which are at present only considered good enough to run wethers from 18 months old onward.

The only possible way the figure of 100,000 might be obtained for freezing purposes in this country would be by introducing a hardier ~~strain~~ strain into the present flocks, and so expect the ensuing result to be a more mature and prolific type of animal.

This would of course mean that the quality and quantity of the wool would have to be sacrificed to a certain extent, and it is very doubtful whether farm owners would see their way to doing this in the hope of making up their losses in wool by selling to a freezer. Therefore, until the present rate of lambing percentages on the best grazing grounds can be improved without effecting the market value of the wool clip, it would appear that any hope of a Freezer being a business proposition would be very problematical.

101/33

Hill Cove.

Falkland Islands.

June 30th. 1933.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary.
Stanley.

Sir,

I beg to submit as requested, my observations on ' Some
Falkland Islands Problems ' By Mr T.J.Norris.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

H. C. Harding.

105/33

30

North Arm,

Falkland Islands.

July 14th 1933.

The Colonial Secretary,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you for the copy of notes made by Mr T. Norris during his recent visit to the Falkland Islands, and in replying to your request for my observations on same I do not wish it to be thought by anything that I say that I presume to think he is other than a first class stockman, but only that I am trying to point out how, in my opinion, he formed wrong impressions of the Falkland Islands during his short visit to the colony; and in writing this I should like to express my appreciation, not only of his acting as judge at the Stock Show, but also of the great interest he has taken in the Falklands as a whole and of the trouble he has gone to on our behalf in writing these notes for our benefit.

On page 3 Mr Norris says that few farmers have troubled to breed surplus stock as they merely look upon the wool clip as a means of income; I do not think it is so, I am sure every manager tries to get the biggest increase and the smallest death rate he can, in fact I have no doubt that the farmers in the islands, with very few exceptions, would be only too pleased if they were able to cull their sheep more heavily than they do; it is not that they are satisfied with what they get, but that they do not see how they can get better results, and I should think that it is most unlikely that anybody in the islands keeps his increase down so as to save himself the trouble of killing off his surplus stock.

That is how I believe things are at present; but of course if the number of breeding ewes was largely increased and the dry sheep cut down proportionately, a surplus could be obtained, but at the expense of the wool clip. The question then arises

as to how we could obtain the extra ewes; to breed them on the islands with the stock we have at present is, I think, out of the question, there are very few farms that can comfortably keep up their stock of ewes, and there are not a few farms, I believe, that cannot keep up their flocks, but have to buy up ewes whenever opportunity offers. That means that ewes would have to be imported, and I should think that at present there are very few farms that would be able to raise the necessary money to do so.

But supposing these difficulties were overcome, and there were sufficient ewes in the country to breed surplus stock to the number of 100,000 or more per year, could these sheep be killed in condition fit for freezing? Mr Norris says there can be no two opinions as to the capacity of the camps to provide sheep of suitable weights, and he seems to base this observation on what he saw at the Centenary Stock Show, regarding these exhibits more as a fair sample of what can be grown in the islands, instead of as an example of the very pick of the sheep taken from the very best of the camp, which pieces are very few and far between. Taking the weight of the fat wethers in the "Show" into consideration he says that they are too heavy, but that if they had been killed at 16 months of age they would have then dressed at the right weight. No doubt what he says is perfectly correct if the sheep at that age were in the same condition, but I think that apart from a few of the best islands there are very few places that will put sheep in the necessary condition at that age. Speaking of this section of the Falkland Islands Coy's camps, North Arm, I believe that if all the shearling wethers, say 6,000 sheep, were looked through at dipping time, it would not be possible to pick out twelve of them that would be fit for the freezer, and I doubt if even one could be found. In this country, neither sheep nor cattle of the breeds here at present, and it is very doubtful if other breeds would do better, will put on condition till they are full mouthed, or nearly full mouthed, except on the very

38

pick of the camp, which places, as I said before, are very few and far between.

With regard to lambs at 4 or 5 months, I have no doubt that if the lambs were left with their mothers till this age, considerably more animals fit for freezing could be obtained from them than from 2 tooth wethers, but even with them, the number obtained would be very much too small to make a paying proposition of a floating freezer, if 100,000 would be the minimum of what would be required.

With regard to cull ewes making up the number, what could be obtained from them would be an almost negligible quantity.

When one considers the amount of tallow per sheep which is obtained from culls, almost all fully grown sheep, tried out every year in the Falklands, I think the impossibility of running a freezer and making it pay is very plainly shown.

The position at present with regard to fat sheep at North Arm, is that for half of the year we have considerable difficulty in finding sheep for our own consumption that could be called good mutton, and even in the autumn they are far from plentiful, how much more difficult would it be to find sheep fit for the freezer? which would have to be more than what is known out here as good mutton, but would have to be in prime condition; and I believe that there are a lot of farms in the Falkland Islands that are in the same position. The question that then arises is why the sheep are not fatter; Mr Norris says there can be no two opinions as to the capacity of the camp to provide suitable sheep, if he is right, then it is either the breed of the sheep or the management that is at fault, the breed of the sheep may have something to do with it, but my opinion is that it is the quality of the feed that is the trouble, and I believe that the Falkland Islands, in their natural state, under any management whatever, are quite incapable of producing 100,000 sheep, or anything near that number, per year which would be fit for freezing.

Another difficulty of a floating freezer would be to have her at all the different settlements at times suitable to the different farms, everybody would want her some time in March, April or May, this, I should think, would be extremely difficult; supposing killing was carried on every day of these three months, more than 1,000 sheep would have to be killed per day to bring the number to the minimum of 100,000, and of course it would not be possible to kill every day, as a considerable amount of time would be taken up in shifting from one port to another and with going to Montevideo or Buenos Aires with the carcasses. I do not pretend to be an authority on floating freezers, having never even seen one, and I dare say this is a difficulty that could be overcome, but, at the same time, I think quite possibly this might present a problem that would not be of the easiest solution.

In my opinion, the only possible way to find a sufficient number of sheep that would be fit for freezing, would be to make fattening farms in central positions on both the East and West Falklands, but of course, before this was done, there would have to be a sufficient number of breeding ewes in the islands to make sure of a surplus of stock. On these farms it would be necessary to cultivate a great deal of land, on which turnips or swedes would have to be grown, and to grow these properly a very large quantity of artificial manure would be required, as it would be quite impossible to find sufficient animal manure, also large quantities of X "cake" would be needed, and the labour would be no inconsiderable item. Though I put this forward as a possibility, I do not believe it would be possible to make it a paying proposition, as, on account of the extreme natural poverty of the land and the inclement climate of the Falkland Islands, I should think the cost of fattening the sheep would be far in excess of the difference in the value of the sheep before and after fattening; but at the same time, an experiment on these lines on a very small scale might not be out

5

(26)

of place, so that the cost of fattening sheep in this manner could be fairly accurately estimated.

On page 9 Mr Norris says that with 400,000 breeding ewes in the islands a lambing of 75 per cent could be reasonably expected; at present with 230,000 breeding ewes, the average lambing is probably very little if any better than 60 per cent, (this of course is only a guess, I have no statistics to go by), but whatever it is, with 400,000 breeding ewes, I think it would be only reasonable to expect a smaller average percentage than we have at present; as, taking North Arm as an example, the extra breeding ewes would have to be grazed on inferior camps, that is the wether camps, as we could not afford to put our hoggets and gimmers on what are at present our wether camps.

On account of the various reasons given above, I am of opinion that it would not be possible to make a floating freezer a paying proposition.

With regard to Mr Norris's remarks on pages 6,7 and 8, it seems to me that he has in some cases gained a wrong impression of the Falkland Islands, and taken in numerical order I beg to submit the following:-

3. "I gathered that during lamb marking there is what I would consider a general lack of care as regards the mothering of lambs"

It is true that a considerable number of lambs become mismothered at lamb marking, and I personally would have very much appreciated practical suggestions as to how, under existing conditions or without the outlay of very considerable capital, our present methods could be improved upon.

6. "I gathered that it is usual to retain the best of the grazing lands for the breeding ewes".

This is, in my experience, only true up to a point, it would, I think, be more nearly correct to say that the breeding ewes, hoggets and gimmers have the best of the grazing lands, the hogget and the gimmer camps are, on the average, fully as good if not better than the ewe camps; and not only that, but when the lambs

are weaned, the hogget camps have had a spell of about 6 weeks, and so the lambs are put on to good clean pasture and in consequence should not suffer hardship from inferior grazing.

8. "It seems quite usual to put out ran lambs, only 7 months old, to assist the older rams in the service of the ewes".

This is, I believe, the exception and not the rule, and when it is done I have no doubt that only the best of the lambs from the very best of the camps are used.

II. "Cases of inverted uterus amongst ewes at lambing time appear to be excessively numerous on some stations".

I have never heard this said before, in 10 years in the Falklands I have only seen two cases of inverted uterus, and I think that stations that do have this trouble must be very greatly in the minority.

Yours faithfully

B. L. Collins

105/33.

25th July, 33.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 30th June, 1933, and to convey His Excellency's thanks for the very detailed and helpful observations you kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Morris, during his recent visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. J. S.

For Colonial Secretary.

Hugh Harding, Esq.,
Hill Cove,
WEST FALMOUTH.

105/33.

25th July,

37
55.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 14th inst., and to convey His Excellency's thanks for the very detailed and helpful observations you kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Morris, during his recent visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. J. S.

for Colonial Secretary.

B. Elliott, Esq.,
Manager,
NORTH ARM.

47
Packer Bros. & Co.

Falkland Islands, 26th June 1933.

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.



Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter accompanying Mr. Morris' report.

As requested by you, I have made various observations and suggestions for the future, some of which may be found practical whilst others may be at present financially impossible.

But it is to be hoped that something may soon be done towards finding markets for produce.

I have the honour
to be,

Your obedient servant.

Robert Cobb.

D. P.

PACKE BROS & CO. LD.

(41)

Observations on Notes made by W. Morris
on The Sheep Industry of The Falkland Islands.

These observations are made by one whose sheep farming experience in the Falkland Islands has been almost entirely on the West Falkland Island and who has only a little experience on the East beyond enquiries and hearings.

Surplus Stock. The question of finding an outlet for surplus livestock is a very serious one which is probably felt more on the West Falkland than on the East as the latter have the Stanley butcheries, which absorb a large number of surplus sheep. In these bad times especially, the ability to sell surplus stock would probably just help to make the difference of being able to cover cost of production. I am of opinion that it would be a very good and beneficent move on the part of the Government to make searching enquiries outside the Colony as to what could be done in this line. Having found out from each farm what would be their maximum number of fat sheep available for disposal per annum, surely with established facts & figures something can be done.

Suggested enquiries.

1. The smallest size of Freezing Plant that would be an economic commercial proposition.
2. Possibility of export in the live state.
3. Net returns possible by exporting pickled

method in barrels.

- 4. Advising possible buyers of livestock in the Coast of available quantities, with view to purchase.
- 5. It might be possible to arrange with the F.I. Company to freight the sheep to a buyer on the Coast who would not otherwise be in a position to ship.

Freezing. The idea of a Freezing Factory Ship would seem to be financially out of the question, having regard to the paucity of present surplus which even with every endeavour + accompanying success could not be increased to such an extent for some years.

When Goose Green Canning works were in operation I understand that stock were carried by ship either direct to the works themselves or to Egg Harbour + thence overland. If anything in the nature of a Freezing Plant were devised it would seem more workable to have a freezer situated somewhere in the Sound, say San Carlos North which would be fairly central for the East + reasonably so for the West Falkland as being in the Sound. It is presumed that the Lafonia would be glad to get the extra freights which would be from Port Howard for the main West Island + direct from the smaller Islands. If the Lafonia were fitted with freezing apparatus, she would have the extra freights also to Montevideo.

Alternative to the above scheme, it might be possible to arrange something with the Falkland

3.
18. does Company in the nature of a Freezer at
Goose Green which would import its stock as it
did in the Canning days. No doubt, his scheme
would have to be on a Co-operative basis or
Subsidised ^{dis} by Government for the commencement
for as Mr Norris says in his report, one could
not expect the F.I. Company to do the spade
work whilst other farmers have everything to gain
and nothing to lose.

It would seem advisable however to discover
from people of experience, the size of the smallest
Freezer that could be a commercial proposition.
I suggest also that such enquiries should be made
from several sources with the idea of getting
more than one opinion on the subject.

In his report, Mr Norris states that it
would seem that small lamblings are now con-
sidered normal and that nothing was being
done to counteract this. This is quite erroneous.
Most Farmers are very concerned about this &
two or three Stations on the West having altered
their methods with a great deal of thought &
expense have improved their lamblings very
considerably and decreased their death-rate.

Other Stations also are making every endeavour
by trying new methods and in these bad times
are spending money on fencing for the splitting
of camps.

In speaking of the lambs which he saw

4. at the Show, Mr. Norris forgets that what he saw were exceptional & selected lambs, not by any means representative of the average lamb at four months. It is doubtful whether even with increased lambing, many lambs would be fit for freezing except from one or two particular Stations or Islands.

Wethers after their first shearing (i.e. Shearlings) are another class of sheep in this country which does not fatten readily and it is noticeable that Shearling ewes pick up more quickly. Probably Wethers at four-tooth or six-tooth would be more sustainable.

Remarks on Mr. Norris' Impressions.

1. In general, there is not excessive variation in the condition of sheep on the West Falkland.
2. Much of the lack of condition is amongst Shearling Wethers which are considered by people outside the Colony as being immature at two-tooth.
3. I notice that while criticising our care of lambs mothering, he offers no alternative remedy. Most Stations now mark their lambs in very small points to avoid confusion, congestion & rough handling. Actual cutting now at present is done with much more care than formerly & speaking from my own experience, actual deaths of lambs between lamb marking & Shearling have decreased enormously.
4. General reasons for the weaning of lambs at Shearing time are as follows:-
 - (a) Easing up of ewe breeding pounds to allow

ewes to put on condition before rams go out.

- (b) Lambs are weaned and over the stock of it whilst food is green & plentiful.
- (c) Lambs are settled down on to their winter pounds before the bad weather & winter come in.

6. As stated, shearing wethers do seem certainly to be the most difficult class of sheep to get to thrive. Some opinions have the impression that the de-sexing is still felt at this age. It is certainly a fact that more shearing ewes percent have cut their two teeth at this time than wethers of corresponding age. There is in general not much difficulty with other classes of sheep.

This is so in general and would appear to be logical in view of decreased lambings. Surely with a view to greater increase, this would be a normal remedy. The difference, however, between camps stocked with ewes and lambs is not great.

7. Shearing ewes are not put to the ram by the bulk of farmers. Mr. Munro, of New Zealand, in giving his initial impressions made the same observation on this point as Mr. Morris, namely that shearing ewes should be bred. After more experience in the colony, Mr. Munro retraced his first statement and definitely said that shearing ewes were immature for breeding.

8. Surely it is not suggested that moderate use of a ram lamb for breeding sources is in any way equal to that of lamb-bearing. The possibility of breeding from gimmers in

been thoroughly tested on this Station. We use
rain lambs extensively in Dunnoe Head where
they are bred. The lambing here last year was
74.5% as against 59% ten years ago.

In 1929, six hundred shearing ewes were selected
for their apparent maturity, i.e. two teeth up and
in good condition. They were run in an exception-
ally good piece of ground which is now our
Lind Flock which gave us 86% last year. The
camp is of such size & shape that the shepherd
responsible was able to see each sheep twice a
day. The results were as follows:-

Shearing Ewes at dipping	600
Lambs marked in Nov?	277
Percentage.	46.1
Ewes shorn.	5.6
Loss.	84
Loss per cent on Ewes @ dipping	14%

These ewes were also udder locked when Rams
were taken off in June.

This is obviously not a paying proposition in
in a small flock on exceptional ground. How
much less so in bulk on inferior camp.

9. Smallness of bone is an undoubted tendency which
most people are avoiding or breeding against.
10. This is obviously a case for intensified shepherding.
Shepherding on the West Falkland has been much
increased of late years.
11. The question of 'inverted uterus' is probably,
hypothetical or at any rate a reason for
only a very small proportion of deaths.

- 7. The bulk of presentations are correct.
- 12. Correct but lice is present on the East.
- 13. Tapeworm is probably fairly common, among the younger sheep.
- 14. As in 10. This is a case for shepherding.
- 15. Wind breaks would be quite feasible but I should not think mortality was greatly increased by bad weather after shearing except in isolated instances. Shear cuts would be a more likely contributory cause.
- 16. The comment on this question is quite true but the cost of fencing in the Colony must be very high in comparison to that of other countries as we produce nothing towards its material locally. Freights too are heavy. It would be interesting to know comparative costs of fencing in general per mile in this Colony & elsewhere.
- 17. For the reason that unless the accompanying ploughing is intended to improve the land, the value of fodder is not a commercial proposition. The only other reason for which it is grown is with a view to getting more work out of a horse with a consequent need for fewer animals. There has been a cycle of agriculture resulting in the horses ploughing the ground which grows the fodder that feeds the horses that plough the ground etc and so on ad. lib. On small stations also too much agriculture of that kind tends towards lessening labour in the camp when the weather is favourable for that kind of work.

8. Hearing on the main West Falkland Island is 34
18. Continuous on five out of the eight farms.
Managers do not make a practice of shearing sheep
over the twenty four hours. As regards nomadic
labour, I have always understood the regular em-
ployment tended towards a healthier minded
worker than casual labour.

19. Fencing in general on the West Falkland is
fairly good on most stations and certainly
constant repairs and renewals are being made
on most farms.

Mr Morris is quite incorrect in his impression that
young sheep have to rustle as best they can. Ewes
and Hoggets come, it would seem, logically first.
After that the remaining camp is used as it is found
best suited for the several classes of sheep. I think
Mr Morris cannot have seen sufficient camp
in his travels to appreciate the wide range of
classes of camp we have in the Islands and
he must remember that he saw it under
conditions so dry as to be practically out of
man's memory.

Without wishing to be contradictory I cannot
help but feel that Mr Morris has flown to heights
of fancy when he predicts (or avers possible) 75%
of lambs throughout the country on 400,000 ewes.
He compares, or rather makes comparable Islands &
mainland which is quite impossible. He cannot
realise the miles of country we have here which is
quite unfit for breeding ewes. But that there

is ⁹ ~~down~~ for material development cannot be denied.

As regards the value of the services of a qualified veterinary officer, I forbear to speak. The value of the services latterly speaks for itself.

That the Islands can produce more of value is practically certain and that there is need for an outlet for surplus stock undoubted, but I cannot help feel that unless the Government take the initiative towards finding that outlet, there will be little done. In general there is not a great deal of co-operation and it would need either great co-operation or a guiding influence to bring about something of which Mr Morris speaks in the way of market.

I suggest therefore that the Government obtain facts & figures and with that data make exhaustive enquiries we may with their help find a market of value ^{for produce} which at the moment is almost valueless.

I should very much welcome hearing that something to this effect is being organised

I have the honour

To be.

Your obedient servant.

Hubert. Cobb.

105/55.

10th August, 35.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of June, 1953, and to convey His Excellency's thanks for the very detailed and helpful observations you kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Norris, during his recent visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

H. Cobb, Esq., J.P.,
Fox Bay East,
WEST FALKLAND.

Some observations on Notes by T.C. Norris Esq.

In the first place I think Mr. Norris is to be congratulated on the way in which he immediately grasped the two vital problems existing in the Islands at present; I refer, of course, to the lack of opportunities for the profitable disposal of surplus Stock by the Farms, and the surplus labour question which is a problem confronting the Government and all employers of labour.

Both these problems are, naturally, aggravated by the universal low prices for Produce, but in that respect the Islands are bound to participate in the present most unfortunate World-wide trade depression.

From Mr. Norris's notes, I gather that he considers that our solution lies in the establishment of a Freezing Plant in the Islands, and most preferably a steamer equipped for this work. Further to this scheme I submit the following queries :-

A Freezing vessel would possibly have work here for 3 months a year. In what manner would it be occupied for the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year ?

I imagine a steamer would need to have a full year's work to be a profitable concern, and I should not think a vessel equipped for Freezing would be very much use for other work.

Also how long would it take for the Farms to change their present breeding policy to the lines suggested by Mr. Norris for the requisite surplus to be produced ?

I estimate that it would be $\frac{3}{4}$ years before any extra surplus could be realised, all through the Islands.

I quite understand that the average Falkland Island wether, killed at $\frac{4}{5}$ yrs. old, dresses too heavy for modern frozen meat trade demand; but I do not agree that wethers in this country at 16 months old would dress at the weight (i.e. 50 to 60 lbs.) which is in demand.

My reasons for this are, that sheep mature later here than is common in most countries, (owing to the indifferent nutritive value of the indigenous pasture of the Islands), and so the sheep would not dress at the weight of 50/60 lbs until ~~the~~ between 2 and 3 yrs. old at least.

Therefore the wether flocks could not be eliminated to the extent Mr. Norris suggests, though I agree they could be cut down to some extent if the demand for surplus existed, to leave room for an increase in breeding stock.

I personally estimate that Wether flocks could be cut down by $\frac{1}{3}$ rd. leaving room for possibly another 50,000 breeding Ewes.

Could this increase produce sufficient surplus to make Freezing a paying proposition ?

I regret that I do not think so.

The Colonial Secretary's Office.
Stanley.

*It does not
now exist.*

*The best horse
is to fit it in
with a whole-
meat "frozen".*

I append below some comments on his impressions as numbered.

Re Imp. 4. The bulk of the lambs on this Farm are dropped during the end of Sept. and ~~early~~ during the whole of Oct. and only a very small % is born in Novr. so do not agree that many have to fend for themselves, when weaned, at a much more tender age than the rest. Given the average Lambing period of six weeks, I think you will find the majority of Shepherds and Farmers agreed here that the bulk of the lambs are born in the first 3 weeks of the Lambing.

Re Imp. 6. Although I agree that favourable land is reserved for breeding Ewes, I do not agree that lambs suffer additional hardships when weaned, by more inferior grazing, as most Flockmasters endeavour to have a good piece of ground for their Hogget flocks.

Re Imp. 7. There is only a small % of local ewes at the age of 19 months that have matured sufficiently to be fit for service. Breeding from 19 months old Ewes has been tried on this Station within the last 10 years, and we suffered a heavy mortality in the Ewes accompanied by a small % of lambs, so the idea was consequently abandoned.

Re Imp. 8. It is not the custom on this Station to breed from Ram lambs, and only from exceptionally well grown Rams of 19 Mths. old if required. The customary age for use here is 2½ yrs. old in both sexes.

Re Imp. 11. I do not agree that cases of inverted uterus amongst Ewes at Lambing time appear numerous, and doubt if more than ½ dz. cases have ever been observed on this Station in the course of a Season.

Re Imp 20. It is the custom on this Station for each Shepherd to have to attend to an allotted amount of fencing, which may be anything between 3 to 5 miles, proportioned according to the type of sheep, and number, that he is looking after.

The rest of Mr. Norris's impressions I concur to, but while fully appreciating his remarkably able report drawn up after so short a visit, I, personally, do not think the solution to our surplus disposal problem lies in Freezing.

Having the regular surplus of 2500/3000 yearly on this Station, and the consequent problem of the profitable disposal of same at heart, I do not think there could be anyone more interested in any scheme of regular outlet; and my father has been actively interested in all outlet or Freezing schemes all his life.

I believe that in live export trade to the Mainland lies the solution to our needs.

The last time that this was carried out to any great extent was per S.S. "Martin Saenz" in 1923, and although the shipping part of the enterprise was mis-managed on that occasion, the people to

*Camann's
1947 experiment
was more
successful.*

*Not now -
has experiment.*

whom the sheep from these Islands eventually came, were amazed with the way that the sheep thrive, and particularly with the prolificacy of the ewes and the fine lambs for freezing purposes that they produced. All this being due, no doubt, to the change to the more congenial climate and fine pasture.

It has always seemed a pity to me, that, the Stock's reputation for thriving on their pastures being established, that the regular trade and outlet for them could not have been established for them, also.

Should there ever be any possibility of reviving the live export trade from the Islands, I think it should have the whole-hearted support of both the Government and the Farms, and furthered in any way possible.

The live export trade has also the advantage of allowing for the varying of surplus, according to the severity of the Seasons, whereas any Freezing plant, to be profitable, cannot fall below a certain Quota.

I am personally of the opinion, that, no matter what changes are made in breeding policies etc, the Falklands could not produce, (owing to low increases, climatic conditions, or what you will), from the 600,000 odd Sheep that the Islands carry, a sufficient surplus to run a profitable Freezing plant.

Though I have no hesitation in saying, that I have no doubt that the present surplus obtainable could be considerably increased if the demand existed.

But with regard to the Freezing question, as Mr. Norris himself says, unless it is a commercially paying proposition it is useless to consider the matter further.

(Signed)

San Carlos.

For and on behalf of

East Falklands.

MESSRS. GEORGE BONNER

15th August 1933.

G. H. Bonner

Manager.

105/33.

31st August, 35.

Sir,

Three copies.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to transmit to you, for the information of the Falkland Islands Sheep Owners' Association, the accompanying copies of Notes made by Mr. Tom Norris of Buenos Aires during his recent visit to this Colony, and would be glad of your observations thereon. You will be aware no doubt that Mr. Norris visited the Colony for the purpose of acting as a Judge at the Stock Show which was held during the Centenary Celebrations in February last.

2. I am to add that Mr. Norris has recently published a book entitled "Practical Sheep Farming" which may be obtained from Messrs: Geo. Allen & Unwin, Limited, London. It is understood that the book deals somewhat fully with the desirability for modification in the treatment of lambs.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. D.

for Colonial Secretary.

The Chairman,
The Falkland Islands Sheep
Owners' Association,
c/o. Copthall Buildings,
LONDON, E.C. 2.

105/33.

31st August, 33.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th of August, 1933, and to convey to you His Excellency's thanks for the very detailed and helpful observations you have kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Morris, during his recent visit to the Colony.

2. I am to add that, as suggested by you, three copies of the Notes have been transmitted to the Chairman of the Falkland Islands Sheep Owners' Association.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. S. S.
for Colonial Secretary.

J. F. Bonner, Esq.,
Manager,
San Carlos,
EAST FALKLAND.

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

Stanley

AGENT FOR LLOYDS.

AGENTS FOR
THE PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

2nd September, 1933.

Sir,

With reference to the notes made by Mr. T. Norris on his visit to the Colony in February - March last and on which Government request Managers to comment.

These notes are certainly interesting and Farmers will doubtless express their views at length - I propose to only comment briefly. It is very obvious that Mr. Norris has not realised the difficulties of sheep farming in a cold and erratic climate on very poor land and no comparison is possible with farming as known by him in Australia, the Rio Negro and Southern Argentine.

Owners and Directors of several Falkland Island Farms have considerable interests in sheep farms in Patagonia and Chile, farms which do a big business in the sale of mutton and lamb carcasses to freezers and the raising of rams for sale. These gentlemen are practical farmers of considerable experience and are always in touch with both the Colony and the Coast and control the policies of farms in both places. Surely they would have adopted a policy which was so obviously to their advantage, for the farms in which they are interested in the Colony, If it had been

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

*The dublin
know a good deal
more about it than
the writer of this
letter, nevertheless.*

at all possible - the provision of a freezer would present no difficulty if a sufficient supply of suitable mutton sheep and lambs could be assured. This appears to me to be the answer to the whole question.

A refrigerator ship killing and freezing at farms in the Colony would not be economic. There is no difficulty in transporting sheep from one Island to another - sheep are regularly transported from Tierra del Fuego to the Rio Seco freezer.

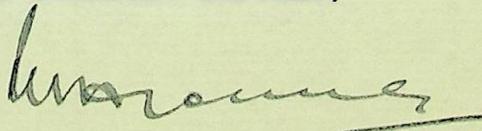
I would specially remark on the conclusion-s Mr. Norris arrives at (see page 3 from "From personal observations" to "Can safely carry"). Farmers will doubtless deal fully with this paragraph but I am of opinion that Mr. Norris' conclusions are entirely incorrect. No Farm in the Colony can breed a surplus, the only surplus being old and useless sheep; it takes every Farm all its time to keep its numbers up and every farm would run younger sheep throughout if they possibly could.

Finally, I have only expressed my views on broad lines and detailed criticisms will doubtless be made by practical men, but I welcome Mr. Norris' notes as a definite desire to assist - they are certainly of great interest and give us all matter for thought and discussion.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Manager.

105/35.

6th September, 33.

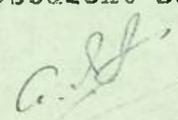
Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd of September, 1933, and to thank you for the observations you have kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Morris, during his recent visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Company, Limited,
STANLEY.

10/9/33

(3)

New Island Sept 1st 1933

To The
Honourable
The Acting Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,

Dear Sir

I have read Mr Tom Morris notes on sheep and conditions in the Falklands with great interest and would say that I think a floating factory for freezing sheep would be a good thing and should pay well. as on this Island we could produce 400 to 500 sheep annually, from a stock of about 2000 if other farms could do the same. by doing away with the old wethers and using young Ewes for breeding with although we could not produce as much wool as we depend on the wethers for the heaviest fleece. Mr Morris speaks of a skilled vet to find out causes and remedy for different diseases that may be alright for Stanley or the new camps. but I would suggest a good stock man as traveling stock Inspector one which could be obtained locally, we have not had an Inspector here officially for over twenty years

yours obediently
George Scott

105/35.

27th September, 35.

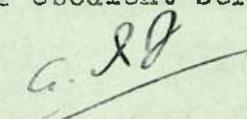
Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st of September, 1935, and to thank you for the observations you have kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Morris, during his recent visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


for Colonial Secretary.

George Scott, Esq.,
New Island,
WEST FALKLAND.

108/33

Port San Carlos,
Falkland Islands, S.A.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CARLOS, PORTSTANLEY"

September 30 19 33

The Colonial Secretary,
PORT STANLEY.



Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of the copy of notes made by Mr. Tom Norris of Buenos Aires who visited the Islands last February to act as Judge at the Centenary Stock Show. As briefly as possible I enclose my observations for which you ask.

Mr. Norris touches on the root of the majority of the sheepfarming troubles when he refers to the lack of a satisfactory outlet for surplus sheep. To this single fact can be traced nearly all the shortcomings in the practice of sheep management to which he, as did Mr. Munro in 1924, draws attention. Because a surplus has not proved a sufficiently valuable asset, in many places no great pains have been taken to ensure one, so much so that, as Mr. Norris points out, on most stations there has ceased to be a surplus. On the other hand it is certain that if a profitable outlet was opened up the running of sheep would soon be as efficient here as it is in New Zealand, Australia and other countries where for years past this vital incentive has been operating.

Whether the surplus would ever reach in quality and quantity the figures which Mr. Norris mentions is more doubtful. With regard to quality he bases his argument on a few highly selected animals exhibited at the Stock Show, but these were not representative of the general run of sheep and actually not one percent of sheep in the Islands would give these deadweights or approach them. With regard to quantity he estimates that by a radical alteration of methods a general lambing average of 75 percent might be obtained, and this I believe to be possible, but he then assumes that 66 percent of these lambs would be fit for freezing whereas in practice it is doubtful whether 5 percent of them would be acceptable to the freezer. Admittedly, if there was a market, it might be possible by the more extensive use of the plough to follow the New Zealand method and grow crops, such as rape, on which to fatten the lambs but whether it is feasible to grow these crops here could only be determined by experiment. Similarly Mr. Norris assumes that the remaining 33 percent of lambs would be ready for the freezer at sixteen months old but actually only a small percentage of wethers are fit for killing at this early age. The fact is that sheep mature slowly in this country which is also the answer to the point that he raises about the desirability

And the farm on which this experiment could have been carried out was abandoned.

of breeding from shearling ewes.

I do'nt wish to appear too critical of Mr. Norris's report. In view of the short time that he had at his disposal for investigation it is a very able one and he is fully justified in many of his criticisms. He has performed a useful service in stressing the possibilities of opening up a market for surplus sheep, to the lack of which we are no doubt unduly resigned. My own view is that a serious attempt to create a market is worth making as the benefits to the whole Colony, should one be established, would be immense. The value and weight of the wool clip would be increased through the displacement of a vast number of old unprofitable sheep by younger stock, and the production of freezer sheep would call for a closer subdivision of pastures which in turn would lead to a greater carrying capacity and an increased employment of shepherds and farm hands generally.

While not accepting all Mr. Norris's figures I believe that the total surplus would respond to a constant and worthwhile demand for it, and that each year an increasing proportion of that surplus would be suitable for freezing provided that it was made financially attractive to produce freezer sheep. Any advance though in this direction should be made cautiously and from small beginnings as a large and premature expenditure by the Government or others which failed to justify itself would paralyse all further initiative for years to come.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Keith Cameron

For PORT SAN CARLOS LTD

105/33.

17th October, 33.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th of September, 1933, and to thank you for the observations you have kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Norris, during his recent visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

for Colonial Secretary.

N. Keith Cameron, Esq.,
Port San Carlos,
EAST FALKLAND ISLAND.

PORT HOWARD.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

NOVEMBER 24th. 1935.

Sir,

Red 18.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. 105/33 of May 29th. enclosing copy of notes made by Mr. Norris of Buenos Aires and I regret owing to my absence from the Colony it has not been replied to before.

I have read same carefully, and consider there is a some very useful information contained therein, to any farm or farmer who is endeavouring to improve their Stock and property and make things pay, the same applies to the late Mr. Munroes report.

To me personally it seems disasterous that the Govern- ment of these Islands get notes and reports from men (who must know their work) yet on the other hand nothing is done by you to endeavour to rectify matters, which is the whole mainstay of the Colony, and when it is a known fact the industry is going back.

(provided he does his work)

I consider the Stock Inspector should be one of the principal men in the Government and backed up by them to improve the farms.

My firm and myself want (and are asking) to be taught how to improve our property and Stock, which if done would in the long run give more employment and better conditions in these Islands.

I would like to add I have no wish to discuss or criticize Mr. Norris' notes as there is too great a monopoly in the Colony for me to do so.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Ab. Pole Evans.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

*Manager of
J. L. Waldron Ltd*

105/33.

22nd December, 33.

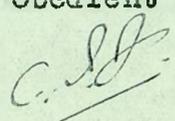
Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 24th of November, 1933, on the subject of the Notes made by Mr. Tom Norris during his visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

R. C. Pole-Evans, Esq., J.P.,
Manager,
Port Howard,
WEST FALKLAND.



(4)

Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association,
5 Copthall Buildings (Packe Bros & Co.)
London, E.C. 2.

December 20th, 1933.

Sir,

Red 48

I am in receipt of your letter of August 31st last enclosing copies of notes by Mr T.C.Norris on sheepfarming in the Falkland Islands.

2. Mr Norris's memorandum has been considered by the Committee of the Association, and the following general conclusions arrived at.

3. The Committee would first express their appreciation of the sympathetic manner in which Mr Norris has commented upon the difficulties of Falkland Islands sheepfarmers, but are bound to say that a stay in the Islands of a little over a fortnight is quite insufficient to enable anyone to form definite conclusions.

4. Mr Norris suggests a floating freezing establishment. This was tried over 40 years ago, and was a failure for various reasons. We agree with Mr Norris that freezing cannot be expected to be profitable unless 100,000 sheep are available. To provide such a number every year, it would be necessary to substitute breeding ewes for nearly all the wethers now depasturing in the Islands, and this would entail purchase and importation of a very large number of ewes, the cost of which would be prohibitive, especially following four years farming carried on at a loss. It could be successful only under the following conditions:-

(1) Financial assistance during the period of shanging over of the breeding system (anything from 3 to 5 years)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary

Stanley, Falkland Islands

(ii) Cordial co-operation by every station in the Colony in the standardising of flocks in order to produce an even quality all round.

(iii) The assurance of a definite market, that is to say, a contract with some reputable firm or organisation to take the products each year, with some guarantee as to price.

5. We do not think that a floating freezing establishment visiting stations in turn would mean the employment of more ~~ix~~ labour. It certainly was not the case 40 years ago according to all the evidence we have before us.

6. With regard to the second portion of Mr Norris's memorandum giving his impressions, we are of opinion that these are based mainly upon his experiences in Patagonia and other countries where conditions are very different. The practical experience of Falkland Islands sheepfarmers who have farmed in both the Falkland Islands and Patagonia is that ewes mature much more quickly in the latter country.

7. The Committee is of opinion that many of Mr Norris's "impressions" (pages 6 to 8) are erroneous, and that a longer stay in the Islands and a more widely extended tour would have induced him to modify most of these. The Committee has had the advantage of perusing copies of the detailed observations of some of the local Managers upon these, and agree with their remarks. These appear to be very fair and exhaustive, and under these circumstances it would be superfluous for the Committee to add to them.

*doublet - but
consider what he
has to say is very
precise and.*

8. All the statistical information suggested in Clause 9 is already in the possession of the Government, which itself collects data as to rainfall and population. The remainder relating to stock and produce is furnished by all stations in the annual return sent to the Inspector of Stock.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Geo. Bowmer

Chairman.

105/33.

20th January, 34.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th of December, 1933, and to thank you for the observations you have kindly furnished on the Notes made by Mr. Tom Norris, during his visit to the Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

for Colonial Secretary.

The Chairman,
Falkland Islands Sheeppowners' Association,
5 Copthall Buildings (Packer Bros. & Co.)
LONDON, E.C. 2.

105/33

63

1933

AO

63as

I have not seen the

1-15

attached before; who was

Tam Norris and who brought
him here?

There is a lot of

useful stuff in this and

X on p 9 is thought-

provoking. I propose to

Send ^{copies} ~~a copy~~ to { Sir F. Stordale
Mr. Wickes

(if one is available) by

this mail. Please have search

made. AO. should see +

Comment.

MC

17/11

all R. ...

63a.

YE

on leaf. h: N.
came down for B.A.
to judge of the show.
105/33 . 25/32 an
std. I have not
seen her before.

2. Spar sp. ✓
Notes are available.

3. To see pt. before
A.O. returns.

20.11

Please send me 3 spars, if
available.

Mc 20
XII

21/32 to be K.I.V. for Stark Stone which
I hope to provide in 1950. It is odd that
no one in the Office or elsewhere has thought to
write our attention (yours omnia) to this very
particular correspondence.

64

YE

63

pl. detach 3
copies.

✓
21.12

Thankyou. file.

me 21
XII

✓

The new Agricultural Officer, Mr. J.P. Oliver, arrived in June. Since then he has toured the whole of the East and West Falklands, and has also visited a number of outlying islands. As a result of the experiences gained, Government has decided that the commitments of the Department shall be drastically curtailed, and to that end, the Government dairy herd has been sold to a private dairyman ~~xxx~~ on the understanding that he retains the contract for the school and hospital.

All areas now ploughed or otherwise cultivated by the Department are being given up, and the department has no

I enclose "Practical Sheep Farming" by T. Norris which will help to explain who Norris was as asked by H.E. at 63.

I would observe.

1. That conditions in the world today as regards demand for meat are the reverse of those obtaining when Norris made his Report.

So also is the Labour position in the Colony.

2. When Norris made his Report the price of meat exported to England was low. If a Freezer had been established say 4 years after one could but observe that it could hardly have failed but pay well in the 11 years from then to now.

3. Now meat imported into U.K. is fetching a fairly high price and I have observed many Farm Managers expect a lower trend in the year to come, of the price & the price of wool.

4. Farming practice here today, appears to be the same almost as when observed by Norris.

5. Young sheep are particularly poorly grown this year.

The age at which they lose their milk teeth & grow permanent ones is definitely later than that of sheep in England & I think New Zealand.

6. The Butcher in Stanley are killing annually about 9,000 sheep for consumption. i.e. F.I.C. 4,200. McGill 2,400. Hutchinson 2,400.

This mutton is not good quality compared with English standards.

There is a feeling in town that a Freezer would take the pluck, thus further reducing the quality of mutton for town's people. } x

However a Freezer could be used & Stanley be supplied from it the year round with better mutton. Autumn killed.

7. A Freezer requires Labour this other than if a ship is used requires housing. The only 2 places where any quantity of accommodation is to be found are Goose Green & Stanley. Stanley having the superiority.

Also when the P.W.D.'s building plans are accomplished in a year or two time workers would be available in Stanley.

8. Observed at Goose Green.

a. The killing floor, pens, & digester are all fixed up & ready for use with minor repairs & a Spring Clean. On the face of it only the Freezing Chambers & Plant need to be added.

b. The water supply is not great & is probably fully taxed with the present domestic consumption & the digester used there.

c. The Harbour is fairly shallow the "Lafonia" lies out a long way; further than it is conceivable to build a jetty, without which all meat would have to be shovelled out making much more work.

John P. Oliver

Agricultural Officer.

26/XII/48