

INDUSTRIES. (Misc.)

STATISTICAL. (Misc.)

C.S.

193 6.

No. 100/36.

Secretary of State.

SUBJECT.

193 6.

30th March.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Previous Paper.

Compilation of monograph showing the work which is being done to improve the quality of hides & Skins.

MINUTES.

1-3. S. of S. Circ. despatch of 20/2/36.

L.E. this may be brought up for the Secy's advice.

Pa. Pd. 25/3/36

There is no reason why the information sought should not be prepared now from our statistics. There is nothing the I.A. could do about it that we cannot do and the information will be useful to him.

We should be able to give the skins & hides referred for the last 10 yrs with information as to methods of preparation.

26/5/36

Subsequent Paper.

Stock Inspector,
Please obtain the information from the Treasury and Blue Books & furnish the particulars required regarding methods of preparation.

26/5/36

S of S. linc. despatch of ²⁰ 7/11/36.

(5-6)

This matter seems to have been overlooked.
MCH
21. 1. 37.

Agree. Advise.

Red 4 does not see into the information requested, vide reds 1-3. Would you kindly prepare a statement on the lines requested.
MCH
Ct.
21. 1. 37.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Statement red (7-8) herewith. (4-8)

Yr.
2207
28/1/37
Date despatch submitted.
MCH
Ct.
1. 2. 37.

~~ttttt~~ 1/2/37

Despatch to S of S. no. 23 of 2/2/37 (9)

Yr.
Despatch submitted.
MCH
Ct.
2. 2. 37.

GA
310/37.

ENCLOSURE IN CIRCULAR DESPATCH DATED 30TH MARCH, 1936.

MEMORANDUM WITH REFERENCE TO THE COMPILATION OF A
MONOGRAPH ON THE HIDES AND SKINS PRODUCED IN THE EMPIRE.

The quality of the hides and skins reaching the World's markets has received, in the last few years, considerable attention from both tanners and official bodies. It has been recognized that faulty preparation resulting in the lowering of market value represents in the aggregate an annual wastage of considerable magnitude, a loss to the producers which could be avoided.

Investigation, and educational work with a view to improved methods of flaying and curing, in which in some cases the Imperial Institute has co-operated, has been carried out by veterinary departments in Empire countries. Research work on disease and problems connected with improvement of quality has also been conducted, partly at home and partly overseas. The need for further work is admitted on all sides.

With a view to advancing this work The United Tanners' Federation proposed, at a recent meeting of the Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins, the compilation of a monograph dealing with the production of hides and skins in the Empire, and the steps which have been and are being taken to effect improvements in preparation. The monograph would include the results of the investigations with which the Imperial Institute has been associated, and a section dealing with the faults in imported hides and skins as encountered by the consumers in the United Kingdom. The ultimate object in view is the circulation of the information to all Empire countries, and to the users of hides and skins, for mutual benefit in the continuation of the work of improvement. The co-operation of the International Council of Tanners and of the British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association has been secured, and the assistance of veterinary departments in overseas countries of the Empire is now invited.

The information sought from these departments is a description of the industry in their particular country, comprising the following sections:-

(1) Hides and skins produced. The extent of the export trade, and its relative importance to the country. (Short statement.)

(2) The method of collection, and the channels through which the hides and skins are marketed and exported. (Short statement.)

(3) Methods of preparation, including flaying, cleaning, drying and any other treatment to which the hides and skins are submitted. (A detailed description.)

(4) Investigations carried out locally with reference to improvement in methods of preparation or of combating

disease. An account of the work and the results.
Work in progress.

(5) Brief general observations on the local industry, prospects of increasing its value, and the lines on which improvement would be expected.

(6) Statistics of the export of hides and skins for the last five years, showing countries of destination. If possible, the numbers of hides according to method of preparation, i.e., shade-drying, native method, salting, etc. An estimate of the animal population concerned, and of the annual slaughter, would be welcomed, if it is possible to make such a return.



C I R C U L A R.

DOWNING STREET,

30th March, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Imperial Institute's Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins have suggested that they should undertake the compilation of a comprehensive monograph showing the work which is being done throughout the Empire to improve the quality of hides and skins, and that Governments of the Empire should be asked to collaborate by contributing an account of the industry in their territories.

2. I welcome this suggestion as far as the Colonial Empire is concerned as I consider that it provides an opportunity for the Colonial dependencies to indicate the progress which has and is being made towards the improvement of the quality of exported hides and skins.

3. I would, therefore, invite your co-operation in this matter, and I transmit to you a copy of a memorandum prepared by the Imperial Institute's Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins which sets out the purposes of the compilation and the form in which information from Colonial Governments should be furnished. I would ask that the necessary steps may be taken to prepare and forward to me an account of the industry in your territory for transmission to the Imperial Institute.

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

(Signed) J. H. THOMAS

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING
THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

EXPORTS FOR PERIOD 1926-1935.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Hides.</u>		<u>Sheepskins.</u>		<u>Sealskins.</u>	
	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Value.</u> £.	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Value.</u> £.	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Value.</u> £.
			Bales.			
1926	489	244	882	19,850	-	-
1927	820	518	981	10,395	9	40
1928	1074	552	639	12,780	-	-
1929	769	746	709	12,283	337	154
1930	891	608	640	14,096	-	-
1931	439	175	989	3,766	-	-
1932	565	246	699	4,873	-	-
1933	1338	752	959	8,055	50	15
1934	858	599	853	8,658	-	-
1935	1181	565	683	3,362	-	-

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Imperial Institute,

London, S.W.7.

29th October, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice the following resolution on the subject of the certification of hides and skins from Empire countries, passed at the meeting of the Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins held on the 14th October last:-

"It was unanimously agreed that it was desirable that hides and skins prepared by shade-drying or by an approved method of sun-drying should be marked under Government supervision as a guarantee of the method of preparation".

The necessity for official certification arises from the lack of confidence on the part of tanners in consignments of hides and skins offered as shade-dried, since it has been found that such consignments may contain a varying proportion of ordinary sun-dried hides which are of less value. This lack of confidence is reflected in the prices which the tanners are prepared to pay, and consequently the native producer of the shade-dried hides does not receive the full benefit of his extra labour in preparation.

The recommendation, as stated, applied also to hides and skins prepared by approved methods of sun-drying. This refers to the improved methods now being adopted in various countries of the Empire, whereby the hide or skin is stretched from a pole to the ground, as previously recommended by this Committee, or stretched on a frame and dried in the sun. By following this principle of suspension a product is obtained which is greatly superior to that prepared by the ordinary method of sun-drying, in which the hide is pegged out on the ground.

The hides and skins of this class are of good quality, comparable with that of shade-dried hides, and in order that they may establish a good reputation it is advisable that the risk of sophistication should be prevented by stamping them with a Government mark as a guarantee of the description. Further, official certification would promote the sale of this class of hides and skins, since it would be a means of definitely distinguishing the goods from the ordinary sun-dried hides of lower quality, and tanners who do not use the latter hides would be encouraged to take hides guaranteed as prepared by the improved method.

It may be pointed out that while hides and skins are in the dry raw state, the conditions in which they are sold to tanners, it is not possible to distinguish with certainty between hides dried by various methods, and the curing faults of the ordinary sun-dried hides and skins first become evident during the tannery process. Hence a certification of the method of drying by a method of marking is needed.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.

The Committee recommend that the term "Suspension dried" be applied to hides and skins dried either on frames or stretched from poles (but not those hung over poles), in the sun or partly in the sun and shade, in order to distinguish them commercially from ordinary sun-dried hides and skins which have been dried by pegging out on the ground, and from the established class of shade-dried hides and skins. It is to be understood that the essential feature in the preparation of a hide or skin described as "Suspension dried" is suspension to allow the free circulation of air on both sides of it during drying.

With reference to the method of marking hides and skins, the Committee recommend the use of a hammer stamp; the numbers or letters of the mark must not occupy a space greater than about 1" by 2", and the marking should be made on the neck or shank of the hide or skin, and should be close to the edge.

It is further recommended that the inclusion, if possible, in the mark, of a letter or number to indicate the district of origin would be of value.

The Committee desire me to ask you to be so good as to give this matter your consideration, with a view to encouraging the official certification of hides and skins in the more important producing countries of the Colonial Empire; and they would value any observations which the authorities in the countries concerned may have to offer on the suggestions now put forward. It is understood that the authorities in East Africa are already giving consideration to the question of applying distinguishing marks to the hides and skins of the larger producing districts.

I have, etc.,

H. A. F. LINDSAY

(Sir Harry Lindsay,
Director).

CIRCULAR



Downing Street,

25th November, 1936.

Sir,

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With reference to my predecessor's circular despatch of the 30th of March, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your consideration, a copy of a letter from the Imperial Institute drawing attention to a resolution on the subject of the official certification of hides and skins which was adopted at a recent meeting of the Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins.

2. I shall be obliged if you will furnish me with any observations you may have to offer on the Committee's recommendations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. Crossley Gove

*To go to Assoc. Adv. Com.
at the red 3 has
been dealt with
MCH*

The Officer Administering

the Government of

Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

25th January, 1937.

Statement prepared by Agricultural Department Falkland Islands in reply to a memorandum with reference to the compilation of a monograph of the hides and skins produced in the Empire.

(1) Hides produced average about 1,000, about 800 of which are exported, and the relative importance of the export trade to the country is very small.

Sheepskins produced according to the 1934-35 stock returns numbered 86,453 all of which are exported and this trade is of fairly considerable relative importance to the country, depending of course on prices ruling for skins.

(2) The sheep skins are baled on the farms where they are produced and are shipped direct to England.

(3) My investigations in the Colony as Agricultural Adviser are as yet in the early stages, and sufficient information has not yet been obtained, which would permit of the issue of definite instructions regarding the best methods of flaying, flenching and drying the skins, which might be adopted in this country where climate conditions are damp and the hours of sunshine are limited. There is undoubtedly room for much improvement. Many sheep skins are dried in the open with consequent loss of weight and quality. A few instances of skins being properly flenched have been met with, but more often than not this important work is neglected. A number of skins are dried inside without having been flenched, while on the other hand a few farmers pay a lot of attention to flenching and drying inside. Only in one instance was it found that a farmer was using a preservative to prevent mildew which is very common here. The preservative was known as "Joble"

and /

and appeared to be giving excellent results. More details can be given at a later date if required.

(4) The Agricultural Department which has only commenced to function as a Department quite recently, will keep this matter in view with a view to raising the standard of preparing and handling of hides and skins for export.

(5) The local industry in this comparatively small Colony is not of large proportions, but its value could be definitely improved, by the paying of more attention to methods of flaying, flenching and drying. Many farmers are inclined to underestimate the value of the important sideline to the main industry which is wool growing. It should be stated that there is likely from now on to be a drop in the number of sheep skins of about 25,000, as an arrangement is now well under way to export a certain number of live sheep to South America for freezing purposes.

(6) There are approximately 10,000 cattle and 700,000 sheep in the Colony. Annual slaughter of cattle which are kept mainly for pasture improvement purposes would be about 1,200 annual slaughter of sheep say 85,000. The hides are salted and the sheep skins are dried by hanging over rails or wires either in sheds or out of doors.

Exports as hereunder were made to England 1931/35.

H. A. New
Agricultural Adviser.

Hides.

Sheepskins.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Value.</u> £	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Value.</u> £
1931.	439.	175.	989.	8,766.
1932.	565.	246.	699.	4,873.
1933.	1338.	752.	959.	8,055.
1934.	858.	599.	853.	8,658.
1935.	1181.	565.	683.	6,362.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STALETT.

2nd February, 1937.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 23.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your Circular despatch of the 30th of March, 1936, transmitting a copy of a memorandum prepared by the Imperial Institute's Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins, and requesting that the necessary steps be taken to prepare and forward to you an account of the industry in this Colony.

2. I transmit herewith an account of the industry which has been prepared by the Agricultural Adviser. I regret the delay in answering your despatch but would explain that there was no one competent to deal with the matter until the arrival in the Colony of the Agricultural Adviser during the latter part of last year.

In duplicate.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

(Sgd.) HENNIKER HEATON

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
W. G. ORMSBY GORN, F.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.