

INDUSTRIES (Miscellaneous)  
LIVE STOCK (Miscellaneous)  
MISCELLANEOUS (General)

C.S.

19 43.

No. 90/43.

Falkland Islands Sheep-  
owners Association.

SUBJECT.

19 43.

5th July.

FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

Representations to ~~Secretary of State~~, 1943.

Regarding Agriculture Dept.

See also 0797/A (Agric. Dept. Reports)

Previous Paper. 179/38

*wool industry*

- 21/42; 19435; 81/35;
- 20/40; (Hobson). 85/37 (General).
- 31/36 (Ag. Dept. 1/43 (Education).
- 31/41 8/42 (Policy).

MINUTES.

1. Letter from Joint Chairmen, Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association of 5. 7. 43.

2. Letter to Joint Chairmen, F. Is. Sheepowners' Assoc. of 6/7/43.

(3)

*G.F.*

*I have collected numerous files attach the most relevant. I will call tomorrow morning.*

*WB 7/7.*

(4)

*I have seen Capt. Roberts. He will be addressing me a further communication + with a view to an interview about the Agric. Dept. - Pl. return in due course these papers. 12/11/43*

5. Letter from Assn. 5. 7. 43.

6. " " 16. 7. 43.

7. Letter from Joint Chairman, F.I. S.A., of 20. 7. 43.

8. Minute to O.C, F.I. Force of 22. 7. 43.

9. Letter from O.C, F.I.s. Force of 24. 7. 43.

Subsequent Paper.

10. Despatch, No. 40 to S. of S. of 6. 8. 43.

11. Letter from Joint Chairmen, F. Is. Sheepowners Assoc. 10/8/44.

12. " " " " " " 12/8/44.

Letter from Joint Chairman, F.I.S.A., of 29/6/45. 13.  
(14)

Y.F.  
Draft attached as needed.

LB  
4/7/45

Letter to A.G. Barton of 9. 7. 45. 15.  
15A

Telegram No. 288 to S. of S of 12. 11. 45 16.

Letter from Sheepowners Assoc. of 21. 4. 46. 17

Telegram No. 120 to S. of 22. 4. 46. 18.

Letter from Joint Chairmen, F.I.S. Assn. of 22. 4. 46 19.

Telegram No. 84 from Secretary of State of 14. 5. 46 20.

Letter to Joint Chairmen, F.I.S. Assn. of 21. 5. 46. 21.

22

D. V.A.

You have not seen (21). I am afraid that the file was inadvertently 'P.A.' what coming up to me again.

LB  
6.6.46

Returned to D.V.A. Dept. for P.A. file  
3/9/46

Letter from Joint Chairmen, S.O.A. of 10.9.46 23.

Telegram No. 282 to S. of S. of 14. 9. 46 24.

25

A.C.S.

Re. let O's Ag. Dept. see his file.

LB  
18.9.46

(26)

O. & Ag. Dept.

as in (25) pt.

LB  
19.9.46

(27)

H. C. S.

Learn. Thank you.

H. R. G.

O/C. Mysore Dept.

21-9-46.

PAC  
22/5

CO.

I was ~~quite~~ told by Mr. Banner that no reply had been received to the memorial at 1 herein the existence of which I was unaware of - I see however that it was replied to at 20 and the SOA should have forwarded copies to the Signatories.

I am at some loss to understand why this very important file was not brought to my <sup>special</sup> notice on my arrival - more particularly since it was in adian as lately as September 1946, see particularly 23. This is really deplorable and put me in an embarrassing position vis-a-vis Mr. Banner.

I have told Banner that the future of the Department will be decided upon in consultation with the SOA after Mr. Olwin has completed his term of the settlements - they are aware of my own ideas which do not go beyond the recommendations of Mr. Munroe accepted with

establishment of a Central School at the site of the Model Farm should it be decided to reconstitute the latter.

I was asked by all a how as to why I had not closed down the Department on my arrival and replied that I would not have contemplated such a move as competent and independent advice and that is not available to me here. Several of them have criticised <sup>the call</sup> Sir A. Hodson's advice in closing down Anson before it had an opportunity to prove its worth and I remarked that it would have been equally blameworthy on my part had I closed ~~up~~ down the Dept. which is now - except for the Dairy - in care and maintenance. The latter should of course really be a matter for private enterprise but can we ensure that private enterprise would maintain an adequate supply?

Extracted to US -  
Fresh Milk - Cost of  
Production.

MC 7  
VI. 48.

29

YE

I am at a loss to say why this file (Dr. YE. kindly had seen) was not put aside among the other Dr. I

marked for Y.E. arrival: or to explain why it has never cropped up in conversation. However, it is clearly my responsibility I must report the embarrassment caused to Y.E.

{ 2. The answer to x on 28 is 'almost certainly No.' At any rate, without supervision, direct or indirect subsidy. The value of the Post-Dairy is that it sets a standard & helps keep a check on the suppliers being up to it. We have to subsidize but the supply of milk is, I suggest, more important than its method.

Extracted to 66/45 -  
Fresh Milk - Cost of Production

by  
7.6

30

BU for M. Oliver for an annual.

MC. 8 vi

Extracted to  
2 milk  
56

65/106  
12/6

117 1/2  
12/6

A.O.

When writing the minute on agricultural policy - that is to say what I believed to be the proper policy for the Department - I was unaware of the correspondence in this file and you should read from page 1.

2. I have much sympathy with the SOA - there has been much expenditure in the past with little to show for it and unless the Department can really serve the Industry its continuance as a Department is quite unjustifiable. That is not to say that Government can disregard itself in the Colony's only industry but the words I have underlined must be your guide, and mine.

3. So soon as possible after your arrival, therefore, I wish you to tour the Camp (or as much of it as you can get round before the annual SOA meeting takes place) to give you some idea of the practical aspects of the problem and, more particularly, to establish personal relations as early as possible with those amongst whom your duties will lie. You will find, as I have found, that opinions are apt to be divergent but it is important that you should know them at first hand and I wish you to start on your duties with an absolutely open mind.

4. When you have completed your tour I should like you to present your impressions and recommendations in the form of a Report.

M.C. 17/1

BU 28/6/41  
17/6/41

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS ASSOCIATION



STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1A

20th October, 1941.

Sir,

The question of the future of the Agricultural Department has been the subject of discussion between farmers from time to time and it is the view of the local members of the Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association that this Department should in the interests of economy be closed down as redundant. There is no case for a Department of Agriculture in such a small and purely pastoral country as this. Farmers have never been consulted, either as to its establishment or its continuance. (see p. 2 of Mr. Weir's letter) X

Your attention is respectfully drawn to a Resolution No. 8 passed at a Conference of Farmers at Government House on the 7th and 8th May, 1935 - "That the Government secure the services of a Stock Inspector for a period of 3 years from New Zealand (South Island) to advise on all matters concerning the sheep farming industry of the Colony. He should be a young man of good education, active, recognised as an authority in the practice of sheep farming and should have experience in the improvement of pasture and animal diseases". X

Mr. D.S.A. Weir was duly appointed from New Zealand and arrived in the Colony in August 1935. It was not long after his arrival before his appointment was changed to that of Agricultural Adviser and gradually an expensive Agricultural Department built up complete with an office, staff and a second man brought over from New Zealand and appointed after his arrival. This Department is still in being, more than five years after the arrival of the Stock Adviser whose services had been arranged and agreed upon for a period of 3 years only.

We most respectfully submit that it was never the intention or desire of the Farmers present at the 1935 Conference that such an organisation should be built up, much less perpetuated. There has never been any reason why the Stock Adviser should not have carried out the duties of Stock Inspector, which was the original intention in the minds of Farmers, even if not explicitly stated in the Resolution above referred to.

It was also resolved at the 1935 Conference, vide Resolution No. 3, Improvement of Pastures, "That application be made to the Colonial Development Fund Advisory Committee for a grant to defray the expenses of a visit by a member of the staff of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station to advise on the improvement of pasture in the Colony". Mr William Davies was appointed for this purpose and Farmers generally are very pleased with the work done by this gentleman and the able report which followed his investigations. Farmers are now satisfied that they can carry out themselves such improvement to pastures as is possible along the lines indicated by Mr. Davies during his visit here and more fully developed in his report.

Rec 58.  
8/35.

Rec 59.  
8/35.



It is therefore contended that the Agricultural Department should not be dispensed with and that a return to something like pre-1936 procedure and expenditure on the Stock Department is called for so soon as Government's commitments with the present Agricultural Adviser are concluded.

The expenditure between 1920/1936 averaged £914. A saving of several thousands of pounds would be thus affected besides releasing a certain amount of labour for Camp work, which on some farms is in perilously short supply. The above question has been thoroughly discussed by the local members of the Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association and the views expressed are fully concurred with by the London Committee of the Association. It is respectfully requested that His Excellency the Governor will give the matter his earnest consideration and attention.

The writer will be pleased to discuss with His Excellency this and any matter connected therewith at any time should His Excellency so desire.

I am,  
Sir,  
your obedient servant,

*John Stewart*  
Chairman.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

*By x a p. 1 is meant that the  
policy of forming a fairly elaborate Dept (as  
distinct from a quite simple Stock Inspectorate  
- for Mr. Lewis was engaged -) was announced  
to & acquiesced in by the Farmers. Their view  
is that they had nothing to say to (13)  
because in essence it proposes a fait ac.  
compli without their support.*

*W. G. 16.9.46*



231/36.

28th October,

41.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency to acknowledge your letter of the 20th October, 1941, and to inform you that as requested the question of the Agricultural Department's further continuance and/or development is receiving and will receive his closest consideration.

2. It will be realised that the closing down of the department would be a complete reversal of his predecessor's policy and entail what in commercial parlance is termed "cutting the losses". There would thus be a repetition of the discontinuity of policy much to be deplored at any time and which in this Colony was so markedly wasteful in the matter of the Experimental Farm and H.M.C.S. "Afterglow".

3. However if it can be shown that extravagance exists, then steps must be taken, however unpalatable, to bring that state of affairs to an end. In the matter of the Agricultural Department there is included obviously the whole question of the future economic development of the Colony. It most certainly is not a question solely of the present, and the Association should not cite the actual state of the labour market unless they take into full consideration as well the position of that market before the outbreak of the War.

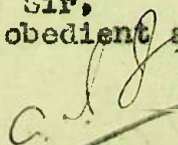
4. What does the Association envisage for the future? One is witnessing a rapid revolution in economic and social thought, and it would seem that on the return of peace this Colony will have to face a completely new picture in which all values will have been changed. His Excellency would therefore ask the Association for their ideas on the future of the agricultural and industrial interests of the Colony and to learn what steps are being taken to prepare for these altered conditions.

5. If such information could be supplied by you with necessary detailed reasoning and statistical evidence, it would be of immense value to him in arriving at a future settled policy in regard to the Department of which you have complained.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

  
for Colonial Secretary

The Chairman,  
The Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
STANLEY.

~~11~~  
10

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS ASSOCIATION

STANLEY, 17th December, 1941.



Sir,

Red 15  
~~10~~

I have the honour to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of the 28th October regarding the Agricultural Department and its further continuance and/or development.

A reply will be forwarded in due course but it is regretted this will take some time owing to members of Committee being unable to meet together during shearing.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

Chairman.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

*Mr. Robert de Botton told me that owing to the war: to the fact that § 4 of (13) begs the question so far as they are concerned (for though they had asked at the 1935 Conference for a Stock Inspector they had not asked for, and it was not, an adviser in the Dept. of Agriculture): to the engagement of D. Gitter as D. of A. to succeed Mr. Lewis without their*

COPY.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS ASSOCIATION,

STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,

20th October, 1941.

*Same as (1A)*  
Sir,

The question of the future of the Agricultural Department has been the subject of discussion between farmers from time to time and it is the view of the local members of the Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association that this Department should be in the interests of economy be closed down as redundant. There is no case for a Department of Agriculture in such a small and purely pastoral country as this. Farmers have never been consulted either as to its establishment or its continuance.

*advised* Your attention is respectfully drawn to a Resolution No. 8 passed at a Conference of Farmers at Government House on the 7th and 8th May, 1935 - "That the Government secure the services of a Stock ~~inspector~~ *advised* for a period of three years from New Zealand (South Island) to advise on all matters concerning the sheep farming industry in the Colony. He should be a young man of good education, active, recognised as an authority in the practice of sheep farming and should have experience in the improvement of pasture and animal diseases".

Mr.D.S.A.Weir was duly appointed from New Zealand and arrived in the Colony in August 1936. It was not long after his arrival before his appointment was changed to that of Agricultural Adviser and gradually an expensive Agricultural Department built up complete with an office, staff and second man brought over from New Zealand and appointed after his arrival. This Department is still in being, more than five years after the arrival of the Stock Adviser whose services had been arranged and agreed upon for a period of 3 years only.

We most respectfully submit that it was never the intention or desire of the Farmers present at the 1935 Conference that such an organisation should be built up, much less perpetuated. There has never been any reason why the Stock Adviser should not have carried out the duties of Stock Inspector, which was the original intention in the minds of Farmers, even if not explicitly stated in the Resolution above referred to.

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It is therefore contended that the Agricultural Department should now be dispensed with and that a return to something like pre-1936 procedure and expenditure on the Stock Department is called for as soon as Government's commitments with the present Agricultural Adviser are concluded.

The expenditure between 1920/1936 averaged £914. A saving of several thousands of pounds would be thus affected besides releasing a certain amount of labour for Camp work which on some farms is in perilously short supply. The above question has been thoroughly discussed by the local members of the Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association and the views expressed are fully concurred with by the London Committee of the Association. It is respectfully requested that His Excellency the Governor will give the matter his earnest consideration and attention.

The writer will be pleased to discuss with His Excellency this and any matter connected therewith at any time should His Excellency so desire.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

(Sgd) D. W. ROBERTS

Chairman.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

COPY.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,  
28th October, 1941.

No. 231/36

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency to acknowledge your letter of the 20th October, 1941 and to inform you that as requested the question of the Agricultural Department's further continuance and/or development is receiving and will receive his closest consideration.

2. It will be realised that the closing down of the Department would be a complete reversal of his predecessor's policy and entail what in commercial parlance is termed "cutting the losses". There would thus be a repetition of the discontinuity of policy much to be deplored at any time and which in this Colony was so markedly wasteful in the matter of the Experimental Farm and H.M.C.S. "Afterglow".

3. However, if it can be shown that extravagance exists, then steps must be taken, however unpalatable, to bring that state of affairs to an end. In the matter of the Agricultural Department there is included obviously the whole question of the future economic development of the Colony. It most certainly is not a question solely of the present and the Association should not cite the actual state of the labour market unless they take into full consideration as well the position of that market before the outbreak of war.

4. What does the Association envisage for the future? One is witnessing a rapid revolution in economic and social thought and it would seem that on the return of peace this Colony will have to face a completely new picture in which all values will have been changed. His Excellency would therefore ask the Association for their ideas on the future of the agricultural and industrial interests of the Colony and to learn what steps are being taken to prepare for these altered conditions.

5. If such information could be supplied by you with the necessary detailed reasoning and statistical evidence, it would be of immense value to him in arriving at a future settled policy in regard to the Department of which you have complained.

I am,

Sir,  
your obedient servant,  
(SGD) A.I.FLEURET  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Chairman,  
Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
Stanley.

*Same as (15)*

Stanley, Falkland Islands,

19th June, 1943.

To

The Right Honourable The Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Sir,

We have the honour to address you on certain aspects of problems connected with the Sheep Farming Industry.

1. Firstly we would call your attention to the letter dated  
Enc. 20th October, 1941 addressed to His Excellency the Governor and to His Excellency's reply thereto dated 28th October, 1941.

2. (a) In June, 1943 the Director of Agriculture was re-appointed for a further term of three years in spite of the opinion expressed in our letter of the 20th October, 1941, namely, that the Agricultural Department should, in the interest of the Colony, be closed down as redundant.

The reasons are fully stated in the letter referred to and it is not considered that His Excellency's reply thereto really answered the question.

(b) The Agricultural Department was built up and is now being continued without any reference being made to the Farming Community whose interests are most closely concerned.

(c) We consider that experiments in Land improvement can safely be left to the Farmers themselves on their own farms. Experiments conducted by such a Department as this, with the Director who cannot be considered either a practical Agriculturalist or Stockman, can only be costly and unproductive of any but negative results. The Director is a stranger to the Country and to local conditions. In any case it should be realised that this is a poor pastoral country and cannot in any sense be considered agricultural in that any cultivation on a large scale is economically unsound.

(d) Much stress is being made in Government circles on the achievements of the Department in the production of vegetables at Port Stanley during the past season.

In this connection, we would refer you to Penrose (Barnard) "An account of the last expedition to Port Egmont in the year 1772", London 1775, P.19.

On Saunders Island, Port Egmont, there were a number of gardens which "lay about a mile from the Settlement at the bottom of a bay, sheltered on each side by two large hills and exceedingly well watered. The soil was fine black earth, rather shallow, but this we remedied by bringing in large quantities from other places and forming it into beds. The manure we made use of was decayed seaweed. We were plentifully supplied with potatoes, cabbages, broccoli, carrots, turnips, spinnage, parsley, lettuce, English celery, mustard, cresses, and some few, but very fine, cauliflowers.....onions, the savoury ingredient so necessary to render our geese truly delicious were sadly wanting; they grew up but the roots were never of any size.....small beets and radishes quite baffled our utmost art. The peas we set were totally destroyed by the mice.....wheat under our management would not come to perfection".

We would further refer you to "The Falkland Islands"(Boyson), Oxford, 1924, P.273. In 1857 Governor Moore was able to report - "Much garden ground has been reclaimed and cultivated during this year by the troops of the Garrison" and further "Eighteen tons of vegetables brought to market in 1862 and sold at 3d a pound had by 1865 increased to forty tons".

The normal present day position is that there is no local market for vegetables, the population almost entirely producing sufficient for their own needs in their own gardens. In view of the foregoing we cannot conceive that a successful achievement in the production of vegetables by comparatively untrained pioneers, nearly one hundred years ago, to say nothing

of that achieved by the establishment on Saunders Island in 1773 - 4, cannot now be emulated in the present emergency by local efforts without the aid of an expensive Department such as we now have in being.

3. LABOUR. The shortage of labour on the Farms has been from time to time brought to the notice of the Colonial Government, but we feel that there exists little sympathy with, or understanding of the war-time problems of the Colony's only industry. The situation has now reached a stage where the upkeep of Farms is seriously endangered, thereby affecting wool production. The effects of this may not be immediately noticeable but before long will be both obvious and cumulative.

As examples of this problem we may point to the insufficiency of shepherding and the lack of labour to maintain fences and buildings to repair.

To alleviate the shortage we have suggested demobilisation, partial or total, of the Falkland Islands Defence Force now that we have an Imperial Force garrisoning the Islands. Men so released would still remain members of the Defence Force and be available in an emergency.

To this suggestion Farmers have received an unqualified refusal to consider the matter as a practicable proposition. We fully realise that we are not in a position to argue on what may be a point of military necessity.

Importation of foreign labour has been discussed but this bristles with difficulties. Without building special quarters this labour would not harmonise with Falkland Islands labour. There are also the difficulties of language, climate, mode of living, and type of farming. We see no reason why at least dilution of the active service members of the local Defence Force by Imperial troops now in the Colony would not be arranged, thus releasing some men for farm work and relieving a difficult situation.



EDUCATION. Suggestions have been made to improve the standard of education of children on the farms, but so far no improvement seems to have been made possible. Members of the Association are deeply concerned with this problem and will welcome any reasonable scheme to raise the standard so that it shall at least approximate that provided in Stanley. The poor facilities for rural education has a definite bearing on the drift of farm labour to Port Stanley.

We therefore have considered the difficulties and problems of the Sheep Farming industry of the Colony request that the following may be given your earnest consideration.

Firstly. That there is no case for the continued existence of the Agricultural Department and that a return to the pre-1936 organisation of, and expenditure on, the Stock Department is called for.

Secondly. That some alleviation, at an early date, of the present shortage of labour on farms is vitally necessary in the interests of production. We have been given to understand that wool production is a vital war industry. Wool production, we repeat, is the Colony's only industry.

Thirdly. That an early decision regarding the distressing problem of rural education may be forthcoming in the interests of the Colony.

We are, Sir,

your obedient servants,

(Sgd) D. W. ROBERTS  
Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.

Joint Chairmen of the Falkland Islands  
Sheep Owners Association.  
(Falkland Islands Local Members).

J. F. BONNER  
San Carlos Trust Fund.

A. G. BARTON. Manager for Dean Brothers, Pebble Island.

R.C. POLE EVANS. General Manager, James Lovegrove Waldron Ltd.

K.W. LUXTON. Manager for Luxton & Anson.

W. H. CLEMENT Manager, Paake Brothers & Co. Ltd.

SYDNEY MILLER. Manager, Bertrand & Felton Ltd.

H.C. HARDING. Manager, Holmsted Blake & Co. Ltd.

J.F. Bonner on behalf of Port San Carlos Ltd.

George M. Goddard. Camp Manager, The Falkland Islands Co. Ltd.  
M.M.A. Pitaluga for Estate H.J. Pitaluga.

J.R. Robson for Estate T. Robson. (Non member)

D.R. Smith for Smith & Sons.

G.J. Felton for Estate M.J. Felton.

George Scott.

Alexander Pitaluga, Manager, Pitaluga Brothers.

D.W.Roberts for the London Committee, Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association, "Southernhay", Cavendish Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

The above signatures represent ownerships of 603,262 sheep out of a total of 634,037, taken from the last Stock Returns, equivalent to 95%.

Recd. 5th July.

(1)

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
(LOCAL COMMITTEE),

STANLEY, 5th July, 1943.



Sir,

We have the honour to request that His Excellency will kindly forward the enclosed letter addressed to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Members of the above Association feel that little regard is being given to the sheep farming industry which, as you know, can truthfully be stated to be the Colony's only industry. Expenditure on the Agricultural Department is being continued and according to the 1943 Estimated is being increased. The Association does not consider this expenditure justified. It does indeed consider the Department not only an extravagance which the Colony can ill afford, but that its activities in no way further the interests of sheep farming and we again respectfully draw your attention to our letter of 20th October, 1941, copy of which is attached to the letter to the Secretary of State.

The labour situation is serious and shows no sign of improvement. On the contrary, since the date of the Meeting of the Association on 18th June, 1943 we now learn that further demands are now being made on the already depleted farm labour for lookout duties, commencing 1st instant. This is, to say the least of it, inconsiderate, and we cannot understand why Imperial Troops cannot be detailed for these duties.

The shortage of labour on the various farms at the present moment amounts to over 100 men. At the same time the total sheep carried has increased by over 5% and wool production by 16.8% (in terms of bales) since 1939.

Education in Camp districts leaves much to be desired and as far as we can tell nothing appears to have been done to improve the situation although the standard of education in Stanley is considerably ameliorated.

We would emphasise the dissatisfaction caused by this fact to married people with families in the Camp who feel that the Government have little interest in their existence.

We are,

Sir,

your obedient servants,

*Handwritten signatures of J. M. G. and J. H. Jones*

*Handwritten initials and circled number 2*

Joint Chairmen, Falkland Islands  
Sheepowners Association (Local  
Committee).

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

6th July,

43.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your two letters dated the 5th July and to inform you that a further communication will be addressed to you in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

K. G BRADLEY  
Colonial Secretary.

Joint Chairmen,  
Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
(Local Committee)  
STANLEY.



(3) 15

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION,  
STANLEY, 5th July, 1943.

Sir,

I have the honour to request that, in consideration of the fact that His Excellency's reply dated 28th October, 1941 to our letter of 20th idem has not, for various reasons arising largely out of war conditions, been answered, His Excellency will be pleased to grant me an interview before forwarding the enclosed letter to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

Joint Chairman.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

90/42.

(#) (6)

16th July,

43.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 5th July received on the 13th, I am to say that your Association's Memorial to the Secretary of State will not be forwarded until you have had an interview with His Excellency. Perhaps you will be <sup>so</sup> good as to advise me when you are ready and I will arrange the interview.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

K. G. BRADLEY  
Colonial Secretary.

Honourable  
D. W. Roberts, J.P.,  
Joint Chairman,  
Falk. Is. Sheepowners' Association,  
STANLEY.

*Interview arranged.*

*T.O.C.A.M.*

*Wed. 21/7/43*

STANLEY, 20th July, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR re AGRICULTURAL DEPT.

It would appear appropriate and desirable for Your Excellency's information to lay before you in greater detail the Farming industry's reasons for their request for the discontinuance of this Department as now constituted.

It appears to us that the Department was inaugurated without counting the cost, as well as without consultation with Farmers as to it's necessity or desirability. While agreeing in the main with the findings of the Grassland Investigator Mr. William Davies, B.Sc., as set out in his report "The Grasslands of the Falkland Islands", his administrative recommendations are not accepted. Yet it appears that his recommendations for the expansion and working of this Department have been accepted en bloc and acted upon by Government without any discussion or consultation with the Industry primarily concerned.

As to costs and probable results and returns, these do not appear adequately to have been considered, if at all. Speaking of a desirable Rural England, Professor Stapledon in his "The Land now and Tomorrow", P.24., says "my immediate concern is to picture a rural England which I am firmly convinced it would be to the Nation's interest to desire and to endeavour to show that on technical grounds such a Rural England could easily be made a reality. It can, of course, in cold fact only be made a reality of both State and the individual can obtain a fair return on the expenditure involved; and if neither, the State (or the local Authorities) nor the landowner (or the farmer) is crippled in the process. First, the possibilities, however, and in later chapters I will produce evidence as to the costs of effecting improvements and the returns that may be expected".

In so far as this Colony is concerned, the possibilities, although debatable, are not in serious dispute. Costs and returns, however, are in a very different category and therein lies the whole kernel of the matter. If we accept for the moment Professor Stapledon's figures of the cost of improvement of land nearly similar to the Falkland Islands (pages 144 to 147 of his book) as applicable here, it would be seen that the cost or outgoings per acre of the improved land over a 15-year period, amounts to £1. 6. per annum (nearly). As for incomings, it would be dangerously optimistic to assume that the improved land would carry any more  $1\frac{1}{2}$  sheep per acre throughout the year. Taking the average production of wool per sheep at 7 lbs. - this gives us  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lbs wool per acre. Assume an average price of 9d per lb. nett, i.e. London wool sales returns less freight, warehousing, brokerage and commission (1938/9 average price was 7.78d per lb. nett) this means a gross return of  $8/10\frac{1}{2}$  per acre against an outlay of 26/- resulting in a minimum loss of  $17/1\frac{1}{2}$  per annum per acre of improved pasture.

It may be said that there are possibilities of meat (i.e. lamb) production on improved lands. This again will not provide anything like an adequate return. We may assume that the land under review can be made to carry one ewe per annum and produce and fatten one lamb in the Summer. The return in this case we would estimate as follows :-

7 lbs. wool @ 9d.	5.	3.
1 lamb, 25 lbs. @ 4d.	8.	4.
	13.	7.
Cost of improvement	1.	6. -
	12.	5.
	LOSS	=====

It may be said that we are underrating unduly the carrying capacity of the improved land. Our reply is that climate is a factor seriously to be taken into account when making comparison with the Cahn Hill Experiment. That, further, if you assume double the carrying capacity, which we consider absurdly high, you still have only of  $1/2$  to be more than swallowed up by the Export Tax on wool and

*which would*

7A

overheads, which have not been taken into account. Furthermore, Professor Stapledon's costings are not by any means valid in this country. Take the items - "Operations (2)" and "Interim Phosphating etc." Basic Slag at pre war prices could not be provided on the farms at less than 9/- per cwt. This would increase the "2" operations costs by £1. 17. 1. and the item "Interim Phosphating etc." by £3. 4. -. Depreciation of Tractor and Implements would be heavier in this country.

Owing to it's isolation, a far greater stock of spares parts would need to be carried and such items as worn tracks would necessitate renewal of parts rather than repairs.

We think it a fair assumption that Depreciation charges should be increased by one third, or say 11/1 or a total, including the aforementioned increases, of £5. 12. 2. per annum or £25. 14. -. for the 15-year period which equals £1. 14. 3. per acre per annum cost of improvement. To set out the costings and revenue in the same form as Professor Stapledon, we have -

Cost of improvement per acre (15 years) period	£25. 14. -.
Gross revenue (7/10½ x 14)	<u>5. 10. 3.</u>
Balance being loss ...	£ 20. 3. 9.
	=====

or on a wool/meat basis :-

Cost of improvement	£ 25. 14. -.
Gross revenue (13/7 x 14)	<u>9. 10. 2.</u>
Balance being loss ...	£ 16. 3. 10.
	=====

We believe that these figures prove beyond question that Grassland improvement on any large scale is economically impossible and that the maintenance of a Department costing approximately £5,000 per annum with the ostensible idea of improving the Sheep Farming industry of these Islands on such lines is totally unjustified.

This is not to say that Farmers are not alive to the desirability of Grassland Improvement on a limited scale. Such improvements, it is realised, have intangible benefits, e.g. provision of fodder for Winter milk supplies at the Settlements and improved pastures near the Settlements for better maintenance of stud flocks which will produce the ultimate result of more and better wool throughout the general flocks. But it is seriously contended that if money is to be spent for the assistance and development of the Farming industry, better and more tangible results will be obtained by means of direct subsidies along the following lines -

- (a) Assistance for the importation of approved pedigree stock.
- (b) Direct subsidy for every acre of land improved and resown with grass.
- (c) Assistance for the purpose of closer sub-division of paddocks, i.e. for every mile of new fencing erected, not being boundary fencing or renewal or replacement.

These are suggestions which it is submitted are at least worthy of consideration.

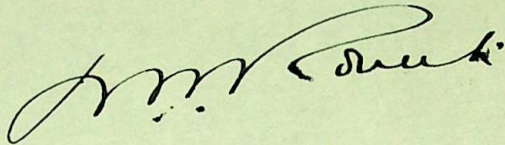
With regard again to general Grassland Improvement by cultivation, Falkland Islands Grasslands may be considered, from the figures of costs and returns quoted, to be in similar case with the "intractable clays" of Britain of which Professor Stapledon states "I cannot envisage any quota, any crop subsidy, any marketing scheme having the remotest influence on the intractable clays. A direct subsidy on a two years bare fallow well and truly performed, I should regard as an excellent means of spending money earmarked for the benefit of the land". Fallows are not feasible here owing to the fear of erosion. The quotation is made for the principle involved ~~where~~ only.

In conclusion, much has been made of the fact that since the beginning of the century the number of stock carried and the weight of wool produced has shown a progressive decline and a deterioration of pasture has been too readily assumed from this. Since 1939 the number of sheep carried has increased by 5% yet in the same period wool production has increased by no less than ]



7B

On the assumption that there has been a deterioration of pasture one would expect a proportionate decrease in the average wool production, but such has not been the case.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Joint Chairman.

No.

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

MINUTE.

22nd July, 19 43. (8)

From The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Force Commander,  
Falkland Islands Force,  
STANLEY.

S E C R E T.

The Committee of the Sheepowners' Association has made representation that the Coastal Artillery Unit of the Falkland Islands Defence Force should be partially or totally demobilised in order to release labour for the wool industry. His Excellency understands that you have already considered this possibility and do not favour any weakening of the present strength of the batteries, but he would be grateful if you would confirm this and give your reasons for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

K. G. BRADLEY  
Colonial Secretary.

See (9)

Subject:- Coast Artillery - F.I.D.F.

SECRET.

(9)

122/CR/Z/160/1.

The Honourable,  
The Colonial Secretary.



In reply to your secret memorandum 90/43  
dated 22.7.43.

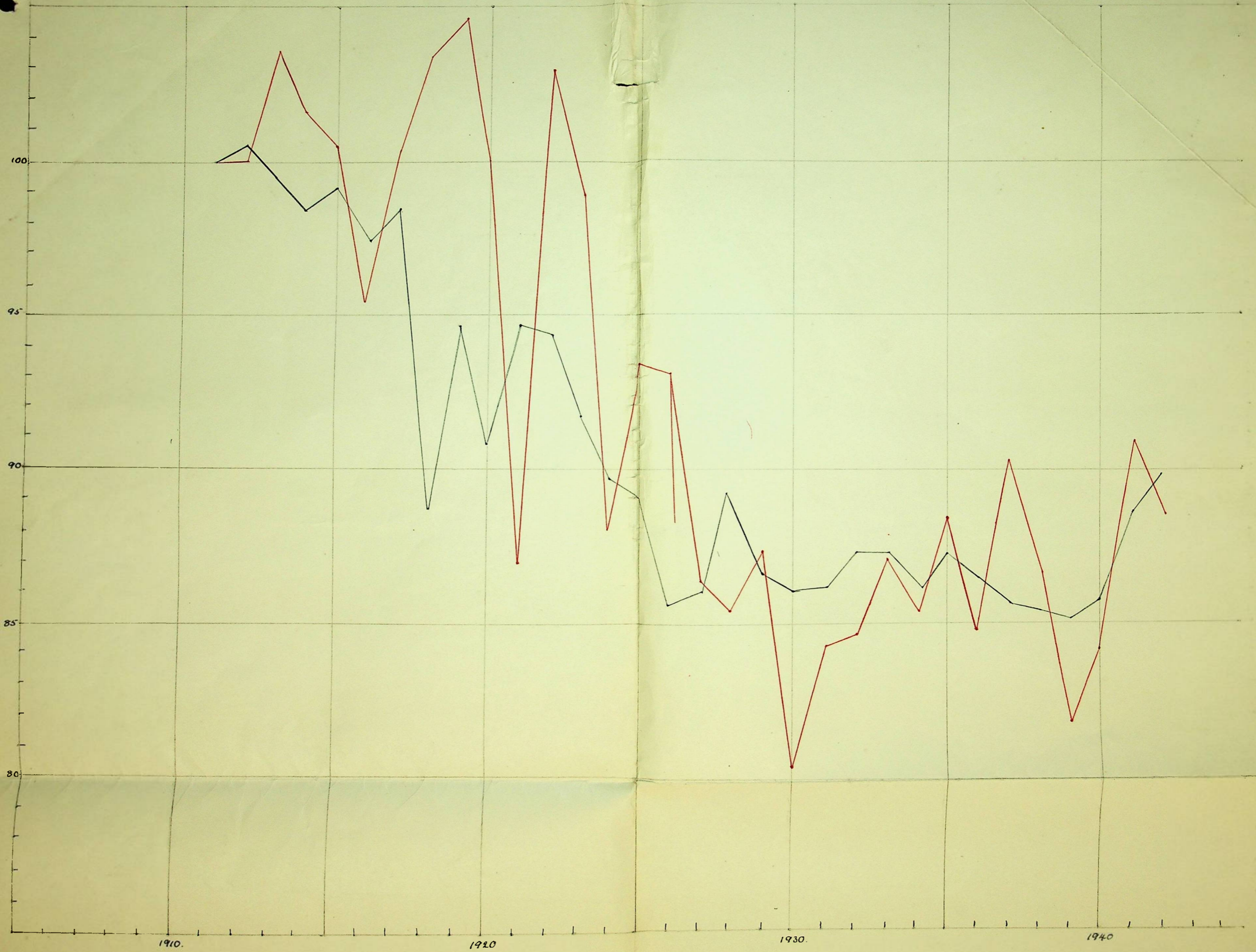
*Red's.*

The main essential in the defence of any naval base is the Coast Defence Artillery, and the composition of the Force sent out here was based on the fact that the Coast Defence Artillery defending Port Stanley was already manned by personnel from the Falkland Islands Defence Force. Hence, provision was not made for taking over any Coast Defence Artillery duties. Owing to the projected increase (by one) in the number of batteries, I have manned one battery with infantry personnel, but more than that I cannot do.

The Coast Defence Artillery is, of course, absolutely vital to the defence of the base. The batteries are already below strength, and any further reduction is out of the question.

Stanley.  
24.7.43.  
WHH/RCS.

*W. H. H. G. S.*  
Colonel.  
Commanding, Falkland Islands Force.



I. — no. of sheep.

II. — Wool exported.

In these graphs the figures have been reduced to a percentage of the figure for 1911.

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MEMORANDUM FROM THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

1A

The letters from the Falkland Island Sheep-owners Association dated 26th October, 1941 and 19th June, 1943 and the Memorandum dated 20th July, 1943 assert and confirm that a Conference of the Farmers at Government House on 7th, and 8th, May, 1934 requested the Government:

- (a) to secure the services of a Stock Adviser from New Zealand,
- (b) to arrange for a member of the staff of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station to visit the Colony and advise on the improvement of pastures.

2. The first of these advised the formation of a Department of Agriculture and the second advised the expansion of staff and equipment to permit investigation-  
al work on grasslands to be undertaken.

3. The Department of Agriculture is therefore the direct outcome of the requests made by Farmers in May 1935.

\*Report of the Stock Adviser, dated 26/9/36, L.P., C/23/36.

\*\*Davies Wm. The Grasslands of the Falkland Islands, Page 52.

4. The Sheepowners Association stated that the Agricultural Department was built up and is now being continued without any reference being made to the farming community. In actual fact His Excellency Sir H. Hemiker-Heaton, in his opening address to the 2nd. Conference of Farmers in Stanley on the 13th, and 14th, of May 1937, said of the Agricultural Adviser that 'he is laying the foundation of an Agricultural Department, which will be an asset and great value to the country and to the future of the Farming Industry'. The Agricultural Adviser, in his address as chairman of the Conference, stated; 'His Excellency has charged me with the duty of establishing in this Colony, an Agricultural Department based on similar lines to other Colonies..... and I hope, with your assistance to make the Department one which will be capable of giving a really worth while service to the Farmers'. At the conclusion of the Conference, the Hon. H.K. Cameron said that they were fortunate in having Mr. Weir as head of the Agricultural Department. This was endorsed by all present.

5. In view of the above extracts, from the recorded deliberations of the Farmers in Conference, their presented assertion that the Department of Agriculture was formed without consulting the Farmers either as to its establishment or to its continuance, is entirely without foundation.

6. Farmers had pointed out in the 1935 Conference that Government was spending a minute sum on the development of the main industry; and that was given by Sir H. Hemiker-Heaton in his despatch, No. 84 of 19th June, 1935, as one of the reasons for the engagement of an Adviser.

7. This complaint was true and the annual figures of expenditure on Agriculture support the contention.

8. They averaged for six years 1930-5 £614. But after the decision to engage an Agricultural Adviser, which of course entailed

the setting up of an Agricultural Department, the expenditure during the four years previous to the war and including the period September - December of the war, averaged £5,519. During this four year period the question of unemployment had assumed serious proportions and during the two years 1938 and 1939 there had been spent £9,932. I do not wish here to analyse the unemployment problem but it must be remembered that the farmers were disinclined to give any assistance at all. During the current year the estimated expenditure by the Department is £7,703. Against this there is a revenue through VIII Rents, Item 2. of £115, and IX Miscellaneous, Items 1, 9, 11, 12 and 13 of £3,435. Totalling £3,550. Therefore the actual expenditure of taxpayers' money amounts to £4,153. This expenditure includes approximately £280 due to cost of Living Bonus, £535 for Upkeep of Government House Gardens and £100 as subsidy to guarantee prices of fodder necessary for milk production.

9. Owing to Military necessities precedence is being given to the provision of fresh vegetables for military and naval requirements and of fresh milk for consumption in Stanley.

10. Since 1940, 24 experiments involving crop varieties, manurial treatments, pasture grasses and clover establishment have been inaugurated, seven on 4 properties on the West Island. Since the Garrison arrived, experimental work has had to be reduced to a minimum, but as a result of the present development about Stanley, land is being reclaimed, which will, when it is no longer required for vegetable production, render the township independent of imported milk, vegetables and hay. In developing wartime vegetable production, the findings of experiments carried out during 1940 and 1941 have been invaluable. Without a doubt a continuance of similar experiments after the war will yield information of incalculable value to the sheepowners.

11. The necessity for pasture improvement has been stressed

by every expert who has visited these Islands,\* Munro 1924, Morris 1933, Davies 1939 and Gibbs 1941.

10H

".....the people who have owned the country during the past 60 years have been drawing steadily on their principal as represented by the soil and pastures, and now that it shows pronounced signs of exhaustion it behoves them to get to work and replenish it....."

Experimental work on a small scale is necessary in order to determine which lines major operations should follow....."  
(Munro, 1924)

"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 to-day."  
(Morris, 1933)

"There can be no doubt whatever that grassland improvement is possible over a very large part of the Falklands."  
(Davies, 1939)

"The fact that a large proportion of the wool is tender indicates a need of better nutrition. There can be no real improvement in the stock, the wool or the carrying capacity in these Islands until more or better food can be grown."

(Ann. Rept. Dept. Agric. F.I. 1941)

\*Munro, H. Rept. of an Investigation into the Conditions and Practice of Sheepfarming in the Falkland Islands 1924.

\*Morris, T. Some Falkland Island Problems, Notes made during a visit - February 12th to March 3rd 1933.

\*Davies, W. The Grasslands of the Falkland Islands.

\*Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending 30th June, 1941.



12. The Sheepowners Association states that pasture improvement in the Falkland Islands is not economic. In contradiction to this, there are on the Port Howard Station, owned by Messrs. Lovegrove and Waldron Ltd., some 600 acres that have been ploughed and sown with English grasses. This station is one of the most prosperous on the Islands and the general manager makes no secret that he is endeavouring to carry out the advice given by Mr. H. Munro. in 1924. It is erroneous to believe that the improvement of pastures will be the beginning and end of the improvements. Better fodder for stud flocks will produce better animals, carrying more wool; the provision of supplementary winter feed would prevent much of the break which now occurs in the wool and thereby would make it more valuable. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that, on pastures such as exist at Port Howard, stud sheep could be bred which, because of the hardness imparted by the local climate would be sought after by the South American breeders. Messrs. Lovegrove and Waldron Ltd., have not thought fit to publish the costs of improvements. Undoubtedly they are heavy, for in the absence of a Government Experimental Station or other guidance they have had to pay for their experience in experimenting with different implements and learning how to use them, even before they could experiment in pasture establishment. During 1939 and 1940 they endeavoured to reclaim 100 acres annually. The war has made it difficult for them to get seeds etc., but the fact that a private company can improve approximately 100 acres annually and still pay a dividend satisfactory to the shareholders shows that it is possible for others under enlightened management to do likewise.

13. I believe that there are two reasons for the unwillingness of owners and managers to improve their holdings:

- (a) The fact that the largest stations are Company owned with shareholders and directors resident outside the Colony and therefore not in close touch with their

businesses/

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businesses. Improvements mean a reduced dividend. At present a minimum of profits from the industry are returned to the land and as much as possible is withdrawn from the Colony and distributed overseas,

- (b) The unwillingness of local managers to recommend improvements which, if approved, would place upon them an added responsibility (to show the improvements to be economic) without any additional remuneration.

14. The work at the Macaulay Demonstration Farm at Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, situated on deep moorland peat, would appear to be more applicable to the reclamation of the peat soils of this Colony than the work at Kahn Hill. The former farm was established in 1929 and between 1930 and 1937 had to depend on the sale of produce for the greater part of its funds for maintenance and development.\*

15. At Stornoway, marketable crops were produced during the period of early reclamation. In the Falklands the production of hay or swede crops would provide supplementary fodder for stock during the winter. It can be shown that the increased carrying capacity resulting from a crop of 30 tons of swedes per acre would pay the cost of producing the swedes and provide a profit. The production of hay would enable horses to be better fed throughout the year and would thereby reduce the number that must, at present, be kept on every station; 6½ horses for every man working in the camp or 16 for every shepherd. The reduction of the number of horses would enable more sheep to be grazed, especially as the horses usually run on the best parts of the station.

16. I make reference to the cultivation of potatoes, which I believe may change the outlook of the Islands, later in this Memorandum.

\*Scottish Jour. of Agric., Vol. 20., No. 2. April 1927.

17. Hereunder are detailed comments on specific points raised in the letters and Memorandum.

18. The signatories to the letter consist of two joint chairmen, a representative of the parent committee in London and the representative of 14 holdings in the Islands. As there are 25 separate holdings, the signatories represent 56 percent of the owners. The representatives of three of the large owners have refrained from signing, and, though J.F. Bonner has signed as joint chairman on behalf of Port San Carlos Ltd., he has not signed on behalf of the Port San Carlos Trust Fund of which he is the local manager. The signatures represent not 603,262 sheep but 524,547, or if J.F. Bonner is considered to have signed for the Port San Carlos Trust Fund, 547,653 sheep. The signatures represent 13 of the 16 large owners but only one of the small owners.

19. The statement in line 5 of page 2 of the Memorandum, that Basic Slag costs 9/- per cwt on Faras prior to the war is at variance with the price at which the Department imported this commodity in 1938, when the price was 4/7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per cwt., c.i.f. Stanley. The freight from Stanley to the Camp varies with distance, from 16/- to 18/- per ton. The price cited is probably the retail price, Falkland Island Co's. store, Stanley, but most stations are accustomed to import their requirements direct from the U.K.

20. The assessment of the cost of pasture improvement at Kahn Hill in Wales can scarcely be accepted as having reference to the costs in the Falkland Islands. To my knowledge the soils of Kahn Hill, and the surrounding country, are of a totally different nature from the majority of the soils in these Islands. As stated above I believe that the work of the Macaulay Institute at Stornoway would be much more applicable to this Colony than that at Kahn Hill.

21. The farmers state that they could have produced, themselves

all/

all the vegetables required in the local emergency. Hereunder are two replies received from them when they were asked to assist in 1940.

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Telegram: To the Colonial Secretary, 19th July 1940.

"Your message 13th. re vegetables etc. Westers beg to point out owing to shortage of labour and the high price of fertilizer, please take note of my telegram of April 5th., it is doubtful if they can grow enough for their own consumption."  
Signed. Polc-Evens.

"Westers" is a local term embracing all the managers on the West Falkland Island.

Extract from letter addressed to the Hon. A.W. Cardinali, C.M.C. Colonial Secretary's Office, dated 51st August, 1940

"Although eager to assist the Colony to become more self-supporting in any direction, I feel bound to state that the shortage of labour in the camp will handicap any efforts I might wish to make towards increased cultivation of ground..... It is manifestly of no use to plant seed or potatoes in the full knowledge that they will produce little or no profitable results owing to the lack of weeding or other attention during their growing period, and as this period coincides with the time when every man is needed for sheep work I fear that this farm will be unable to assist in the local effort towards increased cultivation very greatly.

If any change in the present acute labour shortage should occur by which more men could become available for camp employment, I can assure you of my very willing co-operation in this matter,

Signed. J.F. Bommer. Manager. S. Carlos.

22. The two communications above speak for themselves. At the present time the Government has undertaken to purchase all vegetables or potatoes that are available for sale. About 25 tons have been produced in the camp, half of which are swedes. The army alone requires more than 150 tons in excess of the total quantities of potatoes and vegetables that have been produced this year.

23. The concluding paragraph of the Memorandum expresses rather illogically, an opinion which is not supported by the facts. I submit herewith a graph illustrating the relation of the annual production of wool with the number of sheep in each year since 1914, each expressed as a percentage of the actual figure for 1914. This shows that the trend <sup>is</sup> for wool production to follow, subject to seasonal variations, the general trend of the sheep population, and gives no support to the inference that, as the sheep population became less, the sheep produced individually more wool.

24. As long ago as 1924 an analysis of the writings of Sir J.D. Hooker and Karl Skottsberg revealed that six species of native plants recorded as abundant by Hooker (1845-1847) had become 'uncommon' 'of local distribution' or 'rare' in Skottsberg's time. (1913) Among these species is Poa flabellata a grass which can now be found only on areas to which the access of sheep is prevented or controlled. It has disappeared from one island since sheep were introduced there six years ago. There can be little doubt that the grasses which were most palatable to sheep, have, after 50 years of uncontrolled grazing and overstocking, become 'uncommon' or 'rare', and their recorded disappearance represents a real 'deterioration' of the pasture which there is no need to 'assume'.

25. It seems scarcely necessary to comment on the remark in paragraph 2 c. of the letter dated 15th June 1943 concerning the Director of the Department of Agriculture 'who cannot be considered either as a practical agriculturalist or stockman'. This is the layman's typical opinion of any individual who possesses academic qualifications/

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qualifications. His fulfilment of a guarantee of 50 tons of vegetables for military and naval requirements with a 50 percent surplus, in the face of the statements by the local managers that the guarantee was ridiculous and impossible of fulfilment, indicates his ability, his knowledge of local conditions and his power to estimate the productiveness of the land when it is properly handled. In this project practically all the expenditure by the Government has been recovered already through revenue from the sale of vegetables at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

26. The suggestion of substituting a system of direct subsidy to the sheepowners for the improvement of their properties, in place of a Department of Agriculture is very interesting. Since the outbreak of war I believe that the mortgages on many of the properties have been paid off. The stations are all prosperous and the industry provides out of the \$12,000 collected through the Income Tax of 2/6d. per £1.

27. As mentioned before the curse of the Falkland Islands is the absentee landlord system. Perhaps the managers think that, through the bait of a subsidy they might be able to persuade their shareholders to invest part of the profit in improvements. At the present a minimum of the profits are returned to the land, and a maximum is withdrawn from the Colony and spent elsewhere. Since the practice has been going on for the past 40 years there seems no reason to suppose that it will stop because of advice by experts that it is detrimental to the land and the properties.

28. It is eminently desirable in the interests of the Colony that a stimulus to improve the pasture and pasture management should be provided. To this end I would suggest that a tax of 20 or 25 percent be imposed on all funds derived from the sheep farming industry that are withdrawn from the Colony for distribution among absentee owners, on the understanding that the amount of the tax

tax would be rebated if permanent improvements (approved by the Government) to an equal or greater value were carried out during the year. By this method permanent improvements would be encouraged only in years when business showed a profit and no undue hardship would be caused in the years when the price of wool fell below the cost of its production. At the present time, when most farms are paying an excess profits tax, and when materials cannot be procured because of the war, the taxes so collected could be invested in war bonds and refunded to the taxpayer for approved permanent improvements which are carried out within a specified time after the cessation of hostilities.

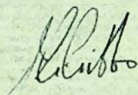
29. Government assistance at the present time should be directed to determine the economic means of improving pastures and stock and to instruction and advice on suitable methods new to the Islands. The softness of the raw peat soil causes horses to become bogged once the turf has been broken and wide track-tractors appear to offer the only economic method which can be used for cultivating the greater part of these Islands. Falkland Island native pastures carry on the average, one sheep to five acres, but when ploughed, the land is capable of producing on the average, 2 tons of oaten hay, 40 tons of swedes and 5 tons of potatoes per acre. I believe that the additional stock that could be wintered on the first few crops grown during pasture improvement would pay for the improvement of the land.

30. Furthermore I can see no reason to prevent the establishment of a seed potato trade with South America, and a grass seed trade within the Islands. The potato trade, if carefully handled through certification on the lines followed in Canada or New Zealand should in a short time rival that of wool production and provide a livelihood for an increased population.

31. The land is capable of the production stated but the

managers/

managers of the properties hide behind the statement that wind erosion renders the cultivation of the soil impracticable. Some cultivated soil may in some seasons be carried by the wind, but the erosion which occurs in this Colony is not more serious than that which occurs on the Canterbury Plains in New Zealand where probably 500,000 acres are ploughed annually. All that is necessary to improve pastures in these Islands is the will or incentive to achieve, supplemented by guidance and research which can best be offered by a sound Department of Agriculture.



J.O. Gibbs. F.A.A.A.S., Ph.D., (Hinn.) B. Ag. Sc., Dip. Agr.  
(Hinc N. . .)

Sonetime Commonwealth  
Service Fellow  
Plant Pathologist N.Z.  
D.S.I. Research, seconded to the  
P.I. Administration as  
Director of Agriculture.



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FALKLAND ISLANDS.  
SECRET.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY,  
6th August, 1943.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Memorial from the Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association at their request.

ENCLOSURE I.

Red 1 B

2. I should like to point out at the beginning that the Association did not consult me in the first instance, nor did they reply to the letter from the Colonial Secretary of the 28th October, 1941. I do not know why they prefer to go over my head because, so far as I know, there is no conflict between Government and the farmers. I asked the Senior Chairman to see me on this point, trivial enough in itself, but for which you might call for an explanation and I attach copies of a letter and subsequent memorandum I have received from him.

ENCLOSURE II.  
ENCLOSURE III.

3. The Memorial asks you to give your earnest consideration to three subjects

(a.)

HRT HONOURABLE  
F. C. STANLEY, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

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- (a) The abolition of the Agricultural Department.
- (b) Labour shortage.
- (c) Rural education.

4. The question of the abolition of the Agricultural Department is merely a suggestion to revert to prehistoric days. I do not think you would require me to advance arguments supporting the maintenance of this Department, but I submit a copy of a Memorandum from the Director of Agriculture.

ENCLOSURE IV

5. I should like to point out that Dr. Gibbs' work in and round Stanley, under the most difficult conditions has undoubtedly provoked reluctant admiration and I have no doubt, strong jealousy, among the naturally conservative and unprogressive farmers.

6. The second point raised is that of the shortage of labour. It cannot be denied that the mobilization of the Defence Force has, of course, taken away a certain amount of labour, but it must be remembered that before the outbreak of war there was a considerable amount of unemployment, costing the Government some £5000 a year in the Agricultural Department alone. Those were the non-prosperous days and now, in the days of comparative prosperity, with greater production of wool per sheep and a guaranteed price for wool of over a shilling, there is a clamour for labour. It must not be forgotten, moreover, that the lack of provision of married quarters is a factor that bears considerably on this whole aspect of the question. In this connection I would quote the following advertisement for labour broadcast recently over the Stanley radio-diffusion system

Wanted/

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"Wanted for Port Howard.

- 1 Married Couple for Manager's House.
- 1 Married Shepherd for Mount Rosalia.
- 1 Single Cook.
- 1 2nd Single Shepherd for White Rock.
- 6 Labourers.
- 2 Boys.

For Particulars apply to  
Manager, Port Howard,  
or  
W. J. Hutchinson, Stanley."

7. In any case the whole question is one which is eminently suitable for consideration by the Labour Advisory Board to which I am referring it as well as the problem of post-war demobilization.

8. Meanwhile the farmers have brought up the question of releasing men at present serving in the defence of the Colony. I forward a copy of the views of the Officer Commanding the Falkland Islands Force, Colonel W. H. Hynes, on this subject. They appear to be unanswerable.

OSURE V.

9. At the same time there is the question of the men themselves. It is highly debatable that they would wish to return to civil life rather than do their duty in His Majesty's Armed Forces. Moreover, there is no regulation in existence here by which one could force a man to undertake definite civil work, nor do I think such a measure of civil conscription advisable.

10. The problem of rural education is one of great difficulty and until I have an indication of your views regarding the policy suggested/

(100)

suggested in my Secret despatch dated the 22nd February, 1942, I have no suggestions to make. By this mail you will receive the Report by Mr. T. D. Evans which actually does not make any real contribution to the solution of the problem. In this respect I would point out that the movements of the child population in rural areas has not been considered and owing to the migratory nature of the labour on most of the farms, could not be rationally determined.

11. Finally, I would suggest that the memorialists be advised in future to consult me in the first instance; to make use of the Labour Advisory Board and to submit their own views, constructive and not merely critical, as asked for in the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 28th October, 1941.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient  
humble servant,

(Sgd.) A. W. CARDINALL

THE FALKLAND ISLAND SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION.  
(Local Committee)  
Stanley, 10th August, 1944.

Sir,

We have the honour to request that we may be furnished with information on the following points -

Red 10.

(a) How soon a reply may be expected to our Memorial to the Secretary of State dated 19th June, 1943 and whether such reply could be expedited? We understand that the Memorial was posted by you in August last.

Red 16, 8  
in 23/44.

(b) Whether any information can be given regarding His Excellency's reply to the Secretary of State on the subject of the treatment of animals in quarantine. Our letter to you on the subject dated 1st April, 1944 covers similar ground to the letter addressed to the Secretary of State by the London Committee of the Association dated 16th February, 1944.

98/41.

(c) Representation on Councils - We should be glad of any information regarding progress in this matter.

An early reply will be much appreciated so that the Local Committee may proceed with it's deliberations during the short period at it's disposal.

We are,  
Sir,  
your obedient servants,

*J. M. Bouch*  
*J. B. Bouch*  
Joint Chairmen.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

90/43; 23/44; 98/44.

12th August, 44.

Gentlemen,

Red 11

With reference to your letter of the 10th August and to your interview with His Excellency in connection therewith, I am directed to reply as follows to the various points raised :

2. It is not possible to say when a reply may be expected to the Memorial which was forwarded to the Secretary of State by His Excellency on the 6th August, 1943. The situation in regard to the transaction of business in the Colonial Office was explained to you by His Excellency. Not very long ago he was advised by the Secretary of State that delay in answering correspondence would be inevitable prior to and during the Invasion period. This, therefore, does not seem a good moment to take any further action.

23/44.

3. His Excellency wrote to the Secretary of State regarding the treatment of animals in quarantine on the 29th May. His despatch was a reply to one from the Secretary of State and cannot therefore be published without the latter's consent. His Excellency regrets he overlooked this fact in the above-mentioned interview, but he would point out that he was without papers. Actually the situation is that the whole matter lies at present before the Secretary of State.

98/44.

4. As regards representation on Councils, proposals for Constitutional Reform are now before the Secretary of State. The draft Bill submitted by His Excellency was received in the Colonial Office on the 29th October, 1943, and is now under consideration. This Bill will, as explained to you, be the basis of public discussion on the whole question of constitutional reform, before any final action is taken. It is regarded both by the Secretary of State and His Excellency as a matter of extreme urgency and importance but one in which much care and thought must be taken.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
K. G. BRADLEY  
Colonial Secretary.

Joint Chairmen,  
The Falkland Islands  
Sheepowners Association (Local Committee)  
STANLEY.

136

Falkland Islands Sheepowners Assn.,  
(Local Committee),  
Stanley, Falkland Islands,  
29th June, 1945.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

Sir,

The Committee desires to refer to His Excellency certain matters of interest and correspondence arising therefrom. I beg that you will favour me with an early reply to my letter in view of the Committee and General Meetings of the Association shortly to be held.

1. Memorial to the Secretary of State.

On the 19th of June, 1943 the Association addressed itself through the usual channels to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and two years later still awaits an acknowledgment of its letter. The Association deplures and is not unnaturally aggrieved by this attitude of the Colonial Office, and desires to know (a) the date of despatch from Stanley of the documents in question (b) the date of receipt of same by the Secretary of State (c) if His Excellency can offer any suggestion as to why no reply has been received, and (d) if there is any precedent for a Secretary of State's complete disregard of a communication addressed to him by a responsible body of persons resident in a Crown Colony.

2. Agricultural Department.

The Association stands more firmly than ever by the views expressed in the Memorial on the continued existence of this Department, (see page 1, sections 2 (a), (b) & (c).

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 20th December, 1944, His Excellency's opening address contained this statement (quote) "I do not wish to continue to parry criticism that has never been fully formulated" (unquote). The Association regards the unanimous opinion of its members as worthy of more notice than a gibe from His Excellency at a Public Meeting.

If however, His Excellency requires more fully formulated criticism of the Department before taking steps to curtail its expenditure, the Association in its turn will require the Department to furnish it with not only detailed accounts of Profit & Loss but with the fullest possible report on (quote) "the experimentation, compilation of statistics, observation, accumulation of technical literature, research, scientific investigation, and all the other centralised activities upon which developments and improvements depend" (unquote) and on (quote) "progress, not only of local but international value" (unquote). The foregoing quotations are from His Excellency's addresses to the Legislative Council December 2nd. 1943 and December 20th. 1944.

3. Camp Labour.

There has been no alleviation of the desperate shortage of labour on the Farms during the past year particularly on the West Falkland. Farms situated within a day's journey of Stanley are usually better off than the more distant ones.

The return of the Falkland Islands Defence Force to peace-time basis will release a number of young and middle-aged men, many of them ex-Camp men, but no Farmer is optimistic enough to expect a sudden influx of men seeking work. Past experience has taught him that all but the ineffectives and undesirables will be absorbed in Stanley.

Action on 12/1/42  
"Policy regarding Employment of Returns"

4. Importation of Labour.

It is therefore obvious that Labourers and Shepherds, both married and single will sooner or later have to be imported, even as they were after the 1914-1918 war. The Association requests information as to when such importation is likely to be permitted, and whether Government will offer financial assistance towards the cost of passages.

Action on 12/1/42.

5. Legal Queries.

Your letter dated 22nd Nov. 1944 in answer to mine of the 15th suggests that helpful material may be found in Stone's Justices' Manual. The recent Legal Adviser to the Government promised to distribute a number of copies of this work to East & West Farmers. I would ask you to bear this promise in mind when the supply arrives

Action on 15/6/44  
"Legal Adviser of Stone's Justices"

6. Stanley Rates.

Your letter of the 21st Nov. 1944 in answer to mine of the 15th confirms my belief that revenue derived from the Rating of Stanley property amounts to but a very small proportion of the cost of maintaining the public services of the Town. Removal of ashes and household garbage alone costs £420 per annum, nearly two-fifths of the £1100 estimated revenue for 1944, and this contract is only one section of the Town's Scavenging Service. The Association would like to see the Revenue from Rates levied on Stanley property raised to a level more nearly approximating the cost to the Colony of providing a service that is of benefit to Ratepayers only.

Action on 20/9/38  
"Stanley Rates"

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) A. G. BARTON

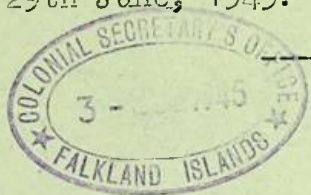
Joint Chairman.



*See (136-c) for copy of whole letter*

Excerpt from letter received from A. G. Barton, Esq.,  
Joint Chairman, Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
dated 29th June, 1945. Original filed in 90/43.

*13a*



Sir,

The Committee desires to refer to His Excellency certain matters of interest and correspondence arising therefrom. I beg that you will favour me with an early reply to my letter in view of the Committee and General Meetings of the Association shortly to be held.

.....  
2. Agricultural Department

*see 90/43*

The Association stands more firmly than ever by the views expressed in the Memorial on the continued existence of this Department, (see Page 1, sections 2 (a), (b), & (c)).

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 20th December 1944, His Excellency's opening address contained this statement (quote) "I do not wish to continue to parry criticism that has never been fully formulated" (unquote). The Association regards the unanimous opinion of its Members as worthy of more notice than a gibe from His Excellency at a Public Meeting.

If however, His Excellency requires more fully formulated criticism of the Department before taking steps to curtail its expenditure, the Association in its turn will require the Department to furnish it with not only detailed accounts of Profit & Loss but with the fullest possible report on (quote) "the experimentation, compilation of statistics, observation, accumulation of technical literature, research, scientific investigation, and all the other centralised activities upon which developments and improvements depend" (unquote) and on (quote) "progress, not only of local but international value" (unquote). The foregoing quotations are from His Excellency's addresses to the Legislative Council December 2nd, 1943 and December 20th, 1944.

ESTATE J. J. FELTON

The Falkland Islands Sheepowners Assn.  
(Local Committee)  
Fleet-Inlet, Stanley,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

13

*See 136-c (copy of whole letter)*

29th June 1945

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.



Sir,

The Committee desires to refer to His Excellency certain matters of interest and correspondence arising therefrom. I beg that you will favour me with an early reply to my letter in view of the Committee and General Meetings of the Association shortly to be held.

1. Memorial to the Secretary of State

*Red!*

On the 19th. of June 1943 the Association addressed itself through the usual channels to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and two years later still awaits an acknowledgment of its letter. The Association deplores and is not unnaturally aggrieved by this attitude of the Colonial Office, and desires to know (a) the date of despatch from Stanley of the document in question (b) the date of receipt of same by the Secretary of State (c) if His Excellency can offer any suggestion as to why no reply has been received, and (d) if there is any precedent for a Secretary of State's complete disregard of a communication addressed to him by a responsible body of persons resident in a Crown Colony.

9th July, 45.

Sir,

*Red 13.*

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 29th June, paragraph one, regarding your Memorial to the Secretary of State

2. In my letter of the 12th August, 1944, I informed you that the Memorial was forwarded on the 6th August, 1943.

3. His Excellency's despatch was received in the Colonial Office on the 29th October, 1943.

4. The long delays which have occurred in the Colonial Office in dealing with correspondence from the Falkland Islands are regretted by His Excellency as much as by you. Before your Joint Chairman, the Honourable D. W. Roberts left, His Excellency asked him to seek an interview in the Colonial Office with a view to enquiring about this Memorial and several other equally important matters.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

K. G. BRADLEY  
Colonial Secretary.

*ack. by Secretary, 14.7.45.  
Orig. filed in 231/36.*

A. G. Barton, Esq.,  
Joint Chairman,  
Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association,  
STANLEY.

9th July,

45.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 29th June, paragraph 2, regarding the Agricultural Department.

2. You have already referred this question to the Secretary of State and there is, therefore, no point in pursuing the matter locally at the present stage. His Excellency's addresses to Council at both the 1943 and 1945 Sessions, read in conjunction with the published Estimates, provide full information as to the net cost of the Agricultural Department. Dr. Gibbs is now writing a full report of the work of his Department during his period of office and copies of this will, of course, be made available to you as soon as it is ready.

3. His Excellency has been pleased to hear that certain managers have recently invited the Director to visit their farms for discussion on technical problems.

4. His Excellency regrets that the words he used in all sincerity in Legislative Council should have been interpreted as a jibe.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

K. G. BRADLEY  
Colonial Secretary.

A. G. Barton, Esq.,  
Joint Chairman,  
Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
STANLEY.

DECODE.

M.P. 90/43.

TELEGRAM.

16

*From* His Excellency the Governor.

*To* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

---

*Despatched* :            November    12th   19 45    *Time* : ..

*Received* :            . . . . .    19 ..    *Time* : ..

*Recd. 10.*

No. 288.    I should be grateful for a reply to my secret despatch of 6th August 1943, forwarding a memorial from Falkland Islands Sheep-owners' Association who are pressing me for an answer.

GOVERNOR.

G. T. C.

(17)

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION,  
(Local Committee)

STANLEY, 21st April, 1946.

Your Excellency,

We have the honour to address you on the subject of the Memorial addressed by this Association to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

As you know, this was drawn up in June 1943 and we understand, left the Colony in August of that year. Since then this Association has not even had an acknowledgement of its receipt, much less the information that any action is contemplated.

Members of the Association feel very keenly that they have been treated with scant courtesy to say the least of it. The Association presented the Memorial in a proper constitutional manner and it is intolerable that the Secretary of State should not employ the same methods of business.

We therefore propose to send the following telegram to the Secretary of State,

"WE THE LOCAL COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS  
"SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION HAVE THE HONOUR TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION  
"TO THE MEMORIAL DATED 19th JUNE 1943 AND SUBMITTED THROUGH HIS  
"EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.  
"NO REPLY NOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED BY US. IT IS  
"RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THAT THIS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN TREATED  
"WITH RATHER LESS THAN COMMON COURTESY AND IT IS URGED THAT AN EARLY  
"REPLY MAY BE FORTHCOMING".

We have the honour to be,  
Your Excellency's obedient servants,

*J. B. Barton*  
*J. B. Barton*

Joint Chairmen.

His Excellency  
Sir Allan Cardinall, K.B.E., C.M.G.,  
Government House,  
Stanley.

ESD  
**GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.**

18

**FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.**

**SENT.**

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
			1037	22. 4. 46.

To  
**CHAPELRIES**  
**LONDON**  
**IMPORTANT.**

*Reel 15*  
**No. 120.** MY TELEGRAM 288 OF NOVEMBER 12th 1945 AND MY SECRET DESPATCH  
*Reel 10* OF 6th AUGUST 1943 REPEAT 1943 STILL REMAIN UNANSWERED.

2. FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS ASSOCIATION IS AT PRESENT IN SESSION IN STANLEY AND THEY ASKED ME TO FORWARD THE FOLLOWING TO YOU:-  
BEGINS "WE THE LOCAL COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION HAVE THE HONOUR TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE MEMORIAL DATED 19th JUNE 1943 AND SUBMITTED THROUGH HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES. NO REPLY NOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED BY US. IT IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THAT THIS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN TREATED WITH RATHER LESS THAN COMMON COURTESY AND IT IS URGED THAT AN EARLY REPLY MAY BE FORTHCOMING" ENDS.

3. SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD SEND EARLY REPLY TELEGRAPHING GIST THEREOF

GUVNE

Time

*[Handwritten signature]*

*file with S/A*

19

The Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
(LOCAL COMMITTEE)  
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

.....22nd April, 1946.

Your Excellency,

Members of the Sheep Owners Association (Local Committee) were extremely gratified to receive this morning during the Annual General Meeting, a communication from the Colonial Secretary's Office to the effect that a long standing grievance of the Association was in process of receiving further attention, namely, the attitude of the Secretary of State for the Colonies towards the Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association.

2. If the "early reply" requested in your telegram does not materialise, the Association must continue to press the matter until it receives full satisfaction.

We are,

your Excellency's obedient servants,

*M. R. ...*  
*A. G. Barton*

Joint Chairmen.

His Excellency Sir Allan Cardinall, K.B.E., C.M.G.,  
Government House,  
Stanley.



DECODE.

20

No. 21DC 121.

TELEGRAM.

M.P. 90/43.

From The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched : May 14th 19 46 Time : 15.42.

Received : May 15th 19 46 Time : 09.30.

No. 84. Your telegram No. 120. <sup>18</sup> [ It is much regretted that office files containing 1943 memorial from Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association appears to have gone astray please express every apology to Association on my behalf.

2. A copy of the memorial has been obtained from Mr. Young and I have very carefully examined the points raised. I fear that I am unable to accede to their request that Department of Agriculture should be abolished. I consider it essential in the interests of development and will be of Colony that this Department should be maintained. I am aware that recurrent problems of shortage of labour in the camp, and I hope, with the demobilization of Defence Force, the position has improved. I suggest however that landowners should consider how far this problem arises from condition of work and living in the camp which rests with them to ameliorate. It seems to me that effective improvement of such conditions might go far to mitigate this problem. Finally, I am alive to the need for improved educational facilities in the camp which, I know, is also engaging concern of Colonial Government. I have this question under consideration in connection with examination of your development proposals, and petitioners may be assured it will be kept fully in mind in preparation of development plan based on allocation made to Falkland Islands under Colonial Development and Welfare Act. ]

SECRETARY OF STATE.

G.T.C.

90/43.

21st May, 46.

Gentlemen,

*Red 19.*

With reference to your letter of the 22nd of April, 1946, on the subject of the memorial addressed to the Secretary of State by your Association in 1943, I am directed by the Governor to forward to you the following text of a telegram received from the Secretary of State by His Excellency on the 15th of May:-

"It is much regretted that office files containing 1943 memorial from Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association appears to have gone astray. Please express every apology to Association on my behalf.

? of the  
"2. A copy of the memorial has been obtained from Mr. Young and I have very carefully examined the points raised. I fear that I am unable to accede to their request that the Department of Agriculture should be abolished. I consider it essential in the interests of development and wellbeing of the Colony that this Department should be maintained. I am aware that recurrent problems of shortage of labour in the Camp, and I hope, with the demobilisation of Defence Force, the position has improved. I suggest however that landowners should consider how far this problem arises from conditions of work and living in the Camp which rests with them to ameliorate. It seems to me that effective improvement of such conditions might go far to mitigate this problem. Finally, I am alive to the need for improved educational facilities in the Camp which, I know, is also engaging concern of Colonial Government. I have this question under consideration in connection with examination of your development proposals, and petitioners may be assured it will be kept fully in mind in preparation of development plan based on allocation made to Falkland Islands under Colonial Development and Welfare Act."

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

A. B. MATHEWS,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Joint Chairmen,  
Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association,  
STANLEY.

COPY.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,  
28th October, 1941.

15  
23<sup>6</sup>

No. 231/36

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency to acknowledge your letter of the 20th October, 1941 and to inform you that as requested the question of the Agricultural Department's further continuance and/or development is receiving and will receive his closest consideration.

2. It will be realised that the closing down of the Department would be a complete reversal of his predecessor's policy and entail what in commercial parlance is termed "cutting the losses". There would thus be a repetition of the discontinuity of policy much to be deplored at any time and which in this Colony was so markedly wasteful in the matter of the Experimental Farm and H.M.C.S. "Afterglow".

3. However, if it can be shown that extravagance exists, then steps must be taken, however unpalatable, to bring that state of affairs to an end. In the matter of the Agricultural Department there is included obviously the whole question of the future economic development of the Colony. It most certainly is not a question solely of the present and the Association should not cite the actual state of the labour market unless they take into full consideration as well the position of that market before the outbreak of war.

4. What does the Association envisage for the future? One is witnessing a rapid revolution in economic and social thought and it would seem that on the return of peace this Colony will have to face a completely new picture in which all values will have been changed. His Excellency would therefore ask the Association for their ideas on the future of the agricultural and industrial interests of the Colony and to learn what steps are being taken to prepare for these altered conditions.

5. If such information would be supplied by you with the necessary detailed reasoning and statistical evidence, it would be of immense value to him in arriving at a future settled policy in regard to the Department of which you have complained.

I am,

Sir,  
your obedient servant,  
(SGD) A.I. FLEURET  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Chairman,  
Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
Stanley.

*Handwritten notes:*  
This is the...  
File of...  
90/43

COPY.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS ASSOCIATION, 23<sup>a</sup>

STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,

20th October, 1941.

Sir,

The question of the future of the Agricultural Department has been the subject of discussion between farmers from time to time and it is the view of the local members of the Falkland Islands Sheeponers Association that this Department should be in the interests of economy be closed down as redundant. There is no case for a Department of Agriculture in such a small and purely pastoral country as this. Farmers have never been consulted either as to its establishment or its continuance.

x | Your attention is respectfully drawn to a Resolution No. 8 passed at a Conference of Farmers at Government House on the 7th and 8th May, 1935 - "That the Government secure the services of a Stock Inspector for a period of three years from New Zealand (South Island) to advise on all matters concerning the sheep farming industry in the Colony. He should be a young man of good education, active, recognised as an authority in the practice of sheep farming and should have experience in the improvement of pasture and animal diseases".

155/35  
Mr.D.S.A.Weir was duly appointed from New Zealand and arrived in the Colony in August 1936. It was not long after his arrival before his appointment was changed to that of Agricultural Adviser and gradually an expensive Agricultural Department built up complete with an office, staff and second man brought over from New Zealand and appointed after his arrival. This Department is still in being, more than five years after the arrival of the Stock Adviser whose services had been arranged and agreed upon for a period of 3 years only.

We most respectfully submit that it was never the intention or desire of the Farmers present at the 1935 Conference that such an organisation should be built up, much less perpetuated. There has never been any reason why the Stock Adviser should not have carried out the duties of Stock Inspector, which was the original intention in the minds of Farmers, even if not explicitly stated in the Resolution above referred to.

It was also resolved at the 1935 Conference, vide Resolution No. 3, Improvement of Pastures, "That application be made to the Colonial Development Fund Advisory Committee for a grant to defray the expenses of a visit by a member of the staff of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station to advise on the improvement of pasture in the Colony". Mr.William Davies was appointed for this purpose and Farmers generally are very pleased with the work done by this gentleman and the able report which followed his investigations. Farmers are now satisfied that they can carry out themselves such improvement to pastures as is possible along the lines indicated by Mr.Davies during his visit here and more fully developed in his report.

It is therefore contended that the Agricultural Department should now be dispensed with and that a return to something like pre-1936 procedure and expenditure on the Stock Department is called for as soon as Government's commitments with the present Agricultural Adviser are concluded.

The expenditure between 1920/1936 averaged £914. A saving of several thousands of pounds would be thus affected besides releasing a certain amount of labour for Camp work which on some farms is in perilously short supply. The above question has been thoroughly discussed by the local members of the Falkland Islands Sheeppowners Association and the views expressed are fully concurred with by the London Committee of the Association. It is respectfully requested that His Excellency the Governor will give the matter his earnest consideration and attention.

x | The writer will be pleased to discuss with His Excellency this and any matter connected therewith at any time should His Excellency so desire.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

(Sgd) D. W. ROBERTS

Chairman.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

(23) (15)

*Early letter  
1942*

The Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,  
(LOCAL COMMITTEE)  
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.



10th September 1946

Your Excellency,

The Joint Chairmen of the Sheepowners Association (Local Committee) appreciate your wish to consult them on the question of a successor to Dr. Gibbs, Director of Agriculture.

2. We beg to refer you to correspondence which passed in October 1941 between the then Chairman of the Association (Mr. D.W. Roberts) and the Colonial Secretary, copies of the letters being enclosed for your greater convenience. Paragraph 2 of Mr. Robert's letter quotes Resolution No. 8 of the Conference of Farmers held in May 1935.

*23 a-6  
15-10-46*

3. More than 11 years later we stand substantially by that Resolution, except that we would delete the words "from New Zealand (South Island)" and substitute "from a Hill Farming district of the United Kingdom". Our reasons for doing so are propounded herewith.

4. In 1936 we got the Stock Adviser we asked for, in the person of Mr. D.S.A. Weir and Farmers were well satisfied until such time as the Stock Department became the Agricultural Department (without reference to Farmers) and Mr. Weir became hidebound by officialdom. It may not have been his wish that the newly formed Agricultural Department should almost immediately become inextricably involved in the unemployment problem of Stanley, but the fact remains that from then onward Mr. Weir lost touch with the Farmers.

5.

5. The Department therefore got off to a bad start, and by 1941 was so distasteful to the practical men in the Colony that the Local Committee of the Sheepowner's Association was formed to safeguard the interests of the Farming Industry in this and other respects. Previous to this there had been the West Falkland Farmers Association but no representative body on the East Falklands. Meanwhile Mr. Weir had been replaced by Dr. Gibbs. The correspondence already referred to represents the first expression of the Committee's views.

6. Paragraph 5 of the Colonial Secretary's reply suggested that our Committee should supply information, supported by evidence, as to what they considered should be the future policy of the Department, although the Committee had already requested on the grounds of expenditure "a return to something like pre-1936 expenditure on the Stock Department!"

7. The Committee's unanimous views were disregarded then and continued to be so until Your Excellency's arrival in the Colony. Sir Allan Cardinall and Dr. Gibbs together formed the opinion that Farmers lacked initiative and brains and that any representations made by their Committee might safely be ignored.

8. The Department continued spending public money on a scale which a farm carrying 30,000 sheep could not possibly embark upon, and in 1943 our Association as a last resort addressed itself to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

*W.C.C.*  
9. The ignominious fate met by our memorial is, we know, deplored by you equally with ourselves. The belated reply to it has been examined by/

by our members individually but not in full conclave, our General Meeting this year having taken place in April.

10. We understand that the Department of Agriculture is to be continued and we suppose we must accept it, but subject to the following recommendations:-

(a) That the official in charge be a practical stockman first and foremost, with some veterinary experience if possible. If he comes from a poor hill farming district of the United Kingdom he will be bound to have experience in the improvement of pasture.

*D.O. will have read these*

(b) That the Colony neither needs nor can afford a permanent expert agriculturist. The tours of Messrs Munro and Davies come under quite a different heading and accomplished a great deal of useful work.

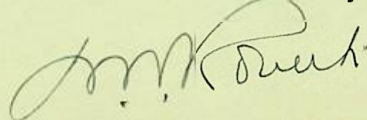
*We might have to subsidise*

(c) That the work of the Department should be directed wholly towards the better development of the Sheep-farming Industry, with the possible exception of insuring the production of fresh milk for Port Stanley by private enterprise on an economic basis.

*Mc. 7/11/48*

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servants,



Joint Chairmen.

His Excellency,  
The Acting Governor,  
Stanley.



DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

M. P. 90/43  
" 97/46 "Vacancies in  
the Ag. Dept." (24)

*From* His Excellency the Acting Governor

*To* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

*Despatched* : September 14th 19 46 *Time* : 16.30

*Received* : ..... 19 .. *Time* : ...

No. 280. My telegram No. 244. Director of Agriculture. I have consulted both Chairmen of the Sheepowners' Association who consider that one or other selected should be a practical stockman with some veterinary experience if possible. If he comes from a Hill Farming District in United Kingdom will have experience in pasture improvement.

2. I believe this to be an honest and considered opinion and in view of need for establishing more co-operation in future I recommend that it be worked on.

GOVERNOR.

# The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

Stanley

17/vi 1948

Dear Governor,

We have decided this morning that the S.O.A. Annual meeting had best be held in Stanley shortly after the arrival of the "Lafonia"; unless some unforeseeable circumstances intervenes. "Lafonia" will proceed to Fox Bay and Port Howard immediately after discharging her deck cargo, and will return to Stanley to resume discharge of part of her hold cargo.

Practically all West Farmers will be in town then. We also expect all East Farmers in. Cameron and Miller sail for Montevideo on this occasion, so they will have the benefit of one meeting anyway.

With regard to the Agricultural Officer, Barton and I propose that he should be shown something of the Country round Stanley while "Lafonia" is discharging her deck cargo, and should then proceed on the short voyage of "Lafonia". He wont see much but he will see what a settlement is like, and see a wool shed - and will be able to take in some idea of what the country looks like at a first glance. It will be no advantage his making any extensive tour until after the S.O.A. meeting. Barton then proposes taking him to Teal Inlet after the meetings. Oliver will then have met practically all the Farmers, in Stanley.

His tour can then be arranged and organised to the best advantage, after prior consultation with Farmers. *as to his route.*

Yours sincerely,  
J.M. Robert

Co.

31

*decision (about SOA meeting)*  
This affects my minutes of yesterday wh. please return  
for amendment

Inc 18/vi

PP/L

32

Letter from Chairman, S.O.A. of 17/vi/48.

See  
Re see J.E.'s note  
at foot of 32  
J.E.

33

Y.E.

(32) Ice returned accordingly, pr.

by  
21.6

34

A.O.

31 to be read in conjunction with 32

received subsequently. You should make your

arrangements accordingly.

Mc. 21  
vi y

35

H.E.S.

I entirely agree with His Excellency's Minute of 17/vi/48 No 31. Re 32. I have tried to comply with this to the best of my ability since it came to my notice.

John P. Oliver 4/viii/48  
A.O.

36

Re. connect this with the file in S.A.

A.O. is to report (cf. 31 § 4) on

his tour of the Camp.

by  
10.8

37

Record - connected with 0797/A with A.O.

PA.  
Mc. 21  
X

is in above  
B.U. 25/9/48  
for 0797-48