

Apr 5

1760

No. 1760.

Subject.

SHEEP FARMING IN THE FAIRLAIN ISLANDS.

Connected Files.

205/25.

SHEEP FARMING IN THE FAIRLAIN ISLANDS (J.MIDDLETON).

1836.

PROPOSALS FOR LONG TERM RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION

INTO PASTURE IMPROVEMENT.

*Handwritten in red ink: A large diagonal line with the word 'COPY' written vertically inside it.*

**INDENT No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**SUBJECT.**

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**C. A. Requisition No.**

1 ~~15~~  
The Falkland Islands Co. Ltd.

Stanley.

Please resubmit

MA

With the Manager's Compliments.

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## SHEEP FARMING IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

### Mr. Hurd's recommendations

Nature sets a slow pace in the Falkland Islands. The peat moorlands, mainly tufts of white grass with some finer herbage between, gives poor grazing generally. The extensive sheep ranching without any control of grazing must have punished the finer herbage severely in the last 70 years. More care is now taken in burning, but on balance there has probably been a deterioration in the quality of the feed.

The low plane of nutrition results in young sheep taking 6-9 months longer to reach maturity than in the high country of New Zealand or Britain. Young ewes in the F.I. are not put to the ram until they are 2½ years old - a season later than elsewhere. Even so the lambing rate is low - about 65 per cent at marking time and of these lambs 20 per cent do not survive to shearing at 15 months.

Is the pace of reproduction so slow and the casualty rate so high that the future of sheep farming in the F.I. is threatened to the point that in 10 or 20 years' time there will not be enough sheep bred to maintain the wool output? Munro foresaw this in his report in 1924 and so did William Davies in his report in 1939. Both urged the need for some control of stocking by close fencing and resting the better grazing occasionally. The decline in numbers of sheep shorn has continued since then. In his report Davies stated that from 1909-38 there was a reduction of 14.7 per cent in the numbers of sheep and a fall of 15.6 per cent in the wool output. The stock returns for the 17 years since then show a fall of another 12.6 per cent. In short the sheep are less by one-quarter compared with 40 years ago. The Colony's total wool production has been falling rather than rising in this period.

Happily this decline in numbers has been offset considerably, not completely, by the increase in the average weight of fleece in recent years, and improvement in the quality of wool marketed. F.I. wool has been gaining a rising reputation and commands a better market than before. Managers and sheep owners have pursued a progressive policy in stock selection by using the best rams available, but they have not been able to apply selection at all rigorously to the ewe flocks because of the low reproduction rate which necessitates retaining almost every female for breeding. Nature takes such a heavy toll that man is left with little scope for exercising his judgment. We need to see how far it will pay to take measures to raise the carrying capacity of the camp and at the same time improve the survival rate among lambs and hoggets. There is no reason why the quality or weight of wool should suffer in the process. The wool type of Romney in the F.I. obviously suits the country.

The present time while wool prices are reasonably good is opportune to tackle the sheep industry's problems in a consistent way. There seems to have been fairly general agreement with the findings and recommendations of Munro and Davies but nothing systematic has been done to follow up these reports. At that time wool prices were low and money scarce, then the war came and all through there has been lack of confidence between the Government and sheepowners in developing a forward policy. Several Managers have been making their own efforts to find out by trial and error how they could improve conditions. Credit is due to them for some remarkable achievements.

Some have succeeded at heavy cost in creating several hundred acres of improved grass and clover paddocks round the settlements; some have been breaking the white grass camp in selected places / and ....



and cultivating the ground to grow strips of Yorkshire fog grass; in some places phosphate fertilisers have been applied to these strips and fencing erected to give this better herbage a rest occasionally from grazing by sheep; in some places white clover has been established in these improved strips by transplanting small pieces of clover plant from paddocks at the settlements where clover grows abundantly. Elsewhere English grasses and clover seed inoculated with bacterial culture obtained from England have been tried. In several places the experimental plots of grass leys and fertiliser laid down to Aberystwyth specifications before Davies came out can still be traced although the pegs marking the sections have disappeared. Elsewhere in wet places the Cuthbertson machine is being used to cut ditches and get the water away so making drier and safer grazing. All this is interesting and commendable, but there are no records of the diversified attempts to improve the grazing for sheep and raise the stock carrying capacity. Each man has been trying to learn what he can do for himself without the encouragement of knowing what others were doing, what they found promising and what they had discarded as not worth while. A good deal of effort must have been wasted.

The same is true of experiments made to save losses among lambs and hoggets. Some Managers think that cobalt deficiency may be a cause of loss and they are drenching their sheep. Others think there may be different mineral deficiencies and have tried supplying minerals. Others think that worms may be the cause of loss among young lambs and others attribute losses to pulpy kidney disease. Everyone agrees that too many lambs and sheep are lost in the creeks and hidden streams and water holes. But if there are prevalent diseases they have not yet been diagnosed.

All this points to the need for employing a technical officer who will go round the camps to study conditions, gather information from the Managers about their particular problems, study conditions on the spot and then set about an agreed programme of close investigation to find out the answers. This technical officer should be first and foremost a sheep man, either from home or from New Zealand or Australia. He will need to understand the methods of grassland improvement being used elsewhere to raise production and he will need to be enough of a scientist to do simple soil tests and make veterinary examinations to identify the causes of losses among lambs. To make this service a success he must be the servant of the sheepowners and not a Government official. The history of the agricultural department in Stanley is too well-known for this point to require emphasis. The initiative should come from the Sheepowners' Association.

A suitable technical officer could probably be secured on a five-year engagement for a salary of £1000-1500 a year. Incidental expenses, such as secretarial help when needed in Stanley and simple laboratory equipment for soil testing etc., might cost another £1000 a year, making a total cost of £2,500. Towards this the F.I. Government might properly be expected to contribute £1000. There is a Colonial Agricultural Research Committee which might also be expected to help by way of providing simple scientific equipment. It is important that the major part of the cost should be found by sheepowners themselves so that they can call the tune and get the work done that they want without having to combat extravagant notions from official sources. The technical officer would spend most of his time in the camp and he must be able to ride and take care of himself, - aged 30 upwards. He would be responsible to a small technical committee of the Sheepowners' Association and would make a quarterly report to be circulated to all members.

The development of a technical advisory service could be of great value to all who realise that the F.I. sheep industry ought to be keeping pace rather better with recent developments in grassland improvement and the prevention of disease losses. I  
/ hope ...

hope that the Directors of the F.I. Company will agree to contribute £750 a year for five years which would give a lead to other sheepowners. Conditions in the F.I. are not the same as in the hill country of Scotland, Wales or New Zealand where sheep are also the mainstay. Our problems are different, but this does not mean that they are insuperable. We need to know what improvements are technically possible and whether the measures that prove effective will pay for adoption widely on a commercial scale.

So much for general policy. Assuming the approval of the Directors, the F.I.Co. can go ahead with several experiments intended to improve the grazing for sheep. Mr. Gilruth has given Cuthbertson ideas for a machine which will plant grass seed clover and fertiliser in strips on selected white grass camp. We shall try to get a working model out as soon as possible. This may be a most valuable development. If these strips are sown to cover say 500 acres out of a total area of 1500 acres which has been divided off from a main ewe camp to allow grazing control and regular resting, the experiment will have the best chance of success. The better grasses and clovers must be given a chance to grow away and make root growth which they cannot do if continuously gnawed close by sheep. If the fences on the selected 500 acres can be made cattle-proof by running a top barbed wire, there is little doubt that occasional grazing and treading by cattle would have a beneficial effect on the herbage. We may succeed in this way in getting a sensational improvement in the herbage and grazing quality of the white grass camp without the impossible heavy cost of ploughing and cultivating large areas. One outcome of this trial may be that we shall find that the ewe lambs bred on the improved camp mature faster and can be mated at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years old instead of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years. This would go some way to check the decline in sheep numbers referred to earlier. Mr. Gilruth will next season try mating 400 hoggets a season earlier than usual on a good piece of camp where conditions will favour them.

Mr. Vinson at North Arm has pioneered the introduction of white clover on strips already sown with Yorkshire fog and he has been remarkably successful in getting the clover established strongly. If he can do more of this and fence off small sections alongside the existing boundary fence, this will allow a test to be made of controlled grazing as a means of encouraging the better grasses and clovers. Sections of the existing Yorkshire fog grass could now be cultivated again and sown with improved English grasses and clovers with grazing control to give them a fair chance to establish.

Mr. Clement at Fitzroy has an idea for pasture improvement by crowding cattle on to a small area of white grass, making them trample and break the surface mat and manure the ground at the same time. He will then scatter Yorkshire fog - and may be pieces of white clover on the North Arm pattern - getting them trodden in by the cattle. He could also try some improved grasses like cocksfoot and rye grass. The practicability of crowding cattle on to a small space will depend on the efficacy of the electric fence which he proposes to use. This would be the cheapest method and the fence could quickly be moved on to another piece of ground to repeat the process. If an electric fence will not hold the cattle at close quarters when they become hungry it will be worth erecting an ordinary wire fence with a top barbed wire to test the possibilities of making cattle do the hard work of preparing the ground for sowing better grasses.

Round the settlements we can encourage additional ploughing / of ....



of convenient ground in rotation, growing kale and rape as pioneer crops and following with oats and improved grass and clover leys. The kale ground at Darwin gives promising results, but the crop this year is patchy and looks like needing a dressing of lime to sweeten the soil. Most of the ground round the settlements needs lime, judging by the spurrey growing in the oat crops. There is a possible source of shell lime at Fitzroy and a sample is now being analysed at home to ascertain the lime content. (This is a job that we and other sheepowners ought to be able to get done on the spot by a technical officer). The total area of rotational grazing round Darwin and Goose Green could be increased to 500 acres, or even 1000 acres if a freezer is established at Goose Green and there is need for paddocks nearby where sheep and cattle can be finished for slaughter.

Summing up, there are three main lines of advance that the F.I.Co. managers are ready to try in order to improve the feed for sheep (and also for cattle if the freezer project goes ahead). Firstly, Mr. Gilruth's select grazing strips on the white grass camp, using clover seed as well as Yorkshire fog and arranging some degree of grazing control by closer fencing; Mr. Vinson's experiments at North Arm are allied to this. Secondly, Mr. Clements' cattle crowding on small areas, and, thirdly, the extension of forage cropping round the settlements. This experimental work may require an outlay of up to £10,000 over the next five years. An expensive item will be the fencing to sub-divide the experimental area which Mr. Gilruth selects - Camilla Creek or Laguna Isla. But the fencing must be done to give the new sowings a fair chance to get established. The shorter the length of new fencing the lower the cost, but the line of the fence will have to be drawn with regard for the natural shelter available to the sheep in rough weather. If the total sum expended does amount to as much as £10,000, we should have something valuable to show for it - and I am sure that Mr. Gilruth will see that no money is wasted.

What can we do to save losses among the young sheep so as to improve the reproduction rate? If the Sheepowners' Association appoints a technical officer as suggested, we should get to know whether the losses among young lambs are due to disease and we can apply the appropriate remedies. The natural hazards of the camp must account for considerable losses. The managers all agree that we are losing more sheep than we should because we have not enough shepherds. North Arm should have 19 shepherds and now has 11; Fitzroy should have 11 and now has 8; the Darwin sections should have 31 and have 26. The West Falkland camps are also short. One instance of these losses will suffice. At lamb marking time extra long days have to be worked to get through with a short staff and consequently too many lambs have a poor chance of 'mothering up' again before nightfall. Similarly the hogget camps have to be left untended for long periods when every shepherd is needed at the settlement at gathering times; hoggets get cast and there is no one to rescue them.

How can we get more shepherds? They cannot be imported in considerable numbers from home, ready for the job. We have to look mainly to likely young men in the settlements to take up shepherding. Even if they are more interested in horse riding than in shepherding as we know it at home we need more of them to enable a closer eye to be kept regularly on all the sheep in the camp. An increase in shepherds' wages, putting them well above the navvies in the settlement would help. We should also press ahead with the improvement of living conditions for shepherds and their wives who live in isolated houses away from the settlements, giving them all at least piped water and a convenient hot water supply. Most of them have their own wireless sets which / are .....

are a valuable link with the outside world. There may be some form of assistance we should give towards the maintenance of batteries etc. Where shepherds' houses have the telephone, this must be a welcome amenity too.

The Government is now setting about making better tracks between settlements and it may be practicable to run a public bus service with Landrover estate wagons. Where possible the shepherds' houses should be linked by track to these main tracks. There may be other ideas which manager's have for improving the lot of the shepherd and his wife.

We need more shepherds and we need them to be really interested in the welfare of the sheep in their charge. It should be practicable to work out a bonus payment system to reward those shepherds who show good lambing rates at marking time and a good survival rate among their dry sheep. A lambing bonus is common practice at home. This should be tried on one section, say Fox Bay West. The basis of the lambing bonus could be 55 per cent lambs to ewes at marking time, with a payment of so much a lamb for every one above this percentage. For the hoggets and older sheep the bonus could be reckoned on the survival rate in each camp over the year or whatever is the most convenient period. The bonus payments would not cost the Company anything much unless there are better survival rates than at present and that would be greatly to the Company's benefit.

Several other matters can be mentioned briefly

There is some trouble through wool blindness among the Romneys. Mr. Gilruth is ordering three stud rams, clean-faced New Zealand Romneys, through Dalgetys which will be used in the Stud breeding flocks to counter this fault.

We shall get reports shortly on the lambs bred by the Southdown rams sent out from home. These lambs were bred on Tyssen Island and will be sent to Stanley. We may need more Southdown rams to run with aged ewes on the Islands, if the project for a freezer at Goose Green goes ahead.

We should also try to breed some better quality beef animals. Most of our cattle are non-descript, selected by the survival of the fittest. Welsh Blacks are preferred and they are a useful dual-purpose type. I will try to find two or three Welsh Black bulls of good beef conformation that should give our cattle more substance and quality. It will also be worth trying an Aberdeen-Angus bull. Probably Mr. Gilruth could keep a kindly eye on this bull at Darwin. It is important that we should have some good quality stock to put through the freezer from the start - say 3 years from now.

At Darwin another attempt is to be made to establish a small shelter belt of trees. Seedling trees of likely varieties are to be sent out from home and possibly from the S. American coast.

The Cuthbertson drainer at Fitzroy is doing useful work at a slow pace, and Mr. Robertson speaks well of the Priestman ditch cutter in use at Port Stephens. Some treacherous ditches have been opened up and the ground made much safer for young lambs. We should keep the Cuthbertson and Priestman going and watch results.

At Fort Stephens there may be cobalt deficiency in the soil, causing pining in the sheep, judged by New Zealand and Australian experience. Mr. Robertson would like to try aerial dressing using / lime .....



lime with a little cobalt added to give the sheep this as they graze. This could be done by the Beaver Seaplane. When technical facilities are available this ground should be tested for mineral deficiencies.

To undertake the improvements and developments outlined here we shall need more labour at the settlements as well as more shepherds. The best source of outside labour, reasonably handy, seems to be Chileans. With Government permission some selected men could be brought in with strict conditions requiring them to work on the camp and return to Chile if they leave camp employment.

It will also no doubt be possible to continue recruiting some likely men from home and Germany for navy work and in a few cases shepherding. The P.I. Company could with advantage take another four cadets in the next 18 months.

We are fortunate in the type of Manager who has been attracted to the Company's service and I know from my talks with them that they will co-operate fully in plans for raising still further the status of sheep farming in the Falkland. I hope that the ideas which I have put on paper here will provide an acceptable basis for an agreed plan of development in farm policy.

ANTHONY HURD  
January 30th, 1956.

Y.L. (on return)

① - resubmitted as ~~initial~~ pl.

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Pe. say I have studied this with much interest  
& should be glad to learn of any steps which the  
FOA may be taking to give effect to M.H.'s  
proposals.

D.H. 25



27th April, 56.

Sir,

2 I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Mr. Anthony Hurd's Recommendations on Sheep Farming in the Falkland Islands which His Excellency has studied with much interest. I am to add that His Excellency would be glad to learn of any steps which the Sheep Owners' Association may be taking to implement Mr. Hurd's proposals.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) J. Bound

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Manager,  
Falkland Islands Company, Limited,  
STANLEY.

Dec. 16/5/56

Reply at 5



# The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

*Stanley,*

10th May

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The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
STANLEY.

Sir,

*H* With reference to your letter No. 1760 of 27th April we can only tell you at present that the Company has guaranteed to contribute £750 per annum for 5 years in support of Mr. Hurd's proposals.

Mr. L.W.H.Young has only recently returned to Britain and we feel confident that a programme will be formulated in conjunction with other Owners in the United Kingdom in time for discussion with Government and the Local Committee of the Sheep Owners' Association in July next.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*A.G. Norton.*

MANAGER.

*A.G. Norton  
10/5*

*Reply at 18.*



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Pl. say I look forward to proposals being put forward  
& should be obliged if I could be kept informed of  
what they are so as to be able to give them mature  
consideration before discussing them with JOA.

DMH  
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DRAFT ONLY

5th December, 1955.

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Memorandum No. 15 for Executive Council.

Agricultural and Veterinary Research and Experimentation.

In July of this year the Agricultural Officer, in a paper he read to a meeting of the Sheep Owners' Association, expressed the view that there is room and in fact need for an experimental station or centre where new experiments could be tried and research into problems of pasture, breeding and animal diseases could be carried out and where records could be kept and made available for reference purposes. It was suggested that consideration could with advantage be given to the following:-

- (a) Experiments in pasture research, leading to grassland improvement.
- (b) The maintenance of a small dairy herd.
- (c) A pedigree flock of sheep.
- (d) Breeding pigs.
- (e) Poultry farming.
- (f) Crop experimentation, and the maintenance of a vegetable garden.
- (g) Stud stallions, suitable for improving the type of horses in the Colony, etc. etc.

From this basis the Agricultural Officer went on to point out that research and experimentation is inevitably a long-term affair and that it is frequently many years before results can be expected or shown. In order to provide for the essential ingredients of continuity and an experimental programme based on the needs and requirements of the sheep industry in the Falklands, he suggested that there would be a distinct advantage in setting up a statutory board or organisation which would be representative of both the farming community and Government.

At the same time as this paper was read the Sheep Owners' Association had before them for consideration a letter addressed to the Governor in October, 1953, by Sir Geoffrey Clay, the Secretary of State's Adviser on Agriculture. The letter incorporated the views of Mr. Simmons, the Secretary of State's Adviser on Animal Health. It should be noted that Sir Geoffrey Clay, before writing the letter, had consulted Dr. William Davies, an eminent authority on grassland research and the author of the 1939 Report "Grasslands, Falkland Islands".

Dr. Davies had expressed the view, with which the Agricultural Adviser was in agreement, that some critical research is required in the Falklands on large scale plots where comparative animal yields can be obtained and the sward changes noted accurately. He also expressed the view, and this is important to note, that the experiments should be simple and should be placed at as many centres as possible. It was recommended that the type of problem to start on might



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be rotational grazing on both hard Camp and soft Camp, using on the one hand sheep only and on the other cattle at one or two intensities. Lime fertilizers and seeds could be tested in small plots within each of the experimental paddocks. Paddocks would be selected so as to be broadly representative of the different type of camps. The size of the paddock would probably be in the region of 100 acres using from three to five paddocks as an experimental unit. Yields would be taken in terms of stock units carried, and these would be compared with the rest of the Station on which the experiment was sited. Yields of wool production per unit could also be envisaged.

The Agricultural Officer's views were considered and discussed by the Sheep Owners' Association and the following are the relevant extracts from the letter addressed to the Agricultural Officer by the Association:-

"They prefer to reserve comment on the suggestion to re-establish an Agricultural Department and/or an Experimental Station in view of unfortunate past memories and until the London Committee of the Association has had an opportunity to study the proposals.

Points that arose out of our discussions were:-

- (a) Experiments in pasture improvement should be carried out on the farms, by farm labour wherever possible, under the supervision of the Department which would also be responsible for the supply of seeds and fertilisers.
- (b) The environments of Stanley are not regarded as suitable for pasture research.
- (c) Camp dwellers should be encouraged to grow root vegetables, and sell surplus to Stanley, price and transport to be guaranteed.
- (d) No major expense or project to be undertaken without the approval of a Farmers' Committee. This is in keeping with the last paragraph of Page 2 of your address.
- (e) The possibilities of introducing Artificial Insemination of Sheep and Cattle into the Colony successfully.
- (f) Any method of combating disease in sheep will be carefully studied.

Finally, Members would appreciate further details of such measures as you may have in mind for increasing the fertility of the land and the well-being of stock depastured thereon".

It will be observed that there is at the outset a conflict between the views expressed by the Agricultural Officer on the one hand and those expressed by the Sheep Owners' Association, the Secretary of State's Agricultural Adviser and the Adviser on Animal Health on the other hand. The Agricultural Officer is

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firmly convinced that there is need for a central experimental station on which all experimentation will be carried out as a prerequisite to the initiation and development of extension schemes on the farms. The Sheep Owners' Association have suggested that experiments in pasture improvement should be carried out on the farms, by farm labour whenever possible under the supervision of the Department, which would also be responsible for the supply of seeds and fertilisers. This is in accordance with the opinions put forward by the Secretary of State's Advisers.

There are, doubtless, many advantages in the Sheep Owners' Association proposals. It would provide for experiments in a variety of stations and in differing conditions and would bring practical and experienced farmers within the experimental sphere. On the other hand it must be recognised that there are also serious disadvantages:-

(1). Agricultural, veterinary and pasture research and experimentation must be planned, controlled and developed over a long-term period. Co-ordination and continuity and central direction, as opposed to advice, must be assured.

(2). The implication of the Sheep Owners' Association proposal is in fact the inauguration of an extension programme. It is customary and in most cases axiomatic in research and experimentation of this nature that extension programmes are intended to apply, in a practical form and under local conditions, the results, knowledge and experience obtained from the central research programme.

(3). It could be argued, with justification, that the differing standards, viewpoints and attitude towards these problems of different farm managers might well be fatal to a pasture improvement experimental programme. This is not an implied criticism of farm managers. It is merely a recognition of the facts as they exist. It is inherent in the Sheep Owners' Association proposal that there would be guidance but not control or direction. Managers would be free to reject or modify such advice as might be tendered and, having regard to the serious shortage of labour on the farms and the full day-to-day pre-occupation and programmes of work of managers and farm labour, these experimental projects would inevitably, and perhaps in the majority of cases, take second place. The reasons for failure would be difficult to assess and it would be practically impossible to pinpoint responsibility. In other words Government might well incur expenditure on seeds, fertilisers and technical and expert advice, and because of a shortage of labour, other preoccupations or unforeseen circumstances the experimental programme on one or more farms might well be neglected.

As an example of what can occur an instance on one farm can be quoted. Sheep are being dosed with cobalt and the manager is convinced that this policy has proved beneficial. On the other hand results cannot be accurately gauged because he is not convinced of the need for a control, an essential ingredient of any research or experimental project, and because he

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has not the facilities or the labour to conduct cobalt testing on an experimental basis. In a long-term experimental project based on a properly equipped and staffed centre the net results over a period of years of such an experiment could be accurately gauged and very full and informative guidance provided for the benefit of the farms. Furthermore it is indicative that apparently little or nothing is known today of the experimental plots sown on fifteen separate properties representing a wide range of conditions in both the East and West Falklands and on which observations were made by William Davies in the summer of 1937-38.

The Sheep Owners' Association have expressed the view that the environments of Stanley are not suitable for pasture research. While there are distinct advantages in establishing a station in a central point which is a focus for periodical visits by managers it is clearly not essential that any experimental station should be established in the immediate vicinity of Stanley if a better place can be found. On the other hand it is reasonable to suggest that one of the principle objects of any central experimental project would be to see whether the natural grasses could be improved by stocking, manuring and the application of fertilisers. Good and bad land appear to be important factors in any pasture experimentation and Munro expressed the view that while the immediate environments of Stanley appeared to be unsuitable, for a number of reasons, it was nevertheless desirable that the experimental area should be as convenient to Stanley as circumstances will permit, so that farmers from all parts may visit it and so that a market shall be available for surplus products. This was also Davies' view.

The third recommendation of the Sheep Owners' Association is that Camp dwellers should be encouraged to grow root vegetables and sell the surplus to Stanley, price and transport to be guaranteed. It must be made clear at this stage that while Government is naturally anxious to see the development and improvement of commercial enterprise of this nature, it is not considered that Government should actively intervene in a sphere which properly belongs to private enterprise, unless circumstances are exceptional. The idea behind the suggestion in this respect put forward for consideration was that one of the functions of the station might be to carry out experiments with seeds, soil and fertilisers in order to ascertain and make available knowledge and information for the general public and for implementation by those concerned. It is a fact that, at the moment, Stanley is to a great extent dependant on South America for much of what it requires in this direction. This is an uncertain state of affairs and there would be distinct advantages in encouraging and assisting, by means of some central organisation, an increased production of vegetables.

The Sheep Owners' Association have recommended that no major expense or project should be undertaken without the approval of a Farmers' Committee. They have stated that this recommendation is in keeping with the Agricultural Officer's recommendation with regard to a statutory board. There is however in fact an important difference between the two proposals. The financial responsibility for deciding whether a project should be established, and the necessary expenditure



of public funds incurred, rests with the Executive and Legislative Councils. The Agricultural Officer has proposed that in order to ensure continuity there should be established by law a statutory board with a combined representation of both Government and the farming community. The Board would have statutory obligations and would, in fact, be a very different body from that envisaged by the term "Farmers' Committee".

While it is abundantly clear that no project based either on a central station or an experimental programme divided up between the farms could succeed without the support and co-operation of the farming community, in whose interest the project has been proposed, it is considered that a station or centre of this nature must be guided by a body which is more than an ad hoc committee and that it should be administered and guided by an organisation with statutory functions and responsibilities and on which Government, which must in the initial stages provide much of the necessary capital finance, is represented. It is the intention that, subject to the overall control of Executive Council and the Legislature, the Board would be responsible for laying down the principles of long-term research, for administrative policy and for financial control over funds voted by the Legislature and for advising Government, where Government is concerned, on the broad principles of agricultural, veterinary and pasture research.

An interesting and important proposal put forward by the Sheep Owners' Association is that the possibilities of introducing Artificial Insemination of sheep and cattle into the Colony should be explored. It is recognised and accepted that the successful introduction of Artificial Insemination might well constitute an important factor and advance in the industry. On the other hand the implications must be clearly recognised and Government is advised that:-

- (i) The potential lamb crop on a farm might easily be reduced or even lost completely through the impetuous use of Artificial Insemination.
- (ii) The establishment of an Insemination centre requires the greatest care and must be so designed that the necessary precautions regarding temperatures and sterilisation can be properly observed. It must be efficiently and adequately staffed and adequate facilities must be available for the recording of data.
- (iii) Two or three years preliminary work and experimentation by a qualified and experienced staff will be necessary in a central station before Artificial Insemination can be safely extended to farms.
- (iv) There are technical difficulties with regard to the Artificial Insemination of ewes and it is essential that the technique of Artificial Insemination under the particular circumstances of the Falkland Islands must be established before it is practised to any extent.



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Government is advised that while there would appear to be no insuperable difficulties in the way of Artificial Insemination it would be dangerous in the extreme, having regard to the fact that the entire Colony of the Falkland Islands is dependent on wool, to undertake an Artificial Insemination programme without two or three years' experience and development of technique in a properly equipped and staffed centre.

It is of interest, in this connection, to record that an eminent authority (Fraser) has recently pointed to the dangers of the precipitate use of Artificial Insemination and has expressed the view that in the case of sheep the employment of Artificial Insemination can lead just as well to rapid progress in the wrong as in the right direction and that it may well be both wiser and safer to await both a clearer definition of sheep breeding aims and the solution of outstanding technical difficulties before accepting Artificial Insemination as being necessarily an improvement.

In a more recent expression of opinion the Secretary of State's Agricultural Adviser has commented that in his view there is still a strong case for the acquisition of a representative camp as a demonstration unit. The Adviser on Animal Health, in supporting this suggestion, has said that the establishment of such a unit would provide the opportunity for a proper comparison between the breeds in the Falklands and would also provide the necessary breeding flocks from which to draft ram and breeding ewes to the various camps in the territory. Moreover concern has been expressed by the Secretary of State's Advisers that there is at present a risk of deterioration of pastures and a grave danger of progressively and permanently lowering the general standard of the flocks.

It is perhaps relevant to quote here an extract from the summary and general conclusions reached by Mr. W. Davies in his report "The Grasslands of the Falklands":-

x "The present system of grassland farming in the Falkland Islands is nothing short of large-scale ranching. Until a methodical and much extended scheme of subdividing existing paddocks is brought about, the potentialities for land improvement throughout the colony will remain all but untapped. There is no doubt at all that closer subdivision with the creation of smaller fields on which a practical form of rotational grazing can be employed is fundamental to pasture improvement. Indeed, it may well be said that a well conceived programme of subdivision is essential to the pastoral industry. The fall in the stock carrying capacity of the pastures and therefore, in the pastoral wealth of the colony has been remarked upon. The decline is still proceeding and there can be no doubt that deterioration in the grasslands themselves is taking place and is, indeed, the cause of the decline in production. As regards the

/ Falklands

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Falklands, all the evidence suggests that pasture deterioration will take place progressively the more rapidly in proportion as the stock carried becomes less. The hope of the industry lies in increased production and in carrying an ever increasing head of stock. + Increased production means that pastures will have to be improved, and properly maintained improvements of pastures will only be possible after first creating smaller fields and introducing better methods of grazing management.

The time has arrived when the Falklands must consider very seriously whether the present ranching policy is to continue, or whether a complete change of methods involving a policy of grassland improvement together with a more intensive system of pastoral agriculture is to be put into effect. Continuance of the existing ranching system cannot but lead to a still greater lowering of carrying capacity, and to the decreased wealth of the country as a whole. With a change over in methods and the gradual substitution of a more intensive type of grassland farming the decline in production would cease, and after a time there is no reason why definite and progressive increases should not be recorded. Subdivision of paddocks, the better management of pastures, and the replacement of the present herbage by better plants are all essentials in the developmental scheme.

In a short, but entirely interesting, reconnaissance survey of the kind described in the foregoing report, no more than general indications can be given. Similarly only broad generalizations can properly be made. The sequel to such a reconnaissance should be the setting in motion of properly planned machinery thoroughly to investigate the broad issues that have been raised. It is submitted, therefore, that investigational work dealing specifically with the grassland problems of the Falkland sheep stations should be conducted. Such investigational work would be carried out in the colony under the general supervision of the Director of Agriculture. Specific problems connected with the practical, rather than the purely scientific, aspects of grassland development would obviously take precedence in any such research scheme." X

The conception of a central experimental and stud farm is not of course a new one. In 1924 the Governor of the day, as a result of recommendations made by Mr. Hugh Munro of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture obtained the Secretary of State's approval for the establishment of an experimental farm situated on the western extremity of Berkeley Sound. The project was supported by the industry. The original cost of the enterprise was estimated at £17,000 and it was hoped at the time that it would be self-supporting within three years. In the event the farm ran into serious teething and managerial difficulties and very shortly after the arrival of Sir John Middleton's successor in 1927, the decision was taken to close the farm down.

+ This is said with the knowledge that many owners and others connected with the Falklands take the converse view. / This



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This decision was made at the initiative of the Governor (Sir Arnold Hodson) but with the unanimous consent of a combined meeting of Executive and Legislative Council Members, which included a number of leading farmers. It would seem from the records that the main considerations in the Governor's mind were that the farming industry was in fact in a sound and healthy condition, that it was not part of Government's function or responsibility to endeavour to teach or show experienced farmers their business, that administrative and technical inefficiency in the establishment of the farm had already earned the barely concealed contempt of the farming community and that a curtailment in Government expenditure was essential. On the other hand it must be recorded that it would appear that little or no effort was made to overcome the more serious shortcomings, which undoubtedly existed, or to put matters on a more efficient basis. It is not unreasonable to suppose, from the information available that had a serious attempt been made to rectify shortcomings, difficulties could well have been overcome and Anson farm might well by now be a valued centre of research and experimentation for the industry, a view that is apparently held by a number of the leading present day farmers. Weir, in his 1936 report, referred to the closing of Anson in the following terms - "It is clear to me that the closing down of the Experimental Farm has been a most regrettable disaster of the first magnitude to the Colony; in fact these words do not adequately emphasise the seriousness of this unfortunate happening, and I would recommend that earnest consideration be given to its immediate re-establishment as an experimental and training farm."

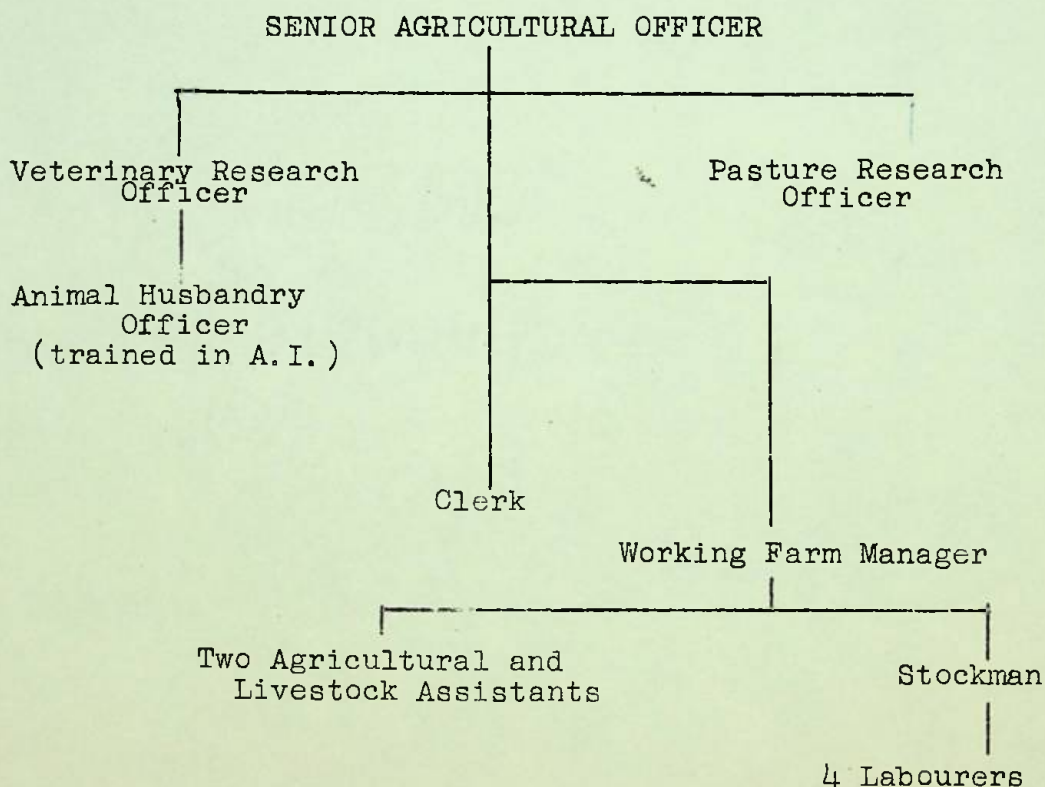
It must, however, be made quite clear that the intention behind the proposals that have been put forward for consideration is not that the experimental station should serve as a centre where Government as such would endeavour to teach the sheep farming industry its business. It is the intention that the station would serve as a centre for co-ordinated and long-term experimentation and research in the interests of the industry and that its policy should be largely controlled and directed by the industry. Throughout the Commonwealth there are many notable examples of successful research projects established in the interests of a particular industry and in the first place by Government initiative and finance that have been progressively absorbed and which are now administered and financed by the industry concerned. In fact Government has acted, in many cases, as a "pump priming" agent, providing finance and staff in the initial stages and until the industry is in a position to take over its own research and experimentation. This in fact is the fundamental basis of the present proposals. In the Falklands there is already an established body of experience and knowledge in the form of the present day farmers. The majority of them have not, however, the time and the labour to carry out long-term research projects in pasture improvement and breeding policy. Many of them have notable achievements to their credit and experiments carried out at more than one farm have achieved definite results, but co-ordination and control, essential to research and experimentation, is for obvious reasons very largely lacking.

64  
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It would therefore seem reasonable to suggest that the fund of practical knowledge and experience already available in the country, combined with "pump priming" by Government in the form of initial capital expenditure and some proportion, in the initial stages at least, of recurrent expenditure, could be combined with distinct advantage.

It will of course be recognised from the outset that there would be no cheap, easy shortcut to a long term project of this nature. It would be an expensive business both from the point of view of initial capital expenditure and as regards recurrent expenditure. Suitable land and experienced, well qualified and well trained staff would have to be found. Not until the detailed planning stage was reached would it be possible to provide detailed information as to the staff and finance required for the project but the following details and approximate estimates will provide a guide -

I. STAFF



II. APPROXIMATE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

Capital Expenditure

(i) Acquisition of Land	6,000
(ii) Housing and Quarters	17,000
(iii) Offices and Laboratory	3,500
(iv) Implements and Equipments	5,000
(v) Purchase of Stock	5,000
(vi) Fencing	2,000
(vii) Stables, sheds, dips etc.	3,000
(viii) Transport	700
(ix) Contingencies (10%)	4,220
	<hr/>
	46,420
	<hr/>

/Recurrent



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16

Recurrent Expenditure

(i) Veterinary Research Officer	900.
(ii) Pasture Research Officer	900.
(iii) Animal Husbandry Officer	740
(iv) Farm Manager	600
(v) Clerk	300
(vi) Stockman	300
(vii) Labour	1,200
	<hr/>
	£4,940
	<hr/> <hr/>

(i) Instruments, Books and Stationery	500
(ii) Tools and Equipment	100
(iii) Transport	100
(iv) Fodder	300
(v) Passages	1,800
(vi) Fertilisers	1,000
	<hr/>
	£3,800
	<hr/> <hr/>

SUMMARY

Estimated Initial Capital Expenditure £46,420  
 Estimated Recurrent Expenditure  
 (First Year) 8,740

Recurrent annual expenditure to the order of £8,740 would represent the approximate equivalent of a levy of 3½d per sheep in the Falklands or 4d per sheep in the case of recurrent annual expenditure to the order of £10,000 per annum.

On paper it appears that the organisation proposed is unduly large and expensive for a country of the size of the Falkland Islands. On the other hand the significance of this factor should not be unduly emphasised when considered against a background of a "single economy" country existing solely and entirely on the proceeds of one commodity. It might justifiably be termed a form of insurance that may well prove expensive in the first place but which, properly handled, controlled and administered, should pay a handsome dividend in the course of time and prove to be of very considerable benefit and value to the industry and consequently the country.

*A. G. ...*

Colonial Secretary.

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~~15~~

56 - 65

Draft apprvd. by

Circulated

Considered in Ex. Co.



~~18~~  
17

17th May,

56

Sir,

5 I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th May, 1956, in connexion with proposals put forward by Mr. Hurd, with regard to Sheep Farming in the Falkland Islands.

2. I am to say that His Excellency looks forward to proposals being put forward and that he would be obliged if he could be kept informed of what they are in order that they may be given mature consideration before they are discussed with the Sheep Owners' Association.

I am,

Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) A.G. Denton-  
Thompson.  
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Manager,  
Falkland Islands Company, Limited,  
STANLEY.

ENGLISH CLUB

MONTEVIDEO

CASILLA CORREO 109

TEL. 8. 21. 80

9. 29. 19

25 DE MAYO 409

Montevideo, 25th April 1956

18

Who's this? I can't read the signature  
DPA

Y/E,

Passing through Punta Arenas about 7th inst. I met a Mr. R. J. Veale, Pasture expert from Tasmania.

Sent by F.A.O. to report on Pastures in Chile - to assist that Country to achieve improvements.

I conversed with Mr. Veale on the subject of pastures & sheep in the Colony & handed him a current copy of Stock Returns. He expressed amazement at the poor results.

Both in regards to woolclip & lambing percentages. He also commented on the high losses.

I suggested to Mr. Veale that he might, with profit to the Colony, visit it & do some similar work in the Falklands as he is doing for Chile. He said he would be pleased to visit the islands (with his wife) if the necessary arrangements

Reply at 14 30

Y.E.  
1. Don Quixote (Rover)  
2. I would like to discuss with you a few of the F.A.O. men (but not all) are first class. Their salaries attract the best usually.  
h.g.p.  
1.5.56.

Yes, please speak  
DPA

1/5  
Please read And's paper before speaking



## ENGLISH CLUB

MONTEVIDEO

19.

CASILLA CORREO 109

TEL. 8. 21. 80

9. 29. 19

25 DE MAYO 409

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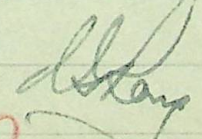
were made officially & he could obtain a release for a month, or two from his Chilean commitments.

Perhaps J/E may be interested in this matter.

Prof. Wm Davies made a report on fisheries in F.I about 20 years ago & nothing has been done to improve same. Had improvement been made I think the Freezer might have held its own.

I show at foot Dr. Veale's address & hope that as he is so near it might be found feasible to invite him to the Colony & obtain his expert opinions & advice.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely  


Mr. R. J. VEALE

OFICINA REGIONAL de la F.A.O

Casilla 10095

SANTIAGO de CHILE.

~~Reply at 17.~~

208

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM MR. L.W.H. YOUNG, F.I.C. TO  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF 4. 5. 56.  
(Original filed in 0527 - Mail Contract).

.....

We are going ahead with our plans for more  
experimental work on our farms and are putting up a  
more extensive plan to the Falkland Islands Sheep  
Owners Association, which will require joint action.

.....

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM H.E. THE GOVERNOR TO  
MR. L.W.H. YOUNG, F.I.C. of 7. 6. 56.  
(Original filed in 0527/II - Mail Contract).

.....

Government would, I think, be willing to help  
in any scheme for pasture improvement on the lines  
proposed by Hurd, and we are awaiting the proposals  
which the Company are now going to make to the S.O.A.

.....



● The Falkland Islands Co. Ltd.

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21

CS.

Stanley.  
PC, file for record

RA 21  
With the Manager's Compliments.

---

 Saturday March 3 1956
 

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## SOUTH ATLANTIC OUTPOST

### LONELY SHEPHERDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

From Our Special Correspondent

Away in the South Atlantic, five days south by boat from Montevideo, the British community in the Falkland Islands make their own life. There are virtually no foreigners there, and English is the only language spoken. "Home" to the islanders means Britain.

In a three weeks' visit I heard no mention of the possibility of annexation by Argentina. To the islanders the attitude of Argentina is merely tiresome. They would be glad if normal intercourse could be resumed with their nearest neighbour. As the distance is only 300 miles, an air link with the world routes would then become practicable. In the Falkland Islands Dependencies, farther towards the Antarctic, the rival survey teams sent by Britain, Argentina, and Chile have established their posts side by side quite amicably.

In the 122 years of the colony's existence the islanders have often chafed at the distant control of the Colonial Office and the whims of Governors, some of whom would not have chosen to come to these islands of peat moorland, where people are few and sheep are many. The wind often blows hard, and a tree is a rarity. Some of the early settlers were men who deserted from sailing ships after rounding the Horn. Others came direct from home—as men still do on five-year contracts of service with the Government, the Falkland Islands Company, and individual sheep owners.

#### SIZE OF WALES

There are 2,300 souls in the East and West Falkland and the outer islands, which together are about the size of Wales. Half the people live in Port Stanley, the seat of government and the only town. The other half live in settlements along the coast or in shepherds' houses. The camp people, as they are called, have little liking for the small-town life of Stanley.

To be frank, Stanley has shortcomings. It has Government House, a warship usually in port, the cathedral, a good hospital (thanks to the Colonial Welfare and Development Fund), a new school, and electric light. But the roads are full of pot-holes, and the water, which the stranger finds has a peculiar taste and effect, looks like whisky.

The roads had hard wear from military vehicles in the last war. Now, 10 years afterwards, a start is being made on resurfacing them. If the arrears of maintenance on the roads and public buildings can be made good, and a decent water supply provided, in the term of office of the present Governor, Mr. Raynor Arthur, he will long be remembered with gratitude.

Governors, colonial secretaries, and treasurers are fleeting birds of passage in an out-of-the-way colony. It has been argued before now that it would suit the colony better if their duties were combined in one Administrator who could be given more permanent office and have more responsibility to the Falkland Islands Legislative Council than to the Colonial Office.

There are no roads across the islands, only tracks between some of the settlements that will carry tough, four-wheel-drive vehicles with few mishaps in the summer. The Governor has plans for more tracks to link all the settlements, and a start has been made in West Falkland. Most journeys are made on horseback, by boat, and now by Beaver seaplane. This air service, the radio telephone installed at public cost at each settlement, and the ordinary wireless keep the camp people in touch with the outside world.

#### NO NEWSPAPER

There is no newspaper. The local wireless carries news bulletins and social tit-bits, and advertises articles for sale and lost and found. Nearly everyone has a wireless receiving set, and there



is good news value in the round-up over the radio telephone each morning. Then Sid in Stanley calls each settlement in turn to take weather reports, and pass on requests for the doctor to visit or for purchases to be made at the stores in Stanley.

Most isolated of all are the shepherds living a dozen miles or more from a settlement. Their wives may be alone the week through when their husbands are away with the sheep at lamb marking time, at shearing, and at dipping. But these women have for company the cows and calves round the place, some spare riding horses, the sheep dogs, the hens, sometimes a party-line telephone, and always the wireless contact with Stanley and the B.B.C. in London.

The attraction of the shepherd's life is horse-riding. He is constantly in the saddle. Each man has his string of horses to carry him round his section of may be 10,000 acres carrying 2,500 ewes. At the gathering times several shepherds set off with their horses and dogs to bring the sheep into the settlement, moving slowly across the moor—a good sight in this mechanized age.

They are more ranch riders than shepherds as we know them at home. They can skin a sheep better than most men, but there is no question of helping a ewe at lambing or of such refinements as inoculating lambs against the diseases that veterinary science now identifies.

### HARDY SHEEP

The sheep, mainly Romneys and Corriedales bred for wool, look remarkably well, considering the hard life. In Lafonia, which is fairly typical, the native herbage is almost entirely white grass (*Cortaderia pilosa*), growing in tufts on the peat and sheltering some finer herbage which the sheep eat down close. When burned judiciously the white grass grows up green in summer, and provides a picking for sheep through the year. But burning can be overdone on the drier stony ground, and then the herbage degenerates to diddle dee, which is useless, heathery stuff.

Over the past 30 years several experts from England and New Zealand have investigated the possibilities of grassland improvement in the Falklands to raise the stock-carrying capacity of the camp. So far nothing consistent has been done about their recommendations. In 1938 Dr. William Davies, who is now the director of the Grassland Research Station at Hurley in Berkshire, left

behind some trial plots to show what cultivation, seeding with British pasture plants, especially clover, and fertilizers might achieve.

These plots still tell a story, although the pegs marking the different sections have disappeared and the sheep have grazed at will, eating out the choicest herbage. As there is no effective advisory service, many of the sheepowners and managers have been making their own experiments, but without conclusive results.

The low lambing rate (about 65 per cent.) and the heavy losses among lambs and hoggets are reflected in a decline of one-quarter in the number of sheep shorn in the past 40 years. The wool clip, which is the sole concern in the Falklands, has been almost maintained, thanks to selective breeding for heavier fleeces, and the reputation of Falkland Islands wool never stood higher at the London sales than it does to-day. But more adequate shepherding would save losses, and the grazing could be improved.

### MONEY WASTED

Progress could have been stimulated if the Colonial Development Corporation's project for a meat-freezing works had been less recklessly planned and more sensibly developed with local guidance. After operating in 1953 and 1954, the works at Ajax Bay have been shut down and £540,000 wasted, another graveyard like Dr. Davies's grassland plots—and a more expensive one. There could be an export trade in frozen mutton and beef, supplementing the wool business, but the development will need careful preparation.

In the Falklands, mutton is known as "365"—eaten every day of the year. In the camp all the bread and cakes are home-baked. Mullet and smelt can be caught easily, but the camp people consider that there is better value in the mutton which they get as part of their pay. At one manager's house, where we dined off gosling, the two maids had gone out on horseback with a rifle the previous afternoon; they got six goslings, and delicious they were.

So the Falkland Islanders make their own life, which has attractions for some people. The Irish doctor, who makes his round of East Falkland on horseback and by seaplane, means with his wife to come back for a second tour of duty. They like the life and the alert and friendly people. There is no place anywhere else in the world quite to match the Falkland Islands.

COPY.

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23

CHECKED IN TALKS DEPARTMENT WITH 'AS RECORDED' SCRIPT

PRODUCER: H.C. HUNT

FARMING TODAY: Farming in the Falkland Islands by  
Anthony Hard, M.P.

Recording: Tuesday, 20th March, 1956: 3.15 - 3.30 p.m.  
Transmission: Tuesday, 3rd April, 1956: 6.15 - 6.25 p.m.

HOME SERVICE  
DLO 742

Let me refresh your memory. The Falkland Islands are a British colony in the South Atlantic, a few hundred miles off the coast of South America, not far away from Cape Horn. Indeed some of the earliest settlers in the Falklands were men who deserted from sailing ships after rounding round the Horn. The natives of the Falkland Islands are British through and through, and there are always people coming and going from Britain. English is the only language; they have the same Christian churches as we do - they use pounds, shillings and pence - and home to them is Britain. I say this because we sometimes hear about Argentina disputing the sovereignty of the Islands. There are no signs at all of this dispute in the Falkland Islands but there is a small Argentine military force and also some Chileans further south in the Falkland Island Dependencies. I am told they get on very happily with our men down there who are civilians carrying out a survey. So much for that.

Now about the sheep in the Falkland Islands. Sheep are the only livestock that matter there - mainly Romneys and Corriedales for wool. The Romney sprung from our breed in Great Britain and occasionally Romney rams still go from here to the Falkland Islands. Eight are on their way out there now. In recent years stud rams have often been bought from New Zealand where the Romney for wool is the standard breed.



25

plots were laid out to find out which kinds of grasses and clovers and what applications of fertilisers would answer best. Little of value now remains. The pegs marking the different plots have gone but someone had a chart showing the layout and by going down on hands and knees I found puny bits of clover in the plots where phosphate had been applied. These experimental areas had not been fenced off and so the sheep had free range over them. No doubt they had found the some grasses and clovers so attractive that they had grazed them to the ground and killed them. To make any show of grassland improvement one must be able to control the grazing of stock.

But I did find something exciting in the white grass camp near a place called North Arm. Here the manager had taken some pieces of white clover from the paddock near his house and heeled them in on a strip that had been ploughed some years earlier and sown with Yorkshire fog. The clover had been transplanted with its own nodules on the roots and started making normal growth straight away. Each plant had spread nicely and was feeding the surrounding grass. Dr. William Davies was right to insist that the essential matter in improving the grazing will be to get clover established. It can be done rather laboriously in the way I have just described and now there is an idea for a cultivator that would grow grass and clover seeds and fertilise in strips. The clover seed could be treated with a bacterial culture like we use when sowing lucerne.

Why should they trouble to improve the grazing? Well there is a red light showing in the Falklands. The breeding flocks are not producing enough lambs to maintain the total



#15  
26

sheep numbers. In fact the numbers of sheep shown have fallen by one-quarter over the past forty years. Maybe at the turn of the century the camp was expected to carry too many sheep and Nature has lately been striking her own balance. But man always has an urge to improve on Nature and there is scope for improvement in the Falklands. The lambing percentage in the ewe flocks is about 65 and after that twenty per cent of the lambs die before the first shearing - no one quite agrees on the cause, probably there are several, maybe pulpy kidney in lambs, or cobalt deficiency, or just worms like we have at home. Improved grazing on the ewe camp should help to improve these figures and allow the total number of sheep to be increased again.

It is a great credit to the sheep owners and managers that by using rams well bred for wool all the time they have succeeded in raising the fleece weight quite considerably - from less than 7 lbs. average to just over 8 lbs. The wethers shear 11 lbs. and over. But it ought to be possible to do something to restore the total numbers by improving the grazing in selected places.

Round the settlements (where there is the manager's house and some of the shepherds and general workers live) the peedocks that are frequently trodden closely by sheep will grow a good sward with plenty of clover. At Port Howard for instance the manager spent some time at Aberystwyth and he's ploughed and sown some leys in the Stapledon style just round the settlement. But the camp where the sheep live for most of their time remains peat moorland. You will find 2,500 ewes running in one camp that stretches over ten thousand acres. Not much chance



#6  
27

for close shepherding under those conditions. Really the shepherds in the Falklands are more ranch riders than shepherds as we know them at home. Each of them has a troupe of horses and a team of dogs and those who like sheep and horse riding find it a good life.

Some of these shepherds come out from home, Scotland particularly, on a five year contract with the Falkland Islands Company (which owns nearly half the sheep farms) or with individual sheep owners. There is good money to be earned, little to spend it on and taxes are not a worry. One young fellow I talked to comes home this summer with £1,000 to his credit and he has enjoyed the experience.

Most of the shepherds are Falkland Islanders born to the job. Shearing is the great occasion of the year when all the shepherds come into the settlement with their sheep and turn to in the wool shed. Falkland Island wool has a good reputation at the London wool sales and great trouble is taken to present it in good condition, properly classed. Wool is in fact the only sale product from the Falkland Islands farms that is worth mentioning. Some sheep are killed for meat to supply the settlements and the town of Stanley. It will be a nasty shock to sheep farmers at home to hear that the controlled price of mutton sold in Stanley is 4½d. a lb. and every property has to provide its quota at this price. There were hopes of a trade developing for frozen lamb and mutton when the Colonial Development Corporation undertook to build a freezing works. I won't go into that sad story now but \$540,000 were spent at Ajax Bay and after two years working the place has been closed and is for sale.



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- 6 -

There are some cattle ranging around - many of them carrying some Welsh Black blood. But so far not much is done with them. Wool is the job.

Well, you will judge that the Falkland Islands are a place on their own. Alert, friendly people who know all about sheep farming, and they make the visitor really welcome.



J.E. - Jb.

29 ~~18~~

An reply to Mr. Rowe is outstanding and should go  
the next mail. I doubt whether we shall want both seals  
and when the S.O.A. eventually being out as a result of Mr. Mendenhall's  
recommendations. How can we say too much to Rowe at this stage - but  
we shall have to say something. - ? along the lines of the attached draft.

D.G.J.T.  
5.7.56.

As in draft pl.

Red 3

#  
30

4th July 1956

Dear Don Ernesto,

1 8. Thank you very much for your letter of the 25th April in connexion with Mr. R. J. Voale of Tasmania who is at present advising the Chilean Government.

I am sorry that I have delayed so long in my reply to you on this matter, but we already had under consideration with the sheep industry the possibility of obtaining expert advice on the subject of our pastures in the Falkland Islands. I am afraid I can say no more at the present except that the matter is being pursued and that there is every prospect that we shall be getting somebody over to advise on the subject in the fairly near future.

Yours ever,

Raynor Arthur.

E. G. Rowe, Esq.,  
English Club,  
SENTELVIDEO.



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~~31~~

rec.

19. see for reply to our 18?

DKM  
9/7/56



Handwritten red marks and the number 21.

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

30th July, 1956.

Sir,

Handwritten red notes: 7 up, 0 197/5/11

With reference to your letter No. 1760 dated 16th July, 1956 I have been requested by the Sheep Owners Association (Local Branch) to inform you of their decision regarding Agricultural Land Policy and Land Improvement Scheme.

2. The Falkland Islands Co., Ltd. are proposing to engage a Field Technical Officer who will have his headquarters at Darwin. Their Colonial and Camp Managers have agreed, subject to the approval of their Board, that his advice and findings shall be made available to those farms interested in Land Improvement. The larger farms have all agreed to contribute towards the services of this Officer.

3. In view of the above, I am to ask you if the Government would be prepared to make a grant to The Falkland Islands Co., Ltd. towards the expenses of maintaining this Officer, as experiments to be carried out would be a benefit to the Colony generally.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

Handwritten signature: J. C. Harding

Chairman.

Handwritten note: Ack'd.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

Handwritten note: On the list 1/8/56

Handwritten red notes: Reply at # 22, See 32



13th August

56

Sir,

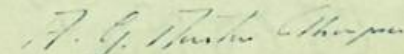
3 21 I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th July, in connexion with the policy of the Sheep Owners' Association (local Branch) regarding Agricultural Land Policy and a Land Improvement Scheme.

2. Subject to the approval of the Governor this matter will be submitted for consideration of Executive Council on His Excellency's return. I would point out however that it is very likely that Members of Council and the Legislature will require a considerable amount of additional information with regard to the work and experiments to be undertaken by the Field Technical Officer before committing Government to supporting the project financially.

3. In these circumstances it would be very helpful if further information and details can be made available to Government before the end of September.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



OFFICER ADJUTANT GENERAL THE GOVERNMENT

Chairman,  
Sheep Owners' Association,  
STANLEY.

ADT/PT

BU 15/9/56

# The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

*Stanley,*

27th August, 1956.

Sir,

The Chairman of The Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association (Local Committee) informs that you would be pleased to hear more details of the scheme to be set in motion by the Falkland Islands Co., Ltd. for Improvement of Grassland and other Farm improvements.

We cannot do better than quote from Mr. Young's letter to Mr. Gilruth dated 31st May, 1956.

" The Board has been considering the past efforts made  
"by Farmers and Government to improve the grasslands of the  
"Falkland Islands and we think you will agree that the results  
"have been disappointing and of little practical value;  
"possibly due to the fact that experimental work has been  
"carried on spasmodically on a small scale and with no long  
"term planning.

" There are, of course, several contributory causes,  
"among them the lean years between 1930 and 1940. but  
"credit is certainly due to J.L. Waldron Ltd. for the work  
"carried out at Port Howard.

" Professor W. Davies' visit and his report should have  
"been of the greatest value but the Report was published at  
"the beginning of the War which possibly led to it being  
"shelved, certainly by Government.

" The Board has come to the conclusion that if the  
"Colony is to make any progress through regrassing it is  
"essential that a programme of experimental work be  
"undertaken for a definite term of years and that it be  
"carried out by a Farmer.

" It has, therefore, been decided that the Company  
"should undertake this and as a commencement £10,000 has  
"been allocated to a Farm Development Reserve Fund in our  
"1955 accounts. A programme has been prepared and it is  
"proposed that it be carried out over a period. It is  
"outlined below :-

" REGRASSING. Mr. Hurd's proposals to be carried out. These  
"are :-

" Darwin Harbour. Cuthbertson seeder to plant grass seed,  
"clover and fertiliser on selected white grass camp. Strips  
"to cover 500 acres out of a denoted area of 1500 acres,

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

Ad. 2. 2. 14. 28. 18.

See 17 & 20. See 33

23

28 AUG 1956



"fenced off. Fences to be cattle proof, Mating of ewes -  
"bred on improved camps - at 1½ instead of 2½ years.  
"(Experiment being made 1956 with 400 ewes.)

"North Arm. Continue experiment of establishing clovers  
"on strips already sown with Yorkshire Fog. Fence off  
"small sections along the existing boundary fence to allow  
"a test of controlled grazing to be made as a means of  
"encouraging better grasses and clovers. Sections of  
"existing Yorkshire Fog grass to be cultivated again,  
"ploughing up about one quarter of this area for the  
"purpose, and then sown with improved English grasses  
"and clovers, with grazing control."

"Fitzroy. Crowd cattle on a small area of white grass  
"then sow Yorkshire Fog and pieces of White Clover and  
"get these trodden in by the cattle. Also try grasses  
"such as Cocksfoot and Rye Grass.

"General. Additional ploughing in rotation. Grow Rape  
"and Kale as pioneer crops followed by oats and improved  
"grass and clover leys. Endeavour to increase area of  
"rotational grazing around Darwin Harbour to 500 - 1000  
"acres.

" 2. SEEDER/FERTILISER. Cuthbertsons now advise  
"that this is almost ready for trial and shipment. It  
"should prove of great value if it can do the work it is  
"intended for. We are also ordering from Australia an  
"8' Grasslands Heavy Duty Tiller which is suitable for use  
"as a Sod-seeder.

" 3. The programme will necessitate the use of  
"quantities of phosphate and lime. We can obtain :-  
" North African phosphate. Min. 30% total phosphoric  
" acid.

" Small quantity £15. 2. 6. c.i.f. Montevideo.  
" 3/400 tons

" ex Sfax. £ 9.15. -. f.o.b.

" Basic Slag. Min 18% total phosphoric acid (Contains  
" lime).

" Under 20 tons £15. 11. 6. c.i.f. Montevideo.

" Over £14. 11. -. do.

" 3/400 tons

" Antwerp £ 8. 2. 6. f.o.b.

" We are also making enquiries re other fertilisers  
"obtainable here for export. Unfortunately we cannot obtain  
"any further quantity of the complete fertiliser No. 1 (the  
"one ton which is being shipped should be applied at 2 cwts.  
"per acre.

" Lime. We are shipping 20 tons of I.C.I. Ground No.3.  
"The deposits at Shell Bay near Fitzroy may be valuable and  
" we await your report.

" If orders totalling 3/400 tons were received  
"we could doubtless land it direct on farms considerably  
"cheaper than shipping in small quantities.

" Cobalt. The use of a fertiliser which has a trace  
"of cobalt is being investigated. This is the practice  
"in New Zealand and Fisons can probably supply.

" 5. SHELTERS, Ewe camps. Experiments with say  
"100 sheets each 5' 6" across are to be made. Circular  
"enclosed. Earth shelters to be bulldozed.

" 6. TECHNICAL ADVISER. The employment of a  
"competent technical adviser with some knowledge of sheep  
"husbandry for say two years. He would investigate the  
"possibilities of improving the grazing, lamb losses,  
"having special regard to cobalt and other soil deficiencies  
"and such diseases as puppy kidney, worms, etc. He would be  
"employed by the Company and his advice could, so far as is  
"practicable, be made available to other sheepowners.

" 9. LABOUR. If we cannot secure sufficient to carry  
"out our programmes in the Colony we must consider importing.  
"Chileans appear to be well worth considering.

" 10. AFFORESTATION. Two 1-acre areas to be planted.  
"One with seedlings from the United Kingdom and one from  
"Punta Arenas. The matter of suitable fertiliser is being  
"gone into. The views of the Danish Forestry Expert,  
"Dr. Agro Syrach Larsen to be regarded.

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"essential. Moreover, we propose to keep members of the  
"Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association informed. We  
"are suggesting that Mr. M. Creece be placed in immediate  
"charge.

" 12. REFRIGERATION. The project for a small plant at  
"Goose Green is shelved for the present.

" 13. COST. It is difficult to estimate the annual  
"cost. The main items will be :-

" Darwin Harbour - 50 acres new ground p.a. to	
Rape and Kale say £20 per acre .. .. .	£ 1,000.
" 50 acres to grass say £21 per acre .. .. .	£ 1,050.
" (This will be a recurring and increasing charge)	
" 10 miles Fencing say £180 per mile .. .. .	£ 1,800.
" North Arm - say .. .. .	£ 1,000.
" Fitzroy - say .. .. .	£ 1,000.
" West Falklands - say .. .. .	£ 500.

" Plus cost of supervision, records, employment of a  
"technical adviser and possibly shelters. We appreciate  
"that the result may be disappointing but until an effort  
"is made and is continuous for a term of years we shall  
"never know what the possibilities may be."

I am,  
Sir,  
your obedient servant,

*A. C. Darwin*  
Manager.



No. 1760

4th September, 1956.

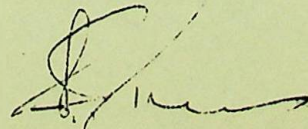
MEMORANDUM NO. 28 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Land Improvement.

In July the Chairman of the Sheepowners' Association (Local Committee) informed Government that the Falkland Islands Company are proposing to engage a Field Technical Officer who will have his Headquarters at Darwin. Their Colonial and Camp Managers have agreed, subject to the approval of the Board, that his advice and findings shall be made available to those farms interested in land improvement. The large farms have all agreed to contribute towards the services of this officer and the Chairman enquired whether Government would be prepared to make a grant towards the expenses of maintaining this Officer as the experiments to be carried out would be a benefit to the Colony generally.

2. The Chairman of the Sheepowners' Association (Local Committee) was asked for further information that could be made available to Members of Council. In reply a letter, setting out the views and proposals of the Board of the Falkland Islands Company was received from the Colonial Manager and a copy is attached to this Memorandum as an annexure for the information and consideration of Members.

3. Honourable Members are asked to advise as to what policy should be adopted in connexion with this proposal.



ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

ADT/VM

ADT/VM

28/30  
see 31

27

COPY

ANNEXURE.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY, LIMITED

Stanley,  
27th August, 1956.

Sir,

The Chairman of The Falkland Islands Sheep Owners' Association (Local Committee) informs that you would be pleased to hear more details of the scheme to be set in motion by the Falkland Islands Co., Ltd., for improvement of Grassland and other Farm improvements.

We cannot do better than quote from Mr. Young's letter to Mr. Gilruth dated 31st May, 1956.

"The Board has been considering the past efforts made by Farmers and Government to improve the grasslands of the Falkland Islands and we think you will agree that the results have been disappointing and of little practical value; possibly due to the fact that experimental work has been carried on spasmodically on a small scale and with no long term planning.

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Professor W. Davies' visit and his report should have been of the greatest value but the Report was published at the beginning of the War which possibly led to it being shelved, certainly by Government.

The Board has come to the conclusion that if the Colony is to make any progress through regrassing it is essential that a programme of experimental work be undertaken for a definite term of years and that it be carried out by a Farmer.

It has, therefore, been decided that the Company should undertake this and as a commencement £10,000 has been allocated to a Farm Development Reserve Fund in our 1955 accounts. A programme has been prepared and it is proposed that it be carried out over a period. It is outlined below:-

REGRASSING. Mr. Hurd's proposals to be carried out. These are:-

Darwin Harbour. Cuthbertson seeder to plant grass seed, clover and fertiliser on selected white grass camp. Strips to cover 500 acres out of a denoted area of 1500 acres fenced off. Fences to be cattle proof. Mating of ewes - bred on improved camps - at 1½ instead of 2½ years. (Experiment being made 1956 with 400 ewes).

North Arm. Continue experiment of establishing clovers on strips already sown with Yorkshire Fog. Fence off small sections along the existing boundary fence to allow a test of controlled grazing to be made as a means of encouraging better grasses and clovers. Sections of existing Yorkshire

/Fog



Fog grass to be cultivated again, ploughing up about one quarter of this area for the purpose, and then sown with improved English grasses and clovers, with grazing control.

Fitzroy. Crown cattle on a small area of white grass then sow Yorkshire Fog and pieces of White Clover and get these trodden in by the cattle. Also try grasses such as Cocksfoot and Rye Grass.

General. Additional ploughing in rotation. Grow Rape and Kale as pioneer crops followed by oats and improved grass and clover leys. Endeavour to increase area of rotational grazing around Darwin Harbour to 500 - 1000 acres.

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3. The programme will necessitate the use of quantities of phosphate and lime. We can obtain:-

<u>North African phosphate.</u> Min. 30% total phosphoric acid.
Small quantity £15. 2. 6. c.i.f. Montevideo 3/400 tons.
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SHELTERS, Ewe camps. Experiments with say 100 sheets each 5' 6" across are to be made. Circular enclosed. Earth shelters to be bulldozed.

6. TECHNICAL ADVISER. The employment of a competent technical adviser with some knowledge of sheep husbandry for say two years. He would investigate the possibilities of improving the grazing, lamb losses, having special regard to cobalt and other soil deficiencies and such diseases as pulpy kidney, worms, etc. He would be employed by the Company and his advice would, so far as is practicable, be made available to other sheepowners.

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/our

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West Falklands - say	£500

Plus cost of supervision, records, employment of a technical adviser and possibly shelters. We appreciate that the result may be disappointing but until an effort is made and is continuous for a term of years we shall never know what the possibilities may be".

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) A.G. Barton

MANAGER.



31

26

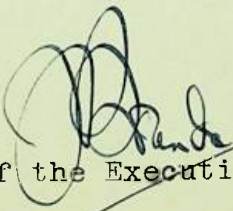
Extract from Minutes of Executive Council Meeting held on the  
9th and 10th October 1956

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20. PASTURE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME. (Memorandum No:28)

all 32/

Council advised that the Falkland Islands Company should be informed that their proposals for a pasture improvement scheme had been read with much interest and that Council had recommended that the project should receive Government support by means of a grant (subject to the approval of the Legislative Council). The Company should be requested to provide an estimate of the cost of the scheme in order to enable consideration to be given to the extent of Government's contribution.

  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

1760

23rd October

56

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 30th July in which you conveyed the decision of the Sheep Owners' Association (Local Branch) regarding the Agricultural Land Policy and Land Improvement Scheme.

21

2. As you are aware, Government were advised by the Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company of the proposals which were under consideration by his Company for the improvement of grassland and other farm improvements. The matter was considered at a meeting of the Executive Council held on the 9th and 10th October 1956 and Council advised that the Falkland Islands Company should be informed that their proposals had been read with much interest and that Council had recommended that the project should receive Government support by means of a grant (subject to the approval of the Legislature).

26  
31

3. It was further decided that the Company should be requested to provide estimates of the cost of the Scheme in order to enable consideration to be given to the extent of Government's contribution. The Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company has been addressed on these terms.

31

33

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant.

A. G. Denton-Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Hon. Mr. H. C. Harding, J.P.,  
Chairman,  
The Falkland Islands Sheep Owners' Association (Local Branch),  
STANLEY.



1760

23rd October

56

Sir,

23

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 27th August on the subject of the scheme now under consideration by your Company for the improvement of grassland and other farm improvements.

26

31

2. As you are aware, this matter was considered by Executive Council at a meeting held on the 9th and 10th October 1956 and as a result of advice tendered to His Excellency the Governor I am instructed to inform you that the proposals for pasture improvement have been read with much interest and that Council has recommended that the project should receive Government support by means of a grant (subject to the approval of the Legislature).

31

3. I am also to ask you to provide Government with estimates of the cost of the pasture improvements scheme in order to enable consideration to be given to the extent of Government's contribution.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

A. G. Denton-Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Hon. Mr. A. G. Barton, C.B.E., J.P.,  
Colonial Manager,  
Falkland Islands Company Limited,  
STANLEY.

AGDT/PT

B.U. 30/10/56  
um  
20/10/56  
B.L. 18/11/56

34

C.O. 1

# Savingram

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of Falkland Islands

Date 20<sup>th</sup> September 1956

No. 97

Colonial Office reference WAF 195/550/01

Your reference.....

With reference to my despatch  
your savingram No. ....  
telegram

of the ....., I enclose, for your  
information,  
consideration, a copy of the paper noted below.  
observations,



SECR

Originator and date	Subject
	<p><i>copy of letter addressed to The Chairman Falkland Islands Company dated 26.7.56</i></p> <p><i>h-h/f 18/10/56</i></p>





26th July, 1956.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to our recent conversations on the subject of pasture improvement and sheep husbandry in the Falkland Islands. We agreed that it would be desirable to secure the services of an expert for a period of years and that the best method of doing so would be for him to be engaged by the Falkland Islands Company. The scheme would however be financed by joint contributions by Government, the Falkland Islands Company and other members of the Falkland Islands Sheep Owners Association and should be considered, from the point of view of the person employed, as being a Government sponsored scheme. The scheme has been discussed with the Colonial Office who have given it their support.

I should be obliged if the Falkland Islands Company can proceed to secure the services of a suitable expert.

I am,  
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Geo. O.R. Arthur

21/11/56  
Bu 18/11/56  
(33)

TO THE CHAIRMAN,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY.

CONFIDENTIAL.

23rd November,

56.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that it has been decided in Executive Council that the proposals put forward by the Falkland Islands Company for a pasture improvement scheme which would be based at Darwin should receive Governments support.

2. The details of their proposals are set out in the enclosed copy of a letter from the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company Limited.

37

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. G. Denton Thompson.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Agricultural Officer,  
STANLEY.

ADT/MC

33 Bu 15/1/57  
20/1/56



Saturday March 3 1956

## SOUTH ATLANTIC OUTPOST

### LONELY SHEPHERDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

From Our Special Correspondent

Away in the South Atlantic, five days south by boat from Montevideo, the British community in the Falkland Islands make their own life. There are virtually no foreigners there, and English is the only language spoken. "Home" to the islanders means Britain.

In a three weeks' visit I heard no mention of the possibility of annexation by Argentina. To the islanders the attitude of Argentina is merely tiresome. They would be glad if normal intercourse could be resumed with their nearest neighbour. As the distance is only 300 miles, an air link with the world routes would then become practicable. In the Falkland Islands Dependencies, farther towards the Antarctic, the rival survey teams sent by Britain, Argentina, and Chile have established their posts side by side quite amicably.

In the 122 years of the colony's existence the islanders have often chafed at the distant control of the Colonial Office and the whims of Governors, some of whom would not have chosen to come to these islands of peat moorland, where people are few and sheep are many. The wind often blows hard, and a tree is a rarity. Some of the early settlers were men who deserted from sailing ships after rounding the Horn. Others came direct from home—as men still do on five-year contracts of service with the Government, the Falkland Islands Company, and individual sheep owners.

#### SIZE OF WALES

There are 2,300 souls in the East and West Falkland and the outer islands, which together are about the size of Wales. Half the people live in Port Stanley, the seat of government and the only town. The other half live in settlements along the coast or in shepherds' houses. The camp people, as they are called, have little liking for the small-town life of Stanley.

To be frank, Stanley has shortcomings. It has Government House, a warship usually in port, the cathedral, a good hospital (thanks to the Colonial Welfare and Development Fund), a new school, and electric light. But the roads are full of pot-holes, and the water, which the stranger finds has a peculiar taste and effect, looks like whisky.

The roads had hard wear from military vehicles in the last war. Now, 10 years afterwards, a start is being made on resurfacing them. If the arrears of maintenance on the roads and public buildings can be made good, and a decent water supply provided, in the term of office of the present Governor, Mr. Raynor Arthur, he will long be remembered with gratitude.

Governors, colonial secretaries, and treasurers are fleeting birds of passage in an out-of-the-way colony. It has been argued before now that it would suit the colony better if their duties were combined in one Administrator who could be given more permanent office and have more responsibility to the Falkland Islands Legislative Council than to the Colonial Office.

There are no roads across the islands, only tracks between some of the settlements that will carry tough, four-wheel-drive vehicles with few mishaps in the summer. The Governor has plans for more tracks to link all the settlements, and a start has been made in West Falkland. Most journeys are made on horseback, by boat, and now by Beaver seaplane. This air service, the radio telephone installed at public cost at each settlement, and the ordinary wireless keep the camp people in touch with the outside world.

#### NO NEWSPAPER

There is no newspaper. The local wireless carries news bulletins and social tit-bits, and advertises articles for sale and lost and found. Nearly everyone has a wireless receiving set, and there

is good news value in the round-up over the radio telephone each morning. Then Sid in Stanley calls each settlement in turn to take weather reports, and pass on requests for the doctor to visit or for purchases to be made at the stores in Stanley.

Most isolated of all are the shepherds living a dozen miles or more from a settlement. Their wives may be alone the week through when their husbands are away with the sheep at lamb marking time, at shearing, and at dipping. But these women have for company the cows and calves round the place, some spare riding horses, the sheep dogs, the hens, sometimes a party-line telephone, and always the wireless contact with Stanley and the B.B.C. in London.

The attraction of the shepherd's life is horse-riding. He is constantly in the saddle. Each man has his string of horses to carry him round his section of may be 10,000 acres carrying 2,500 ewes. At the gathering times several shepherds set off with their horses and dogs to bring the sheep into the settlement, moving slowly across the moor—a good sight in this mechanized age.

They are more ranch riders than shepherds as we know them at home. They can skin a sheep better than most men, but there is no question of helping a ewe at lambing or of such refinements as inoculating lambs against the diseases that veterinary science now identifies.

### HARDY SHEEP

The sheep, mainly Romneys and Corriedales bred for wool, look remarkably well, considering the hard life. In Lafonia, which is fairly typical, the native herbage is almost entirely white grass (*Cortaderia pilosa*), growing in tufts on the peat and sheltering some finer herbage which the sheep eat down close. When burned judiciously the white grass grows up green in summer, and provides a picking for sheep through the year. But burning can be overdone on the drier stony ground, and then the herbage degenerates to diddle dee, which is useless, heathery stuff.

Over the past 30 years several experts from England and New Zealand have investigated the possibilities of grassland improvement in the Falklands to raise the stock-carrying capacity of the camp. So far nothing consistent has been done about their recommendations. In 1938 Dr. William Davies, who is now the director of the Grassland Research Station at Hurley in Berkshire, left

behind some trial plots to show what cultivation, seeding with British pasture plants, especially clover, and fertilizers might achieve.

These plots still tell a story, although the pegs marking the different sections have disappeared and the sheep have grazed at will, eating out the choicest herbage. As there is no effective advisory service, many of the sheepowners and managers have been making their own experiments, but without conclusive results.

The low lambing rate (about 65 per cent.) and the heavy losses among lambs and hoggets are reflected in a decline of one-quarter in the number of sheep shorn in the past 40 years. The wool clip, which is the sole concern in the Falklands, has been almost maintained, thanks to selective breeding for heavier fleeces, and the reputation of Falkland Islands wool never stood higher at the London sales than it does to-day. But more adequate shepherding would save losses, and the grazing could be improved.

### MONEY WASTED

Progress could have been stimulated if the Colonial Development Corporation's project for a meat-freezing works had been less recklessly planned and more sensibly developed with local guidance. After operating in 1953 and 1954, the works at Ajax Bay have been shut down and £540,000 wasted, another graveyard like Dr. Davies's grassland plots—and a more expensive one. There could be an export trade in frozen mutton and beef, supplementing the wool business, but the development will need careful preparation.

In the Falklands, mutton is known as "365"—eaten every day of the year. In the camp all the bread and cakes are home-baked. Mullet and smelt can be caught easily, but the camp people consider that there is better value in the mutton which they get as part of their pay. At one manager's house, where we dined off gosling, the two maids had gone out on horseback with a rifle the previous afternoon; they got six goslings, and delicious they were.

So the Falkland Islanders make their own life, which has attractions for some people. The Irish doctor, who makes his round of East Falkland on horseback and by seaplane, means with his wife to come back for a second tour of duty. They like the life and the alert and friendly people. There is no place anywhere else in the world quite to match the Falkland Islands.

See 15/1/57 (see sheep)  
15/1



# The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

*Stanley,*

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

12th January 1957

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,  
STANLEY.

Sir,

### GRASSLANDS IMPROVEMENT.

I have the honour to report on discussions between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Dr. Muir of the Rothamsted Institute on the one hand, and our Chairman and Mr. A.R. Hurd on the other.

My principals are of the opinion that more information than is at present available regarding the types of soil in the Falkland Islands is essential to provide the basis for the grassland improvement which the Company has in mind and have requested the Secretary of State to consider the secondment of a member of the Pool of Colonial Office Soil Surveyors to undertake a Soil Survey of the Falklands, commencing if possible September/October 1957.

This officer, if appointed, would make a survey of the whole Colony but it would facilitate his work if he was based at Darwin and share a bungalow with laboratory attached which we propose to build for the Technical Adviser (a Mr. McIntosh) to be engaged by us.

The cost of the Survey is a matter for discussion between the Falkland Islands Government and Sheep Owners' Association, but in view of the fact that the bulk of Falklands Revenue derives from the Sheepfarming Industry it would not be unreasonable to expect Government to bear the cost. I am informed that the matter is being referred to His Excellency, also that there are no funds available from the Colonial Development & Welfare allocation for the Falklands.

The Company regards this matter as one of surpassing importance and I was most interested to hear His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh's reference to the same subject in his Reply to the Loyal Address.

Dr. Muir of Rothamsted advises that a man called Lang (David) who served with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey for two years could possibly be seconded. Lang joined the Institute about 18 months ago, is now in Malta and will be available in 7-8 months time.

I therefore request His Excellency's indulgence on the occasion of his last meeting of Executive Council on 22nd January to allow me to bring the matter forward for attention.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*A.G. Bowler*  
COLONIAL MANAGER.

H.C.S.  
*For action this morning 14.1.57 p.m.*  
*I want the papers dealing with Agricultural improvement - particularly those with the draft memo I prepared on the subject of a Research Station.*

*24.1.57*

*Reply at 39*

1760

39.

14th January, 57.

Sir,

38.

I am directed to refer to your letter of 12th January, 1957, on the subject of grassland improvement.

2. Government is, of course, fully alive to the importance of taking steps to improve and conserve the resources of the Falkland Islands, and you will doubtless recall that the need for pasture improvement and research was one of the matters raised by Government representatives with the Sheep Owners' Association in July, 1955.

3. Although I have not had the opportunity to discuss the matter with His Excellency the Governor, I feel sure that His Excellency will have no objection to the matter being raised in the forthcoming meeting of Council in view of its importance and it has accordingly been placed on the Agenda. It is unfortunate that the Chairman of the Sheep Owners' Association will not be present at the meeting.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) A. G. Denton-Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Manager,  
Falkland Islands Company, Ltd.,  
STANLEY.



195/53

# Saving

From            Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Date 13 December, 1956.

No. 133 Saving

PRIORITY

41

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Chairman and Managing Director of the Falkland Islands Company, Ltd., in which he puts forward a proposal for a soil survey in the Falkland Islands.

2. I shall be grateful for your comments on the proposal so that I may reply to the Falkland Islands Company.

SECER.

*Handwritten:* 10-1-57

*Handwritten:* Buf @ 11/1

*Handwritten:* Reply at 44.

COPY

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY, LIMITED.

120, Pall Mall,  
London, S.W. 1.

29th November, 1956.

The Rt. Hon. Alan Lennox-Boyd, D.L., M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London, S.W. 1.

Dear Sir,

We have the honour to revert to our discussion with the Rt. Hon. John Hare, O.B.E., M.P., Minister of State for the Colonies, and His Excellency The Governor of the Falkland Islands on 26th July last regarding the matter of official support for the employment of a Technical Adviser who would carry out a programme of experimental work over a term of years in the Falkland Islands, in relation to the Sheep Farming Industry.

This is in hand and we hope to be in a position to advise you shortly that a suitable man has been engaged.

As was mentioned at that meeting, more information than is at present available regarding the types of soil in the Falkland Islands is essential to provide the basis for the grassland improvement work we have in mind.

We therefore request that you will consider sending a Member of the Pool of Colonial Office Soil Surveyors to undertake a Soil Survey of the Falkland Islands, commencing if possible in September/October 1957. He would, of course, make a survey of the Colony but we are of the opinion that it would facilitate his work if he were based at Darwin, where the Technical Adviser to be engaged will be stationed, and where we could arrange accommodation and laboratory facilities.

With regard to meeting the cost, we suggest that this is a matter for discussion between the Falkland Islands Government and the Farmers, but we do consider this to be a matter of such great importance that in any case it is essential that the work be undertaken as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

For the FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY, LTD.

(Sgd.) L.W.H. Young.

Chairman & Managing Director

LWHY/JHR.



42

1760

24th January, 57.

Sir,

38 > 41

I have the honour to transmit the attached copies of correspondence on the subject of grassland improvement and a proposed soil survey of the Falkland Islands for the information and consideration of your Association:-

38

(1) Copy of a letter dated the 12th January, 1957, addressed to the Colonial Secretary by the Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company.

41

(2) Copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Chairman and Managing Director of the Falkland Islands Company which has been referred to this Government by the Secretary of State.

2. This matter was considered at a meeting of Executive Council held on the 21st January, 1957. It was agreed:-

(i) That Government should in principle support the proposal for a soil survey of the Falkland Islands and should give favourable consideration to the suggestion that such a survey should receive financial support from Government funds.

(ii) Discussions should be initiated with the Sheep Owners' Association and the Falkland Islands Company with a view to:-

(a) obtaining the consent and co-operation of all farmers.

(b) Considering the best way to arrange and administer the survey having regard to the problems of accommodation, laboratory equipment and administration.

(iii) The Secretary of State should be approached for advice and information on the probable dur-

/ation

Reply at 51

The Chairman,  
F.I. Sheep Owners' Association,  
STANLEY.



43

- 2 -

ation of the survey and the equipment that would be required so that Government could give further consideration to the question of financial support.

(iv) The Falkland Islands Company to be advised accordingly.

3. The Secretary of State has already been approached with regard to (iii) above. In view of the importance and urgency of the matter I have to enquire whether your Association would agree to nominate representatives to discuss the project with the Falkland Islands Company and Government at an early date and, if possible, not later than the second or third week of February.

4. A copy of this letter has been addressed to the Colonial Manager of the Falkland Islands Company.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) A.G. Denton-Thompson  
OFFICER ADMINISTERING  
THE GOVERNMENT.



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

44

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched : 24.1.57

Time : 1150

Received :

Time :

PRIORITY.

40

No. 10. Your Priority Savingram No. 133 of 13th December.

Soil Survey.

It is agreed in principle Government should <sup>suggest</sup> ~~suggest~~ the proposal but consent and co-operation of all farms must first be obtained. Discussions to this end are being initiated immediately with Sheep Owners' Association and Falkland Islands Company. In meantime to assist further consideration of administrative and financial aspects most grateful if your Agricultural Advisers could provide information on following points:-

Suggest

- (1) Rough estimate of time required to complete survey of this nature.
- (2) Approximate cost of officer on secondment from e.g. Rothamsted.
- (3) What equipment and laboratory facilities would be required and probable cost of former.
- (4) Would analysis be completed here or would samples be forwarded to Rothamsted for final analysis.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

See 47

GTC:ME

See for reply 1/2/57

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

45

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 30.1.57. Time : 1535 Received : 31.1.57. Time 1100

IMMEDIATE.

44

No:13. Your tel. No:10. Soil Survey.

In a letter to me Anthony Hurd, M.P., stated that he has now heard that Legislative Council has approved the whole cost of the soil survey being made from reserve fund.

I should be grateful for confirmation of this statement.

GTC : PT

*Act. C.S.*

*On file v. urgently to me.*

*[Signature]*

*31.1.57.*

*Reply at 47*

*2046*



16

Extract from telegram dated 23rd January to F.I.C. London  
from F.I.C. Stanley.

" Your letter 7th December Council approves whole  
cost of soil survey being met from reserves.

510 45

31/1/57

DECODE.

47

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched : 1.2.57

Time : 0420

Received :

Time :

45 No: 15. Your ~~telegram~~ No: 13.

Soil Survey.

I regret Hurd has been misinformed by Falkland Islands Company and misunderstanding arises out of a telegram addressed to Falkland Islands Company Chairman by Colonial Manager here. Proposal has been considered by Executive Council not Legislative and position is as stated in my telegram No: 10. Prerequisite to Colony wide survey, which is fundamental necessity, is co-operation and consent of farmers and I am taking urgent steps to obtain it in tripartite discussions between Government, Sheep Owners' Association and Falkland Islands Company. I am confident support from great majority will be forthcoming *provided* they are fully consulted before project starts. Extent of Government financial support will be further considered when we have some estimate of costs. I am confident Government will meet whole or substantial part of the cost but must emphasize Executive and Legislative Council members will not sign blank cheques and it would be of considerable assistance in furthering the project if I may be supplied as soon as possible with information on points mentioned in my telegram No: 10.

44

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

GTC:MF



Mimute to:

Acting Colonial Secretary.

48

Mr. Barton came to see me this afternoon about the proposed soil survey and pasture improvement scheme which is now working up into a major and most important project.

He asked me whether he could have a list of all the published documents and major reports on any subjects dealing with pastures and land in the Falkland Islands. This will include such things as the Wier and Davis reports and also the geological report which was done a number of years ago. I am afraid this is rather a major research project but it is an important one. Could you please let me have, possibly by the second or third week of February, a composite list of the references.

Baker?

Some of the documents might be unpalatable reading for Mr. Barton and other farmers, but there might be some advantage in letting them see them.

*A.G.P.*  
31st January 1957.

*I am sorry to have to know this additional burden on the Secretary - but it is important.*

*A.G.P.*

*Mrs. M.*  
Have you time to spare, pl.  
*W.H. 12/2/57*

1) *NOTE.*  
*I have detached the results of Mr. Malcolm's tubes and sent them down to Mr. Barton - N.I.V. for eventual return.*

*Some files sent to Mr. Barton*

2 *Mr. Malcolm*  
*Thank you*

*A.G.P.*  
8.2.57

*M.H.*  
*N.I.V.*  
*SM 12/2/57.*

In accordance with H.H. the O.A.G.'s Minute I have searched our records for files relating to Grasslands etc. and I have taken the numbers of all files dealing with Stock, Grasslands, Grass and Tussac seed, etc. I expect many of these files will be irrelevant, but I am appending a list of them in order that H.H. may take out what he wants. I have been unable to trace the file relating to Sir John Middleton's Report on Sheep Farming which appears to be 205/23 - which is missing.

- 76/1894 Survey of Lands surrendered for sale.
- 49/97 Reports on Sheep Farming in the Falkland Islands by J. Mowat - principally deals with stock
- 50/97 Report by Henry Rittez(?) on Agriculture wherein he tries to point out that crops of forage can be produced which are better for animals than the sour grass.
- 105/98 Work of Government Surveyor (slightly irrelevant, refers to acreage only).
- 195/05 Grasses, Sand binding. Proposed experiment on Peninsula Farm. Appears to have been tried at Port Stephens and Weddell Is.
- 189/06 Approving expense of £40 for planting marram grass near Lighthouse.
- 365/06 Paspalum Dilatum grass imported from Buenos Aires for experimental purposes.
- 168/08 Scientific Report on F. Islands by Dr. Sottsberg (Takes in geology, botany and zoology).
- 386/12 Plants suitable for covering sand areas - correspondence regarding.
- 59/14 Advisability of interesting public officers in the geology and mineralogy of the Colony.
- 245 and 116/18 both destroyed.
- 745/21 Transporting and Planting of Tussac Plants - tenders for
- 302/22 Books of reference on subject of stock etc. in Stock Inspector's Office.
- 66/23 Provision of grass seed for Sandy Areas.
- 883/23 Report on Tussac plantation at Hooker's Point.
- 41/24 Printing of Geological Report on Falkland Islands by Dr. H.A. Baker - report does not appear to have been submitted to Government prior to publication.
- \* 84/24 Improvement of Pasture - Sample grasses to be sent to Rowett Research Institute Aberdeen for examination.
- 354/24 Loans to Sheep Farmers for Development and Improvement of Farm Stations.
- \* 383/24 Soil Survey - samples required.
- 472/25 Planting of Tussac Grass on the Peninsula
- 709/24 Report by H. Munro on the improvement of Grazing Areas of the Common
- \* 205/25 Rowett Research Institute - correspondence regarding visit of Mr. Munro to.



- 386/25 Respecting arrangements for thinning out and distributing Sand Grass Plants.
- 609/25 Rowett Research Institute - Official Report on the investigation on F.Is. pastures.
- 455/26 Enquiry from Hon. G.I. Felton regarding possibility of ordering swamp grass seed.
- 553/27 Supplementary Feeding on Grassland.
- 40/28 Mr. R.C. Pole-Evans requests that Mr. Faithful visit Port Howard to advise on Agricultural Matters. Report by Mr. Faithful filed at 10.
- 328/28 Agricultural Experiments on Sheep Farms, Falkland Islands.
- 166/29 Samples of Grasses for Experimental Sowing.
- 230/30 Rice Grass (Spartuaia)
- 105/33 Report by Mr. Tom C. Norris on the Possibilities of the Sheepfarming Industry in the F. Islands.
- 150/35 Improvement of Pastures. Proposal to apply for a grant from C.D. & W. Also to defray cost of a visit of an expert to advise in this capacity. Pastures and manures imported and distributed to farmers.
- 235/35 Note on the High Mortality Rate of Sheep in the Falkland Islands.
- 301/35 Stanley Common - improvement of
- 233/36 Improvement of Pastures - Experimental Plots
- 69/37 Brief Notes on economical flock improvement for circulation to farmers
- 108/38 Samples of Soils and Grasses forwarded to Mr. William Davies in the United Kingdom
- 252/38 Report by Mr. W. Davies on the Grasslands of the Falkland Islands.
- 88/41 Agricultural News published by the Department of Agriculture.
- 119/44 Report of the Committee on Hill Sheepfarming in Scotland.
- 275/46 Pasture Improvements in Hill Country
- 0102 Samples of Soil (Falkland Islands).
- 0214 Lime Deposits
- 0214/A Lime Deposits - final report by Mr. Adie
- 0520 Report on Guano Deposits in the Falkland Is.

- 0779 Grain Seeds from Overseas.
- 0821 Sheep - Experimental drenchings with cobalt - report by Tom Beaty
- 0968 Stone Runs of the Falkland Islands by J.R.F. Joyce
- 1052 Soil <sup>Conservation?</sup> Conversation - Importation of Sand Grass and Gorse Seed.
- I/29/50 Book entitled "An Experiment in Smallholdings" imported.
- 1452 Report on Glass Sands of the Falkland Islands.
- 1755 Improvement of Colony's Pastures by Aerial Treatment
- 1760 Sheep Farming in the Falkland Islands.

In addition there is also Dr. Gibbs' Report (file 118/40) which has never been published.

vm.  
5. 2. 57.

H.B.S.  
all files available at short notice.  
W.H.  
6/2

Y.H.  
48.  
Re. see 49-51  
6/2.



Port Howard. 51  
West Falklands.



10th February 1957.

42.

38-41

Sir,  
With reference your letter dated 24th January 1957, I have spoken to available Managers on the West Falklands and none of them can find it convenient to go to Stanley this month to discuss the proposal of a soil survey of the Colony. In the meantime, I will circulate your letter and the attached copies to all Managers on the West within the next fortnight and ~~then~~ return them to our Secretary to be circulated round the North Camp of the East Falklands. This will at least give everybody an opportunity to think the matter over, and possibly a meeting of some of the farmers might be arranged to coincide with the next combined Council meetings.

2. As a matter for enquiry would any useful purpose be served by each farm sending various types of soil direct to the U.K. for analysis.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
*H. C. Harding*  
Chairman. (Local Branch)  
Falkland Islands Sheep Owners  
Association.

Askd  
*[Signature]*  
11/2/57

*[Faint handwritten notes]*

Pages 49-50  
with Mr. Barber

52.

V.H.

baller for this file - see  
reverse which has just come in.

*J. H.*



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

53

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 12.2.57.

Time : 1455

Received : 13.2.57. Time : 0930

PRIORITY

44  
No:24. Your tel. No:10. Soil survey.

To enable me to reply fully to the point you raise could you provide information on the following points:-

- (a) What transport facilities would be available for surveyor and his jungle staff.
- (b) What type of local jungle staff and labour would be available to assist.
- (c) What laboratory facilities exist locally and whether any trained laboratory staff would be available to assist.

GTC : PT

Reply at 54.

MEMORANDUM

13th February

54.  
195 7

From

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY LTD.,  
STANLEY.

To

Returned with thanks.

AGB would be grateful if he could borrow

84/24  
383/24  
205/25

I am not a Soil Mechanic;  
presume 1052 (p. 3) should  
read Conservation?

SS  
/i.



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched : 15.2.57

Time : 0420

Received :

Time :

53

No: 52.. Your Priority Telegram No: 24.

Soil Survey.

Transport. Surveyor and staff would principally have to ride. Other means of transport where necessary and possible would be by seaplane, landrover and boat. All transport facilities would be provided locally.

2. Only staff and labour available locally would be unskilled farm labour. Services of a clerk could be obtained if necessary.

3. There are no laboratory facilities here and no laboratory staff. Laboratory would have to be built or suitable building adapted for the purpose. No scientific laboratory equipment available locally.

4. If he will need to live out in the country he will require tents and camp equipment. Otherwise hospitality would be available in settlements and shepherds houses.

5. We can cost transport labour when we know what he would need, construction of laboratory if I can have some idea of what he would require and passages. We should have to start from scratch.

6. Name of Macaully College of Soil Research Aberdeen has been suggested to me as suitable and experienced source of assistance for this type of country. Most grateful if I might have some information if possible before 11th March when combined Councils and Sheep Owners' Association are meeting to discuss the matter.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

GTC  
ADT/IE

Re. refile ps. 49-50 wh. are now in -  
then Bel. 28/2.

*[Signature]*  
18/2

A.C.S. Refiled.

um  
Bos



Bu 28/2  
17/2

55  
DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 21.2.57

Time : 1240

Received : 21.2.57 Time : 0230

CONFIDENTIAL.

No:28. Soil Survey.

It is difficult for those concerned to estimate accurately without experience of local conditions. It is thought advisable to allow for 12 months field work in weather conditions suitable for such work and 6 months for preparation and writing up at headquarters. Labour requirement~~s~~ is two or three men who are literate and physically capable of carrying kit and surveyor's equipment in the field. Service typist required at headquarters from time to time. No laboratory facilities required as in circumstances it is thought better to send samples to Rothamsted for analysis.

*in  
fids/P/149.*  
2. Your paragraph 6. We have in mind as possible surveyor Lang ( Your telegram 141 September 7th 1955 refers) who has now completed training and is due to complete present assignment in Malta at the end of 1957. Have you any comments?

SECRETARY OF STATE.

GEC:MC  
Typed : LF

*Y. H.*

*Submitted pl.*

*S.  
22/2.*

*Reply at 56*



56

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched : 22.2.57      Time : 0325      Received :      Time :

CONFIDENTIAL.

55

No: 36.    Your Confidential Telegram No: 28.  
Soil Survey.

Grateful to know details of what  
Lang's salary and allowances would be.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

GTC:MF

57.  
Reply at 58.

DECODE.

57

57

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 26.2.57

Time: 0940

Received: 27.2.57 Time: 1000

56

No: 30. Your telegram No: 36.

Soil Survey.

Lang's salary estimated at \$1150 - 1200 a year including Government's P.S.S.U. contribution but suggest you allow additional 10% Contingencies for Estimate purposes to provide for any possible adjustment for salary. Salaries of pool officers are normally equate to those of Research Branch Officers of similar status in territories. In this case a special calculation in relation to local living costs may be necessary.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

GTC:MF

Fhd. to P.A. at 1000  
File please.

(Intld) J.B.

27/2/57

see 71



57  
SS

Memorandum for Meeting of Combined Councils and Committee of the  
Sheep Owners' Association.

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT AND SOIL SURVEY

1. In July, 1956, the Falkland Islands Company officially informed Government that the Company intended to engage a Field Technical Officer who would have his headquarters at Darwin and who would be responsible for carrying out experiments in land improvement. The Company intimated that his findings would be made available to those farms interested in land improvement and that the large farms had all agreed to contribute towards the services of this officer. In conclusion the Company enquired whether in the circumstances Government would be prepared to contribute towards the expenses of maintaining this officer in the form of a grant on the grounds that the experiments to be carried out would be a benefit to the Colony generally.

63

2. In reply Government informed the Falkland Islands Company that the matter would be submitted for the consideration of Executive Council but that Council would doubtless require a considerable amount of additional information with regard to the work and experiments to be undertaken by the Field Technical Officer before committing Government to supporting the project financially. An extract from the Colonial Manager's reply, which sets out the Company's proposals, is attached to this Memorandum as Annexure 'A'.

3. These proposals were considered by Executive Council at a meeting held on the 9th and 10th October, 1956, and the outcome was that the Company were advised that their proposals had been read with much interest and Council had recommended that subject to the approval of the Legislature the project should receive Government support by means of a grant. The Company were, however, asked to provide Government with an estimate of costs so that further consideration could be given to the extent of Government's contribution (it will be noted that the estimates quoted in Annexure 'A' are tentative and exclude a number of important items).

4. On the 12th January, 1957, the Colonial Manager reported to Government on discussions between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Dr. Muir of the Rothamsted Institute on the one hand and the Chairman and Mr. A. R. Hurd on the other. The following is the relevant extract from the Colonial Manager's letter:-

" My principals are of the opinion that more information than is at present available regarding the types of soil in the Falkland Islands is essential to provide the basis for the grassland improvement which the Company has in mind and have requested the Secretary of State to consider the secondment of a member of the Pool of Colonial Office Soil Surveyors to undertake a Soil Survey of the Falklands, commencing if possible September/October 1957.

This officer, if appointed, would make a survey of the whole Colony but it would facilitate his work if he was based at Darwin and share a bungalow with laboratory attached which we propose to build for the Technical Adviser (a Mr. McIntosh) to be engaged by us.

see 73

" /The cost of.....

" The cost of the Survey is a matter for discussion between the Falkland Islands Government and Sheep Owners' Association, but in view of the fact that the bulk of Falklands Revenue derives from the Shecpfarming Industry it would not be unreasonable to expect Government to bear the cost. I am informed that the matter is being referred to His Excellency, also that there are no funds available from the Colonial Development & Welfare allocation for the Falklands.

The Company regards this matter as one of surpassing importance and I was most interested to hear His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh's reference to the same subject in his Reply to the Loyal Address.

Dr. Muir of Rothamsted advises that a man called Lang (David) who served with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey for two years could possibly be seconded. Lang joined the Institute about 18 months ago, is now in Malta and will be available in 7-8 months time.

Concurrently, the Governor was asked for his views on a letter addressed to the Secretary of State by the Chairman of the Falkland Islands Company, a copy of which is attached to this Memorandum as Annexure 'B'.

66

5. The matter was considered by the Governor in Council held on the 21st January, 1957. It was then agreed:-

(i) Government should in principle support the proposal for a soil survey of the Falkland Islands and should give favourable consideration to the suggestion that such a survey should receive financial support from Government funds.

(ii) Discussions should be initiated with the Sheep Owners' Association and the Falkland Islands Company with a view to:-

(a) obtaining the consent and co-operation of all farms;

(b) considering the best way to arrange and administer the survey having regard to the problems of accommodation, laboratory equipment and administration.

(iii) The Secretary of State should be approached for advice and information on the probable duration of the survey and the equipment that would be required so that Government could give further consideration to the question of financial support.

6. The Secretary of State was approached accordingly and some information has been elicited from the Colonial Office. The following is a summary of their advice:-

(1) It is thought advisable to allow for twelve months field work in weather conditions suitable for such work and six months for preparation and writing up at headquarters.



(2) Labour requirements would be two or three men who are literate and physically capable of carrying kit and surveyor's equipment in the field. The services of a typist would be required at headquarters from time to time.

(3) No laboratory facilities would be required as in the circumstances it is thought better to send samples to Rothamsted for analysis.

(4) The Colonial Office have in mind as a possible surveyor Mr. Lang who has completed training and is due to complete his present assignment in Malta at the end of 1957. (This proposal is put forward in spite of the fact that the name of the Macaully College of Soil Research, Aberdeen, recommended by Mr. Cuthbertson, was suggested to the Secretary of State as a suitable and experienced source of advice and assistance for this type of country).

(5) Mr. Lang's total emoluments would be in the region of £1,200 p.a.

7. It should be emphasised from the outset that in correspondence with the Secretary of State, Government has maintained that the support, interest and co-operation of the industry is, in its view, a prerequisite to any further action on a Colony-wide basis and, although both the Secretary of State and the Company are clearly anxious for an early decision, it has been emphasised to both that Government feels close consultation is the first move. But the whole matter is clearly of the greatest importance and further impetus given at this stage to the achievement and results that have been obtained on more than one farm in the Falklands and the interest now being taken in the possibilities of long term research and experimentation in pasture improvement, could have far reaching effects on the future of the industry. It is perhaps not out of place to quote here an extract from Prince Philip's recent address to Legislative Council:-

" I have just come from New Zealand, and, while there, I had a chance to see what marvels modern agricultural science can perform in the way of increasing production. Pastures have been improved to such an extent that they can now carry four times the amount of stock. 8 where 2 were before, 8,000 where 2,000 were before.

I have no doubt that the sheep farmers of these Islands are well aware of the possibilities of well managed improvements; for without improvements prosperity does not last. "

8. It is also perhaps relevant to quote an extract from the summary of general conclusions reached by Mr. W. Davics in his report "The Grasslands of the Falklands".

/ (extract) .....

" The present system of grassland farming in the Falkland Islands is nothing short of large-scale ranching. Until a methodical and much extended scheme of sub-dividing existing paddocks is brought about, the potentialities for land improvement throughout the colony will remain all but untapped. There is no doubt at all that closer subdivision with the creation of smaller fields on which a practical form of rotational grazing can be employed is fundamental to pasture improvement. Indeed, it may well be said that a well conceived programme of subdivision is essential to the pastoral industry. The fall in the stock carrying capacity of the pastures and therefore, in the pastoral wealth of the colony has been remarked upon. The decline is still proceeding and there can be no doubt that deterioration in the grasslands themselves is taking place and is, indeed, the cause of the decline in production. As regards the Falklands, all the evidence suggests that pasture deterioration will take place progressively the more rapidly in proportion as the stock carried becomes less. The hope of the industry lies in increased production and in carrying an ever increasing head of stock. // Increased production means that pastures will have to be improved, and properly maintained improvements of pastures will only be possible after first creating smaller fields and introducing better methods of grazing management.

The time has arrived when the Falklands must consider very seriously whether the present ranching policy is to continue, or whether a complete change of methods involving a policy of grassland improvement together with a more intensive system of pastoral agriculture is to be put into effect. Continuance of the existing ranching system cannot but lead to a still greater lowering of carrying capacity, and to the decreased wealth of the country as a whole. With a change over in methods and the gradual substitution of a more intensive type of grassland farming the decline in production would cease, and after a time there is no reason why definite and progressive increases should not be recorded. Subdivision of paddocks, the better management of pastures, and the replacement of the present herbage by better plants are all essentials in the developmental scheme.

In a short, but entirely interesting, reconnaissance survey of the kind described in the foregoing report, no more than general indications can be given. Similarly only broad generalizations can properly be made. The sequel to such a reconnaissance should be the setting in motion of properly planned machinery thoroughly to investigate the broad issues that have been raised. It is submitted, therefore, that investigational work dealing specifically with the grassland problems of the Falkland sheep stations should be conducted. Such investigational work would be carried out in the colony under the general supervision of the Director of Agriculture. Specific problems connected with the practical, rather than the purely scientific, aspects of grassland development would obviously take precedence in any such research scheme.

// This is said with the knowledge that many owners and others connected with the Falklands take the converse view.

"



9. Much has of course happened since Davies wrote his report and there have been notable improvements and achievements, made possible very largely by the greatly increased prosperity of the industry and illustrated, for instance, by the wool production figures over the past few years (Annexure 'C'). In spite of the progress already made, however, much of what Davies said then would seem to apply very largely now. Again, to quote Davies:-

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" There can be no doubt whatever that grassland improvement is possible over a large part of the Falklands. The working out of a proper technique of land improvement must remain largely a matter for the Colony itself. It is obvious that were the improvements of grasslands to become generally practised the whole outlook of the country and its people would be changed. Grass is the chief and almost only agricultural crop, and it is wholly likely that grassland will always remain the mainstay of agriculture in the country. Because of this, and because of the potential development of better pastures in the colony, the whole grassland problem requires closer investigation than is possible in a rapid survey. There is every reason to suppose that such investigations would bring about results of value in pointing the way to improve the stock-carrying capacity of the grasslands. "

10. In considering this whole question it seems that there are two broad principles that should be taken into account:-

(1) The wealth of the country depends entirely on the sheep industry and it has been built up over the years on the proceeds from the sale of wool. Consequently, it does not seem unreasonable that some of the accumulated reserves of Government should be ploughed back into basic research and experimental projects designed to increase productivity, the wealth of the industry and the community and improve standards of living.

(2) We should do our best to ensure that any advice we receive as a result of a soil survey is based not solely on the "test tube" answer but on what are in fact practical propositions having regard to the problems of finance, transport and freight. The same principles would no doubt apply in the case of pasture improvement experimentation. It is not perhaps the theoretically "ideal" solutions we need, but essentially practical ones.

11. It may be of some assistance to Members in considering the proposals that have been put forward if what appear to be some of the principal matters for deliberation and decision are summarised:-

I. General Principles.

(i) Is it confirmed that the Falkland Islands Company's project for experimental work connected with pasture improvement should receive financial support from Government?

(ii) Does the proposal for a Colony-wide soil survey have the support of the representatives of the industry and of Members of both Councils?

(iii) Is it agreed, assuming the proposal for a Colony-wide survey has the support of the industry and Councils, that it should receive financial support from Government?

II. Subsidiary Matters for Consideration and Decision (assuming general agreement to the three principal items referred to under I above).

(i) Finance: To what extent should Government finance:-

- (a) the long term experimental work to be undertaken under the aegis of the Falkland Islands Company?
- (b) the soil survey?

(ii) Organisation and Administration: Assuming that the long term experimental work is based on Darwin and is financed on a tripartite basis by the Falkland Islands Company, other farms and Government, is it to be left entirely to the Falkland Islands Company to decide what should be done or would it be desirable (subject of course to the Company's agreement) to set up a Policy Board or Committee (representative of the Company, farms and Government) that would perhaps

- (a) control the funds allocated for the project,
- (b) determine the broad lines along which the work should be carried out?

*ag. 17-1*

AGDT/PT



ANNEXURE 'A'

Extract from Colonial Manager's letter.

" The Board has been considering the past efforts made by Farmers and Government to improve the grasslands of the Falkland Islands and we think you will agree that the results have been disappointing and of little practical value; possibly due to the fact that experimental work has been carried on spasmodically on a small scale and with no long term planning.

There are, of course, several contributory causes, among them the lean years between 1930 and 1940, but credit is certainly due to J. L. Waldron Limited for the work carried out at Port Howard.

Professor W. Davies' visit and his report should have been of the greatest value but the Report was published at the beginning of the War which possibly led to it being shelved, certainly by Government.

The Board has come to the conclusion that if the Colony is to make any progress through regrassing it is essential that a programme of experimental work be undertaken for a definite term of years and that it be carried out by a Farmer.

It has, therefore, been decided that the Company should undertake this and as a commencement £10,000 has been allocated to a Farm Development Reserve Fund in our 1955 accounts. A programme has been prepared and it is proposed that it be carried out over a period. It is outlined below:-

REGRASSING. Mr. Hurd's proposals to be carried out. these are:-

Darwin Harbour. Cuthbertson seeder to plant grass seed, clover and fertiliser on selected white grass camp. Strips to cover 500 acres out of a denoted area of 1500 acres, fenced off. Fences to be cattle proof. Mating of ewes - bred on improved camps - at 1½ instead of 2½ years. (Experiment being made 1956 with 400 ewes).

North Arm. Continue experiment of establishing clovers on strips already sown with Yorkshire Fog. Fence off small sections along the existing boundary fence to allow a test of controlled grazing to be made as a means of encouraging better grasses and clovers. Sections of existing Yorkshire Fog grass to be cultivated again, ploughing up about one quarter of this area for the purpose, and then sown with improved English grasses and clovers, with grazing control.

Fitzroy. Crowd cattle on a small area of white grass then sow Yorkshire Fog and pieces of White Clover and get these trodden in by the cattle. Also try grasses such as Cocksfoot and Rye Grass.

General. Additional ploughing in rotation. Grow Rape and Kale as pioneer crops followed by oats and improved grass and clover leys. Endeavour to increase area of rotational grazing around Darwin Harbour to 500-1,000 acres.

2. SEEDER/FETILISER.

Cuthbertsons now advise that this is almost ready for trial and shipment. It should prove of great value if it can do the work it is intended for. We are also ordering from Australia an 8-ft. Grasslands Heavy Duty Tiller which is suitable for use as a Sod-seeder.

3. The programme will necessitate the use of quantities of phosphate and lime. We can obtain:-

North African phosphate. Min. 30% total phosphoric acid.  
Small quantity £15. 2. 6d. c.i.f. Montevideo.  
3/400 tons ex Sfax. £9. 15. 0d. f.o.b.

Basic Slag. Min. 18% total phosphoric acid (contains lime).  
Under 20 tons £15. 11. 6d. c.i.f. Montevideo.  
Over " " £14. 11. 0d. " "  
3/4000 tons Antwerp £8. 2. 6d. f.o.b.

We are also making enquiries re other fertilisers obtainable here for export. Unfortunately we cannot obtain any further quantity of the complete fertiliser No:1 (the one ton which is being shipped should be applied at 2-cwts. per acre).

Lime. We are shipping 20 tons of I.C.I. Ground No:3. The deposits at Shell Bay near Fitzroy may be valuable and we await your report.

If orders totalling 3/400 tons were received we could doubtless land it direct on farms considerably cheaper than shipping in small quantities.

Cobalt. The use of a fertiliser which has a trace of cobalt is being investigated. This is the practice in New Zealand and Fisons can probably supply.

5. SHELTERS.

Ewe camps. Experiments with say 100 sheets each 5-ft. 6-ins. across are to be made. Circular enclosed. Earth shelters to be bulldozed.

6. TECHNICAL ADVISER.

The employment of a competent technical adviser with some knowledge of sheep husbandry for say two years. He would investigate the possibilities of improving the grazing, lamb losses, having special regard to cobalt and other soil deficiencies and such diseases as pulpy kidney, worms, etc. He would be employed by the Company and his advice could, so far as is practicable, be made available to other sheepowners.

9. LABOUR.

If we cannot secure sufficient to carry out our programmes in the Colony we must consider importing. Chilcans appear to be well worth considering.



10. AFFORESTATION.

Two 1-acre areas to be planted, One with seedlings from the United Kingdom and one from Punta Arenas. The matter of suitable fertiliser is being gone into. The views of the Danish Forestry Expert, Dr. Agro Syrach Larsen, to be regarded.

11. KEEPING OF RECORDS AND COSTINGS.

This is essential. Moreover, we propose to keep members of the Falkland Islands Shecpowners Association informed. We are suggesting that Mr. M. Creece be placed in immediate charge.

12. REFRIGERATION.

The project for a small plant at Goose Green is shelved for the present.

13. COST.

It is difficult to estimate the annual cost. The main items will be:-

Darwin Harbour - 50 acres new ground p.a. to Rape and Kale say £20 per acre	£1,000
50 acres to grass say £21 per acre (This will be a recurring & increasing charge)	1,050
10 miles Fencing say £180 per mile.	1,800
North Arm - say	1,000
Fitzroy - say	1,000
West Falklands - say	500

Plus cost of supervision, records, employment of a technical adviser and possibly shelters. We appreciate that the result may be disappointing but until an effort is made and is continuous for a term of years we shall never know what the possibilities may be.

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ANNEXURE 'B'

Copy of letter to Secretary of State from Chairman, F.I.C.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY, LIMITED,

120 Pall Mall,  
London, S.W.1.

29th November, 1956.

The Rt. Hon. Alan Lennox-Boyd, D.L., M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Colonial Office,  
Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

We have the honour to revert to our discussion with the Rt. Hon. John Hare, O.B.E., M.P., Minister of State for the Colonies, and His Excellency the Governor of the Falkland Islands on 26th July last regarding the matter of official support for the employment of a Technical Adviser who would carry out a programme of experimental work over a term of years in the Falkland Islands, in relation to the Sheep Farming Industry.

This is in hand and we hope to be in a position to advise you shortly that a suitable man has been engaged.

As was mentioned at that meeting, more information than is at present available regarding the types of soil in the Falkland Islands is essential to provide the basis for the grassland improvement work we have in mind.

We therefore request that you will consider seconding a Member of the Pool of Colonial Office Soil Surveyors to undertake a Soil Survey of the Falkland Islands, commencing if possible in September/October 1957. He would, of course, make a survey of the Colony but we are of the opinion that it would facilitate his work if he was based at Darwin, where the Technical Adviser to be engaged by us will be stationed, and where we could arrange accommodation and laboratory facilities.

With regard to meeting the cost, we suggest that this is a matter for discussion between the Falkland Islands Government and the Farmers, but we do consider the Survey to be a matter of such great importance that in any case it is essential that the work be undertaken as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

for the FALKLAND ISLANDS COMPANY, LIMITED

(Signed) L. W. H. Young.

Chairman & Managing Director.



## ANNEXURE 'C'

## Wool Production Figures.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No: Sheep.</u>	<u>Total Wool lbs.</u>	<u>Average per head.</u>	<u>Lambs%</u>
1888	582,000	2,297,000	3.95	
1889	589,000	3,015,200	5.12	
1890	676,000	3,398,061	5.03	
1891	667,000	3,885,210	5.82	
1892	642,000	3,065,761	4.77	
1893	771,000	3,885,194	5.04	
1894	763,000	3,808,475	4.99	
1895	791,000	4,024,500	5.09	
1896	801,000	4,187,628	5.23	
1897	732,000	4,301,500	5.86	
1898	807,000	4,801,222	5.95	
1899	764,000			
1900	715,000	4,600,000	6.43	
1901	718,000	4,373,340	6.09	
1902	714,000	4,360,260	6.11	
1903	681,000	4,023,807	5.91	
1904	702,000			
1905	700,000	4,251,052	6.07	
1906	703,000	4,324,215	6.13	
1907	690,000	4,449,599	6.45	
1908	688,000	4,401,089	6.25	
1909	715,000	4,869,275	6.81	
1910	724,000	4,828,109	6.67	
1911	706,000	4,643,781	6.58	60.3
1912	711,000	4,650,771	6.54	61.81
1913	702,000	4,820,552	6.87	60.34
1914	695,000	4,612,805	6.64	52.70
1915	701,000	4,670,255	6.66	56.89
1916	689,000	4,472,675	6.52	57.1
1917	696,000	4,711,271	6.53	62.67
1918	633,000	4,809,539	7.60	54.66
1919	669,000			48.99
1920	654,000			55.08
1921	667,000			
1922	666,000			
1923	647,000			
1924	634,000	4,106,990	6.48	
1925	631,000	3,361,003	5.33	
1926	605,000	4,377,385	7.22	
1927	606,000	2,972,509	4.91	
1928	631,000	3,929,487	6.23	
1929	613,000	4,068,057	6.64	
1930	606,000	3,690,572	6.09	
1931	608,000	3,931,593	6.14	
1932	615,000	3,934,852	6.40	
1933	614,000	4,021,444	6.55	
1934	607,000			
1935	615,000	4,159,052	6.76	68.1
1936	609,000	3,994,537	6.56	65.4
1937	604,000	4,560,663	7.55	64.8
1938	602,000	3,618,327	6.09	64.8
1939	601,000	3,794,664	6.31	61.75
1940	605,000	3,903,289	6.45	
1941	623,000	4,218,901	6.77	68.11
1942	634,000	4,103,450	6.63	66.35
1943	632,000	4,714,420	7.46	67.79
1944	627,000	4,344,800	6.93	63.26
1945	619,000	4,071,400	6.58	66.66
1946	611,000	4,940,775	8.08	60.35
1947	604,000	5,117,075	8.47	67.58
1948	618,000	4,736,930	7.66	56.41
1949	603,000	4,240,000	7.03	64.94
1950	611,000	4,262,000	6.98	58.94
1951	597,000	4,379,000	7.35	55.39
1952	584,000	4,212,000	7.21	67.39
1953	595,000	4,419,000	7.45	63.53
1954	599,000	4,337,000	7.23	60.26
1955	597,000	4,499,000	7.54	60.00
1956	609,883	4,497,000	7.37	61.9



7th March 1957.

Sir,

You will have received and read several letters from Farm Managers addressed to the Secretary, Sheep Owners Association, regarding the proposed soil survey and pasture improvement. The following are my own personal views on the matter:-

PASTURE IMPROVEMENT. I think it is a fact that over the last thirty years little benefit has been obtained from the time spent in the Colony by Munro, Members of the Government Experimental Station, Weir, Gibbs, or Davies, all of whom were brought here at considerable expense. Nevertheless, I agree and believe that the visit of Professor W. Davies should have been and still is of the greatest value to the Colony. It would appear that a number of suggestions made in his report "The Grasslands of the Falklands" could be carried out at reasonable cost without putting the Colony to the expense of bringing in any more expert technical advice which would probably not amount to very much more than what we have already been told at various periods over the last thirty years.

It has already been proved at Port Howard that clovers and the finer English grasses can be grown by ploughing, harrowing, and the use of fertilizers, but no information is available as to the cost of this work per acre. During the last three years some very interesting experiments have been carried out at Roy Cove on thickly covered diddle-dee camp. About 140 acres have been ploughed, harrowed, and planted with a mixture of English grasses and Yorkshire Fog, mainly the latter, without the use of any fertilizers. I have had the opportunity of being able to make an annual visit to the site of these experiments and the results are most encouraging. Mr Miller has kept a careful account of the expenditure involved per acre and I am sure would be prepared to supply any information required concerning costs. I understand that Mr Gilruth is carrying out experiments with a 'Cuthbertson Seeder' on white grass camp with good results.

On the information obtainable from the above two experiments, it would seem that other farms could carry out some form of land improvement scheme, providing finances permitted, and labour was available. Presumably, a start could be made by establishing Yorkshire Fog on hard diddle-dee land and dry white grass camp, and improve the wet camps by subdivision fences and heavy rotational grazing.

SOIL SURVEY. At the present time, I can see nothing to be gained from a Colony-wide soil survey by an expert and assistants in proportion to the expense involved. An expert would probably tell us that no pasture improvement should be undertaken without heavy dressings of lime. Lime dressings were actually applied at Hill Cove on hard diddle-dee camp with negligible results, see Davies p 18.

Notwithstanding, I think useful information could be obtained, and at far less cost, by arranging for each farm to send soil samples from different types of camp to the Macaully College, Aberdeen, for analysis.



CONCLUSION. On the assumption that farmers believe that the report of Mr W. Davies still applies to the situation as it is to-day, the main difficulty is the acquiring of the right kind of agricultural machinery to carry out his suggestions. In this respect, I am sure we should be well advised to accept the advise of Mr Cutxhbertson who besides being an agricultural engineer has a wide knowledge of ditching and draining work. If the Government are prepared to help the farmers with land improvement a more prolonged visit to the Colony of Mr Cuthbertson at Government expense in the not to distant future would be of considerable help. As the Falkland Islands Company have put aside a large sum for land improvements and have engaged the services of a Field Technical Officer and offered the benefit of his advise to other farmers, I think the Government should give them a certain amount of financial support. It is presumed that the Field Technical Officer will be working on Falkland Islands Company property for the first year of his stay in the Colony, and it is a matter for discussion whether other farmers would be prepared to give any financial support in this first year or give it during the second year when the Field Technical Officer might have more time to visit farms not belonging to the Company.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

*H. O. Harding*

Chairman,

Sheep Owners Association (Local Branch)

*Ackd  
26/11/57  
S/S/S*

The Honourable,  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

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# MEMORANDUM

8th March, 1957.

From



THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SHEEPOWNERS ASSOCIATION,  
(Local Committee) STANLEY.

To The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Stanley.

Sir,

## SOIL SURVEY.

Copies of your letter dated 24th January, 1957 with enclosures were circulated to members of the Association with the request that they forward their views to me not later than 10th March. To date I have received replies from Chartres, Roy Cove and West Point Island and at *at b.c.* the request of the Chairman I forward these to you for information and return.

I am,  
Sir,  
your obedient servant,

*Correspondence returned  
under c.s. today  
27.3.*

*J. G. [Signature]*  
Secretary.





DECODE.TELEGRAM SENT.

72

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 14TH.MARCH Time: 1720 Received: 15TH.MARCH Time: 0930

No:38. Your telegram No:43.

Soil Survey.

Dr.William Davis fully consulted by Falkland Islands  
Company who state that he concurs in the present proposal.

Secretary of State.

GLT/FBR.

F.H.  
J. C.  
18/3.



55

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE SHEEPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON 11TH MARCH, 1957.

.....  
1. PASTURE IMPROVEMENT AND SOIL SURVEY.

There was a lengthy discussion on the proposal to arrange for a soil survey of the Colony to be undertaken. The outcome of the discussion was:-

(a) The majority of members of both Councils and the Committee of the Sheep Owners' Association were in favour of the proposal for a Colony-wide soil survey. Messrs. H. C. Harding, S. Miller and E. T. Fern dissented,

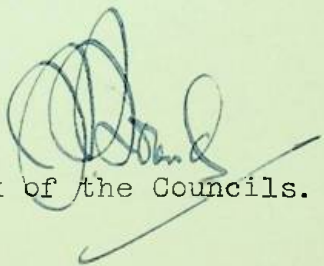
(b) should the survey eventually materialise it should be financed and controlled by Government and the surveyor should be based on Stanley.

(c) estimates of cost should be prepared and inserted in the 1957/58 Estimates and submitted to Executive Council and eventually to the Standing Finance Committee.

(d) there was a general feeling that the surveyor proposed by the Secretary of State was not sufficiently experienced.

The Honourable Mr. A. G. Barton stated that the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. now wished to defer their request for Government financial assistance for the Company's pasture improvement and experimental projects.

.....



Clerk of the Councils.



1720

AT A MEETING OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS  
AND SHEEPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

HELD AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, STANLEY, 11TH MARCH 1957.

PRESENT:

His Honour, the Officer Administering the Government,  
(Mr. A.G. Denton-Thompson), who presided.

Messrs	A.G. Barton	A. Mercer
	S. Miller	J.F. Bonner
	C.H. Robertson	M.G. Creece
	T.A. Gilruth	N.K. Cameron
	J.T. Clement	H.C. Harding
	E.T. Fern	S.G. Trees
	D. Pole-Evans	Dr. R.S. Slessor
	A.L. Hardy	

At the invitation of the Officer Administering the Government Mr. Barton addressed the meeting and felt he could add little to the documents which had previously been circulated to members in regard to the proposed Colony-wide Soil Survey.

Previous research in this field, for one reason or another would appear to have come to nothing.

The proposed Survey had the support of such experienced men as Dr. Davies and Mr. Hurd, and he was in favour of its being carried out now, the cost to be met wholly from surplus Colony Funds.

The Falkland Islands Company had recruited a Technical Officer for Pastoral Improvement and Mr. Barton considered the Soil Survey could be conducted concurrently with the Pastoral Improvement Scheme.

SOIL  
SAMPLES

Mr. Bonner suggested that Farms could easily obtain their own and forward them for analysis, the specialist to visit the Colony later.

Mr. Denton-Thompson said that Mr. Bonner's point regarding samples had already been considered, but he did not think the result would be of the practical kind required by Farmers. It would certainly seem preferable that recommendations should issue from a man with knowledge of the problems peculiar to the Islands, which could only be obtained by contact with local Farmers.

It is a specialist job to select suitable soil-pits and one of the main jobs of a Soil Surveyor would be the production of a Soil Map of the Colony.

PREVIOUS  
RESEARCH

It was mentioned that Dr. Davies has recorded the opinion that the Islands' herbage did not always contribute to effective soil research.

SURVEYOR

Mr. Miller enquired if the person proposed as Soil Surveyor was suitably qualified.

It transpired that Mr. David Lang, who is now a member of the Pool of Colonial Office Soil Surveyors, previously served as a meteorologist with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey and some doubt was expressed as to whether Lang could possibly have acquired sufficient experience for this undertaking since leaving the Colony mid-1955.

The general idea is that the Surveyor would serve



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SURVEYOR  
(contd)

two years, return to Rothamsted and work out his final results with the support of other scientific knowledge available at that Institute. Representations could be made for an assurance that the man selected is highly qualified and expert.

SURVEY

Mr. Harding considered it better to wait until the Falkland Islands Company Technical Officer arrived and see if he thought it necessary to have a Soil Survey at the present time. He also favoured the sending of samples to United Kingdom first for analysis.

Mr. Denton-Thompson, replying to a question of re-grassing and fertilisers, said he thought Farms would be in a much stronger position in these matters with the assistance of a Soil Map to enable them to decide the area(s) which would react most favourably to Capital expenditure.

Mr. Miller stressed he considered the Survey unnecessary at the moment and thought each Farm should seek its own solution, as in point of fact had been done at Roy Cove with satisfactory results.

Although it was pointed out that the last such Survey took place 30 years ago, Mr. Harding thought the scheme under review to be premature.

Mr. Fern's view was that a Pasture Research Officer appointed by Government and working with an Agricultural Advisory Board with a Farmers majority would be more desirable. He deplored that his previous recommendation, the setting up of a Government controlled Experimental Station had not been implemented.

Mr. Denton-Thompson sought the considered views of members present and stated it was the general consensus of opinion that we should make arrangements for a Colony-wide Soil Survey -- Messrs. Harding, Miller and Fern dissenting.

FINANCE

Mr. Hardy then seconded a motion of Mr. Gilruth's that the Scheme should be financed and operated entirely by Government.

ORGANISATION  
OF WORK

The question of effective control was discussed and whether a special Sub-Committee should be appointed either by EXCO or SOA. The matter was left to Government who would work out times etc., but the Industry would be closely consulted.

One man to be engaged for continuous service with the Surveyor.

EMPLOYMENT  
OF TECHNICAL  
OFFICER BY  
FALKLAND IS.  
COMPANY

Mr. Barton informed that the Falkland Islands Company was not at the moment asking for any financial aid for the work to be undertaken by their newly-appointed Technical Officer. If results subsequently justified, the Company may then make formal approach to Government and Sheepowners' Association.

1760  
EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM MR. GILRUTH TO MR. DENTON-THOMPSON. 73

OF 1ST MARCH, 1957.

.....

Your second letter received this day, dated 27th Feb. is on the subject of the Survey. I note all you write out regret to say that I am not convinced. I have been here for 27 years and during this time I have got to know the shape and lie of the land on our Haras, I know the good and bad bits, I know the carrying capacity of the various camps. If the new maps should show that the Farm is larger, or smaller than the old charts say, it will not make the slightest difference to the carrying capacity. Men in ships might have been better pleased had a few more coastal lights been installed, or the existing ones kept in good repair for that matter. However, you and I cannot agree about this - so

I am sure that you have enough to do without having to answer my letter, so we had better drop it.

Your sincerely

Tom Gilruth.



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From <sup>O. A. G.</sup> ~~GOVERNOR~~ to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched : 26.3.57.      Time : 1430      Received : :      Time : :

CONFIDENTIAL. No:52.      My priority telegram No:43.      Soil Survey.

Matter has been fully discussed at meeting of Members of Legislative and Executive Councils and representatives of the Sheep Owners Association. Majority of Sheep Owners Association representatives and large majority of Council Members support the proposals and are prepared to see the project financed from Government funds provided it is organised by Government and based on Stanley and not Darwin as proposed by the Company. Certain reservations have however been expressed:-

- (1) There is a very strong feeling that the surveyor proposed is not sufficiently experienced.
- (2) There is a feeling that the Colony may only get "test tube" answers and recommendations that are doubtless academically correct but so far as recommendations based on the results of the survey are concerned may be impracticable having regard, for instance, to the very substantial cost of freighting fertilizers to the Falklands or to unusual local conditions. This has for instance been the experience of one or two farms which have in the past sent soil samples to the United Kingdom.

You will appreciate that:-

- (1) Any advice and recommendations given to the farmers must carry very considerable authority and weight and must be based on first hand experience of conditions here if any notice is to be taken of them.
- (2) Now that a wide measure of support has been obtained for the project and there is increasing interest in pasture improvement and experimentation any setback at this stage or feeling that the surveyor is not sufficiently experienced may well prove fatal to further scientific work or experimentation on any substantial scale.

In addition to the above we now appear to be faced with an added complication in as much as I am now informed that the Experimental Officer to be appointed by the Falkland Islands Company is a Veterinary Officer rather than somebody experienced in pasture improvement, which is the basis of our problems here, who would probably have been better qualified to make the most of the results of a soil survey.

/In the .....

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

75

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched :

Time :

Received :

Time :

- 2 -

In the circumstances I feel that we require:- .

- (1) A soil survey by an experienced and authoritative surveyor who has had considerable experience of problems connected with plant chemistry, grasses and pastures.
- (2) A practical set of recommendations and advice based on the results of the survey as to how the soil and pastures may be best and most economically improved.
- (3) A soil map of the Colony that will indicate to farmers the areas most susceptible to improvement and treatment and which will assist them in planning improvements schemes.

It may be that this is asking a great deal too much but I should be glad of further information and advice on the point. I would emphasise however that at this stage a really experienced and first class man, even if his services are rather more expensive, will make all the difference and may influence farming policy here for many years to come.

O.A.G.

GTC : PT



26

There is an extract (SOA's version) for the  
file re

~~Q~~  
28/3.

Please see 73a & 73b herein

hpl

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

O. A. G.

From ~~GOVERNOR~~ to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched : 6.4.57. Time : 1130 Received : : Time :

No:64. Following for Willis from Denton-Thompson begins:-

If you see no objection I should be grateful if you would pass copy of my Soil Survey telegram No:52 to the Chairman of the Falkland Islands Company. ends.

O. A. G.

GTC : PT

77

74

Rec 15/5  
8/10



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

1760  
78

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 24.4.57. Time 0930 Received: 25.4.57. Time 0930

No:54. Confidential.

Following for Denton-Thompson from Willis. Your tel.

No:52 confidential. Soil Survey.

174  
Proposal to appoint Lang has been reconsidered in the light of views set out in your telegram under reference, and while it is still felt Lang could competently execute a soil survey as originally envisaged in view of possibility that he might have to carry out his duties in an atmosphere of prejudice or genuine doubts as to his suitability we agree that he should not be further considered.

2. No officer meeting the requirements set out in your telegram will be available from the Pool of Soil Surveyors for many years, and consultation with Macaulay Institute and Soil Survey England and Wales has so far not resulted in discovery of such person. Enquiries are being pursued but no guarantee can be given as to when an officer of the type required can be recruited. We will keep you informed of developments. A staff indent with full details should be despatched as soon as possible as basis for full recruitment action. ends.

SECEP.

GTC/NH.

Reply at 79  
~~2~~  
~~1~~ 30088

F. I. ref: 1760

C. O. ref:

79

SAVING TELEGRAM.

*From:* The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

*To:* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

*Date:* 7th May, 1957.

No. 94. SAVING. COLONY

78 Your confidential telegram No. 54. Soil Survey. A staff indent in respect of the Soil Surveyor is enclosed.

GOVERNOR



Government reference, etc.....

Financial Provision: Estimates 19.

Head: Sub-head: Item:

**GOVERNMENT OF**  
**STAFF VACANCY FORM.**

1. Title of vacant post: **Soil Surveyor.**  
 Department: **Agricultural Department.**  
 Cause of vacancy: **Decision to carry out a soil survey of the Colony.**
2. Number of vacancies: **1**
3. Qualifications:—
  - (a) *Essential* qualifications required: **Candidate should be an experienced and qualified soil surveyor.**
  - (b) Further qualifications desired, if possible: **He should, if possible, possess knowledge of problems connected with plant chemistry, grasses and pastures.**
4. Age limits: **No age limit provided that the candidate is fit and active and fully able to carry out arduous field work over a period of one or two years.**
5. Duties:
  - (1) **To carry out a soil survey of the Colony.**
  - (2) **To prepare a soil map of the Colony and the individual farms.**
  - (3) **To make recommendations and advise the Colonial Government and farmers on how the soil and pastures may be best and most economically improved.**
6. When should the officer take up the appointment?  

**As soon as possible.**

Probable posting on arrival, if known: **Officer will be based on Stanley but will be required to work principally in the countryside for the purpose of carrying out his survey.**

## 7. Emoluments:—

(a) Salary (if fixed): £1,500

or, salary scale, showing increments and the incidence of Promotion and/or Efficiency Bars (commencing at the enhanced entry point, if any):

(b) Substantive additions to salary (Expatriation Pay, Inducement Pay or Addition, etc.):

(c) Temporary and variable additions to salary (*e.g.* Cost of Living Allowance):

Emoluments payable (at half or full rate, as appropriate) during the period of the outward passage on first appointment:

Full rate (during outward and homeward passages)

N.B.—When emoluments are shown in local currency, please also show their sterling equivalent.

## 8. Incremental Credit allowable:—

(a) For War Service up to \_\_\_\_\_ increments.

(b) For post-war compulsory military service up to \_\_\_\_\_ "

(c) For approved experience up to \_\_\_\_\_ "

(d) For the following qualification(s):— \_\_\_\_\_ "

Average age of entry to the post for War Service Credit purposes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

years.

Incremental Credit formula for approved experience, if applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_

Whether incremental credit under any or all of the above headings may be offered by the Crown Agents or the Colonial Office, or whether reference back to the Government is desired:

\_\_\_\_\_

## 9. Allowances:—

(a) Outfit Allowance: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Education Allowance(s): \_\_\_\_\_



(c) Allowances alternative to passage assistance for children:

(d) House or hotel allowance in lieu of Quarters if they are not available:

(e) Other allowance(s): Board and lodging will be paid by Government when necessary (i.e. when the surveyor is not the guest of one of the farms).

10. Is private practice permitted in the case of Doctors? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, is Staff Pay or an allowance payable in lieu? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Women candidates:—

May women candidates be considered? No.

If so,

(a) Emoluments and conditions of service (if different from those for male candidates):

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) Basis for incremental credit, if any:

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Terms of appointment:—

Please indicate, in the space below, on which of the following terms the appointment(s) should be made. (Where a choice of two or more alternatives may be offered to candidates, please indicate accordingly).

A. With prospect of permanency. No.

(i) On probation (without an engagement agreement) for the permanent and pensionable establishment. No.

(ii) On probation (without an engagement agreement) for permanency, with retiring benefits from a contributory Provident Fund. No.

(iii) On agreement, with the prospect of admission to the permanent and pensionable establishment after completion of a probationary period. No.

(iv) On Colonial Superannuation Scheme terms— No

(a) without an engagement agreement;

(b) with an engagement agreement.

## B. Temporary.

- (i) On contract with gratuity.    **No.**  
(ii) On contract without gratuity.   **Yes.**  
(iii) On contract, with contribution to Provident Fund.    **No.**

(a)

Further information about terms, if necessary/If a particularly experienced candidate is found a higher salary than £1,500 may be offered after consultation with the Colonial Government.

Childrens allowance

- (b) 10/- each per month for a minimum of two children up to school leaving age (14).  
Two children                    £1. -. -.  
Three children                   £1.10. -. and so on.
13. Rate of gratuity  
(if appointment is on contract/gratuity terms):

---

Is gratuity liable to local Income Tax?

14. Number of tours of continuous residential service for which the officer is to be engaged in the first instance:

Length of a normal tour of continuous residential service (*i.e.* service unbroken by a period of oversea vacation leave):

Officer will be required to complete the soil survey to the satisfaction of Government. It is provisionally estimated this will take two years. It may, however, take longer and if that is the case the officer will be expected to complete it.

15. Leave:—

(a) Oversea vacation leave on completion of a tour: On termination of his residential service he will be eligible for vacation leave with full pay at the rate of 4 days for each completed month of resident service in the Colony - provided that his work and conduct have been satisfactory. Such leave will begin on the day on which he arrives in the United Kingdom.

(b) Local (or casual) leave:

16. Passage entitlement (male officers):—

(a) On first appointment and on final termination:    **First-class passages to and from the Colony.**



(b) On leave between tours, if different from the entitlement under (a):

17. Quarters or lodging:—

(a) Please give details regarding rentals charged for Government Quarters, if available, and state whether furniture is provided and, if so, at what rental: **Rent free**

(b) Please give the general position in connection with availability of Government Quarters and their suitability for married or family men. If Government Quarters will not be available, please advise regarding the local housing position, rentals, hotel and boarding house costs, etc. The officer will be required to spend most of his time in the camp. It is desirable but not absolutely essential that he should be single. He will be provided with hotel accommodation or lodgings while in Stanley. If married and if he requires it Government will endeavour to find him quarters. Government would not pay hotel bills in respect of wife and family. Lodgings cost about £3 per week and hotel about £4 per week.

(c) Can items such as crockery, cutlery, soft furnishings, linen, etc. be purchased locally? **Yes.**

18. May the officer be accompanied by his wife or family, subject to the availability of passages?

**Yes.**

If not, may he be joined by his wife or family during his first tour?

19. Should the officer travel by air on first appointment? **Only if sea passage is not available.**

20. Will the officer be required, or permitted, to contribute to a ~~Widows~~ **Old Age Pension Scheme**?

**Yes - at the rate of 2/- per week refundable on leaving the Colony.**

21. Will camp equipment be required? **If required will be provided by Government.**

If so, can it be obtained locally?

22. Is medical and/or dental treatment readily available at the officer's or the Government's expense for the officer and for his family?

**Free medical and dental attendance in the Colony.**

- 485
23. Will the officer be required to pass any language examinations?  
If so, please give details.

No.

24. Further information, if necessary, of any kind (e.g. advance of salary for the purchase of a car, and rate of repayment):
- 

25. Local Income Tax, and other local taxes and levies:

No rates payable. Income Tax levied as follows:-

On the first £100 of chargeable income - free

On the next £100 of chargeable income - 1/-

On the next £250 of chargeable income - 2/-

On the next £250 of chargeable income - 2/6

On the next £250 of chargeable income - 3/-

And thereafter at - 3/6

Childrens Allowance

Children under the age of 16 years - £100 for each child

26. Please insert the name and leave address of any officer on leave who is particularly required to assist at interviews of candidates:

Mr. F. K. Elliott,  
Secretary,

Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.  
c/o Crown Agents.

Signature.....

Date.....



Y. E.

~~D~~

86

1. I think you will probably wish to study the papers on this file which record developments with regard to the Dunsin experimental programme and the soil survey. I should explain that the memorandum at J7 - which I wrote in 1955 - was not in the event circulated to Executive Council.

2. We have forwarded the indent for a soil surveyor.

3. Although Mr. de Roy has, along with Mr. Hendry, strongly opposed the soil survey project, he subsequently agreed to go along with J74. Hendry did not and still does not agree and argues strongly that if Government wishes to assist the farmers and put some of the surplus funds back into the land from whence they came - then it could best do so by subsidising Gunderhoe Fag.

B.G.P.  
11.5.57.

~~86~~. 87.

C.S.

I have read with much interest, and think J7 7-19 & 55-67 are very good pieces of work.

~~27~~. 13.5.57.

Everything depends on getting the right man for the job. J7 18-19. I wonder how the camp in which Mr. Viale is working compares with ours?

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 28.5.57. Time : 1515 Received : 29.5.57. Time : 1100

No: 72. <sup>78</sup> My tel. No: 54. Following for Denton-Thompson from Willis begins:-

Soil Survey.

Problem is now being further examined by Macaulay Institute who will probably recommend that a team of at least two officers is required to meet the requirements set out in your telegram No:52 which amounts to very much more than a soil survey. In addition it may well be necessary to stipulate the provision of pasture agronomist to work with the team and follow up their work. Since some experimental work would almost certainly be involved by this officer it is unlikely team could make policy recommendations as these would depend on the result of experiments over a period of years. Will send you advice as soon as received. ends.

SECRETARY.

GTC : PT

bat  
①

See 90



89.

Note.

I have discussed J. 81 with  
H. E. He is referring to it in his  
Budget meeting address. Current  
developments. N.S.A. position.

~~2/1/57~~

20.6.57.

Box ~~17/7~~ 3/8 mail  
20/1

Tel.: ABBey 1266

1760

90.



COLONIAL OFFICE

THE CHURCH HOUSE  
GREAT SMITH STREET  
S.W.1

Extension.....

Your Reference.....

My Reference WIS 28/1100/01

/ August, 1957.

*My dear Aubrey.*

88

Will you please refer to my telegram No. 72 to you about the proposed soil survey in the Falklands. The Secretary of State's advisers are still not satisfied that we have arrived at the best method of investigating how to improve the Falklands pastures, and we hope to arrange a meeting in the near future at which Dr. McArthur, the Head of the Macaulay Institute, and Dr. William Davies would be present, together with a member of the Falkland Islands Company, who has had local experience.

x

at b.c.

In the meantime, I am sending for your information a copy of a report on a soil survey in Cyprus carried out by the Deputy Head of the Soil Survey of England and Wales, to illustrate what is generally understood here by a soil survey. I think that you will agree that this would still not carry you very far towards the improvement of your pastures, and if a soil survey is undertaken, it would be wasted unless it is linked with other investigations.

*Parish*

/As

*Reply at 72*

A. G. Denton-Thompson, Esq., M.C.

*24/7  
25.8.57*

*26.8.57*



91

Tel.: ABBey 1266  
Extension.....  
Your Reference.....  
My Reference.....



COLONIAL OFFICE

THE CHURCH HOUSE  
GREAT SMITH STREET  
S.W.1

As soon as we have any definite progress to report, I will send another telegram.

Yours ever  
*M. A. Willis*

(M. A. Willis)

9th September, 1957.

D/O

90 Very many thanks for your letter WIS28/1100/01 of the 1st August 1957 about the proposed soil survey in the Falkland Islands.

We are very grateful for all the trouble that is being taken over this project and look forward to hearing the Macaulay Institute's suggestions. In the meantime I assume that no further action is being taken to recruit a soil surveyor as the Legislature have "frozen" the token vote inserted in the Estimates until we hear something further from you. They then wish to reconsider the whole matter.

Our thinking is very much on the same lines as yours. It is quite clear that a soil survey in itself will be insufficient and it must be tied to a proper programme of long term investigation and experimental work. I had this very much in mind when I referred to the fact that "test tube" answers would not be sufficient for our purposes in my confidential telegram No. 52 of the 6th March.

As you are aware, the Falkland Islands Company are going ahead with a long term experimental programme in Lafonia and we have hopes that this will do much to meet a very definite need here in the Falklands. Unfortunately they have just had a disastrous fire at Goose Green and I understand have lost much of their new equipment which they brought out for the project. I think, however, this will only be a temporary setback, unfortunate as it is.

A.G.D.T.

M.A. Willis Esq., M.B.E.,  
The Colonial Office,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London, S.W.1.

26/x (mine)  
30/9  
8  
4/9/57



Folios 93-106 ~~xxxxxx~~ Letters from Anthony Hurd and  
M.A. Willis removed and filed in 1836 "Proposals for  
Long Term Research and experimentation into pasture  
improvement.

Bu 26/x (mail?)

8  
3/x  
No mail  
11/12/57

Bu 16/11 (mail)

2/x  
No mail  
16/11

Bu 6/12/57

No mail  
11/12/57  
Bu

Acf No reply as yet.

Bu 6/12/57

✓ Bu 31/1/58  
31/3/57

12/12



THE FUTURE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS  
AND OF  
THE SHEEP FARMING INDUSTRY.

The future of the industry must be considered against the background of the past which can be briefly summarised.

It is the story of how the land in this remote group of islands was taken up, the sheep introduced, and the farms and settlements established that together a hundred years later form the only industry and support of the colony and, despite grave handicaps, provide a standard of living for the 2,500 inhabitants which compares not unfavourably with that enjoyed in most other parts of the Commonwealth.

Today however the colony and the industry are faced by two serious threats both of which were referred to by the Governor in his last address to the Legislative Council. The first threat is the constantly rising cost of the Administration which inevitably in a welfare-minded age will continue to grow until the economic stability of the colony is undermined. The reserves of the colony are being rapidly depleted, nor can any large economies be looked for which will arrest this process. On the contrary if we are to continue to attract efficient staff to the Government departments then salaries must rise to compete with those paid in other colonies. From this conclusion there is no escape, as there is none from the fact that within the colony there is only the sheep on which to place the ever increasing burden. Serious as this threat is an even deadlier danger lies in the possibility of the industry losing the labour to maintain it as the islanders in growing numbers turn their gaze on the more abundant life that other countries and other climates are able to offer.

Until the outbreak of the last war it could be said that the islanders were content with the lot that the colony and the industry afforded them. In general they looked to the farms for employment, and they found sufficient the modest rewards, the simple pleasures and the interests of farm work. For many of the men, and for the women who shared it, the solitude of the shepherd's life was accepted as a normal and satisfying existence. But it is not across Africa only that the winds of change are blowing.



The wireless and the cinema, magazines and popular press, together with the higher standard of education have combined to create an awareness among the islanders of the isolation in which they live and of the attractions which larger countries in more genial climates hold out. There is nothing surprising in this. Good as local wages are the industry cannot emulate Australian or New Zealand standards, nor if it could match their wages could it offset the advantages they enjoy in climate, medical and educational services, variety of sport and entertainment, or the opportunities they present to enterprise and ambition. So as things are it is probable, if not certain, that the drift from the colony will continue and may well become a flow.

Where then is the industry to look for labour? It is more than doubtful if the United Kingdom provides the answer. The figures must be readily available of the number of men that since the war have come out to the islands on contract to the farms—and at what cost? How many of these men have completed their contracts? How many have renewed them? And—significant figure—how many of these men are today to be found in the shepherd's houses? For we must keep constantly in mind that it is not sufficient to fill the settlements with men who may, perhaps, learn to shear sheep, cut peat and drive a tractor, but above all the outside houses must be kept occupied, for once these are abandoned, then indeed, without the men to shepherd, to gather and drive the sheep, the industry must quickly perish.

It seems therefore that the United Kingdom can be regarded only as an unsatisfactory and expensive source of labour for the settlements. If not to the United Kingdom then where else can we look? Southern Chile appears to be the only possibility, and even there the development of the oil industry is drawing men away from the farms. But if ways are not found of persuading the islanders to remain in the colony then it is to the Chileans that the sheep farms must finally turn. They at least will shepherd the sheep, but as the colony becomes increasingly dependent on them, then it is clear that social and political consequences of a far reaching character must inevitably follow.



Is there anything then that can be done to encourage the Falkland Islander to remain in the colony? If an answer is found we may be certain that among much else it will involve increased expenditure by the Government and by the industry on salaries and wages, housing and education, all of which the sheep must pay for. Further no answer is likely to serve that does not call for a heavy expenditure on the construction of roads, the almost total lack of which is perhaps our greatest single handicap. From our own resources we can never hope to pay for roads, but our claim for consideration from the Treasury in London is a strong one and must be pressed. For many years and until quite recently the one industry in this distant colony was required to pay tribute to the United Kingdom Government, so that in all sums of money amounting to millions of pounds have been collected from these undeveloped islands to subsidise the taxpayer at home.

In England today farmers are prosperous, yet it is relevant to speculate on what their position would be had they for the past hundred years been taxed at the prevailing rates but denied the guaranteed prices, the grants, and the subsidies on which their prosperity is founded; had they to pay heavy freights on everything they required, and at their own cost to place their produce on an open market eight thousand miles away; had they to provide unaided for their own doctors and dentists, pastors and school teachers, telephones and cinemas; if, in short, for every necessity and amenity of life they were dependent on their own resources. And, finally, had they been left without roads.....

An absurd speculation, of course. But, nevertheless, precisely the conditions under which the sheep farms of the Falklands have always worked and are working today, but under which they will not work much longer, because the islanders are resolved to move out of the Middle Ages into the 20th. Century.



When one reflects on the condition of the Falkland Islands today we can see that it is not one in which the Mother country can take great pride after more than a hundred years of Sovereignty. Rather a shabby, ill-nourished offspring for such an opulent parent. Hardly one to be held up to other countries as an example of enlightened Colonialism. But we have been handicapped by our loyalty, by the lack of a vocal seditious element in the community which has in other colonies provided the sure guarantee of constant and lavish consideration from the Government in the United Kingdom. Our loyalty there has been no need to buy, Government House has not been burnt down, so neglect and the tax gatherer have been our portion.

Others one day will judge of the value that can ever be recovered from the hundreds of thousands of pounds contributed annually to the Wastes of the Antarctic. We only know that a small fraction of the sum devoted to the construction of roads in this colony would banish the sense of isolation and bring the promise of a more abundant life to every family in the islands. Since the invention of the wheel roads have been essential for progress and development in every part of the world, and so it will prove in the Falklands. Not least they are an imperative for closer settlement, one of the surest means of binding the community to the soil and giving it a stake in the future of the colony.

The sands are running out, the problems are urgent and admit of no delay. Yet delay will be the policy of the Colonial Office. To delay coming to our assistance until the reserves are exhausted and the colony half deserted; to throw the lifebelt only when we no longer have the strength to grasp it. Before it is too late they must be made to realise the shortsightedness of such a policy. The situation calls for large, imaginative and radical thinking by the Colonial Office, the Falkland Islands Government and the farmers. On their decisions will depend not merely the survival of the sheep farms but whether in fact as well as in name the colony is to remain British.

Copies to:-

- The Colonial Secretary, Stanley.
- The Secretary S. O. A., Stanley
- A. G. Barton C. B. E.



Copy of Letter Sent by H.E. The Governor to

The Hon. A.G. Barton, O.B.E., J.P.

6th August 1960

93-96

I have just seen a copy of Norman's tour de force on 'The Future on the Falkland Islands and of the Sheep Farming Industry'. There is a very great deal in what he says, and it is very true "that it is not across Africa only that the winds of change are blowing". I think it would be a tragedy if the industry had to turn to Chile for labour, but the present position is a very worrying one. We may keep numbers approximately at their present level by importation from England, but I feel quality is going down all the time. A hobbledshoy from the U.K. is no substitute for a good Falkland Islander who decides to try his luck in New Zealand. Our problem is how to keep good people here, and to encourage good people to come out. Both Jim and Norman believe in 'closer settlement', but Norman thinks it will never come about unless we have roads.

I do not think the answer to the problem of keeping good men in the Camp would be in a multiplicity of smaller farms. As Tom pointed out to me when we were having a discussion about it, numerous small holders, all producing and shipping their own wool in small lots, which are not attractive to buyers, would, after a few years, be producing wool of different types, and the Falkland Islands clip would become increasingly unattractive. I am sure it is essential that we should preserve our good name, and keep up the quality of our wool. Smaller, independent farms do not, therefore, seem to be the answer, and in any case, there is no land available, unless by purchase from large farms.

I wonder, though, whether there is not some possibility on our present farms of putting good men in charge of sections, with the object of giving them some real stake in the industry. At first they would, perhaps, just be in charge of the main farm's sheep without owning sheep of their own, but little by little they might be allowed to acquire sheep as their own property, until all the sheep in the section belonged to the section manager. The main farm manager would retain control of breeding policy, and would have to have full powers to ensure that the section was properly farmed and not over-stocked. He would continue to shear, pack, and ship the wool, and perhaps pay the section manager an agreed price per pound which would have to take into account that the sheep are being run on the main farm's land etc., etc. This is, of course, the broadest and roughest outline. I am sure that as a practical sheep farmer you can see all sorts of snags in it, but I do think that to keep good men here, and perhaps, if some such system were found to work, to encourage good men to come out, it is necessary to give them some real stake in the country and the industry, and to bring home to them that every dead sheep in the Camp means less money in their pocket.

I dare say that some farms might not readily lend themselves to sub-division into sections, but others might. Any such scheme, or variation of it, would, I think, have to begin in a small way with just one, or perhaps two, picked men, and under the eye of a manager who really believed in it. I can



think of no one except the Company who would give a lead in this way. Jim at Fitzroy has, I know, given much thought to this sort of thing, and you might think that a pilot scheme could be begun there. Jim believes that some such plan would not be altruistic and would, in the long run, benefit the Company as much as the 'tenant'. I wonder if any similar scheme has been tried elsewhere, perhaps in Australia or New Zealand, and Sir Anthony Hurd might know about this.

To revert to Norman's memorandum, he feels very strongly about roads and there is no doubt that roads do more than anything else to open up a country, but roads would not help the out-islands of the Falklands and improve the lot of the people living on them. Unlike most Colonies, we have no labour force available for work on roads, and if we were to undertake a road building programme in the Camp, not only the machinery, but labour as well, would have to be imported from the U.K. This imported labour, and it would be likely to be of the roughest type, would have to be paid at very high rates, and the effect of this on local farm labour would have to be considered. No contractor would take on a road building programme in the Colony unless he were going to make a good thing out of it, and I would think a good all-weather road would cost at the very least \$20,000 a mile, and possibly a lot more. I doubt whether a road could be built at more than a mile a month, and even if the money were forthcoming, it would be years before the effect would be felt in the Camp. I agree entirely, however, that improved communications would make a world of difference to the Colony, and that was why I mentioned the cushioncraft to you when I last wrote. Maybe the day will come when every outside shepherd will have a cushion-rover! It may be many years away, but perhaps no longer than it would take to get a road to every outside house.

We certainly need more financial help, for one of our most pressing and immediate problems is to become competitive in terms of wages, not only to encourage our good expatriates to stay, but to prevent good Falkland Islanders leaving the Colony. Our hospital and medical services compare favourably with the U.K., and I would like to see our education services in the same category. For this we need help, not only for capital expenditure - on the enlargement of the Barwin school for instance - but for the staff to run it. Time, as Norman says, is running out, but I do not think the solution to our problems is necessarily tremendous expenditure on a road building programme.

Please forgive this hurried letter, but I want to catch the mail which closes this morning, and I thought you might like to have my preliminary thoughts on Norman's memorandum while you are still in England.

H.C.S.

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I am returning for filing Norman Cameron's memorandum on 'The Future of the Falkland Islands and of the Sheep Farming Industry'. I also attach a copy of a letter I wrote to Barton by the last mail. There is no doubt that this problem is a worrying one, and I feel that time is running out on us. We are losing too many good people to New Zealand and Australia, and they are not being replaced by people of equal calibre. I feel that really the only way to keep good men here is to give them a real stake in the country and the industry, and the problem is how this can be achieved. As I said in my letter to Barton, I think the best thing would be for the Company to give a lead. Barton will, no doubt, be discussing Cameron's memorandum and my letter in England, and it will be interesting to see what he has to say when he returns. Hurd is, I believe, very conscious of this problem, and he may perhaps have some ideas on it.

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15th August 1960

no further action was

8/10/7/61

for.



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APPENDIX I

Ownership, Acreage, etc., of Falkland Island Farms (1)

The approximate acreages have been calculated from the 1 : 50,000 maps of the Falkland Islands (Directorate of Overseas Survey 453 of 1961/62).

The figures relating to the numbers of sheep, the acres on each farm supporting one sheep, and the pounds of wool produced per acre, are based on the Stock Return for 1962-63.

Public Companies Registered in the United Kingdom

	<u>Farm</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>No. of Sheep</u>	<u>No. of Acres supporting one sheep</u>	<u>Pounds of Wool per acre</u>
<u>The Falkland Islands Co. Ltd.</u>	. Darwin, North Arm and islands off the East Coast(2)	707,200	169,800	4.16	2.05
"	. Fitzroy and Green Patch	198,200	41,300	4.80	1.45
"	. Port Stephens	229,100	29,100	7.88	0.92
"	. Speedwell, George, and Barren and islands in Falkland Sound	30,500	12,400	2.47	3.70
"	. Fox Bay West	165,000	29,000	5.69	1.49
		<u>1,330,000</u>	<u>281,600</u>		

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- (1) I am indebted to Mr. W. W. Blake for the calculations of acreages etc., in this table. With a few exceptions I have rounded off to the nearest 100 the figures for acreage and the numbers of sheep.
- (2) Darwin and North Arm are two separately managed farms. According to my information the acreage of Darwin (including Lively and other Islands) is approximately 400,000 acres, carrying 103,000 sheep; and that of North Arm 307,000 acres, carrying 67,000 sheep.

137. That if the labour situation in Stanley does not improve, Chilean labour on contract should be introduced there (paragraph 123).
138. In conclusion, I wish to express my personal belief and faith in the viability of the Falkland Islands' economy. But resolute action will be needed if a situation, which today is merely somewhat precarious, is to be prevented from reaching a stage when it becomes irreparable. It is not too much to say that it is the whole future of the Colony that is now at stake.



## APPENDIX I (contd.)

<u>Farm</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>No. of Sheep</u>	<u>No. of Acres supporting one sheep</u>	<u>Pounds of Wool per acre</u>	
<u>Holmested, Blake &amp; Co.</u>	Hill Cove	147,000	31,800	4.62	1.56
<u>Packe Brothers &amp; Co.</u>	Fox Bay East with Dunnose Head and Packe's Port Howard	142,600	28,600	4.99	1.63

Private Companies Registered in the United Kingdom:

<u>James Lovegrove Waldron, Ltd.</u>	Port Howard	173,100	38,600	4.48	1.83
<u>Port San Carlos, Ltd.</u>	Port San Carlos	97,700	30,600	3.19	2.48
<u>John Hamilton Estates, Ltd.</u>	Weddell, Beaver, and neighbouring Islands	78,800	9,800	8.01	1.05
"	Saunders Island	30,300	8,000	3.82	2.15

Private Companies Registered in the Falkland Islands:

<u>Chartres Sheep Farming Co. Ltd.</u>	Chartres	164,900	23,800	6.92	1.14
<u>Dean Brothers Ltd.</u>	Pebble, Keppel and adjacent Islands	48,000	20,400	2.35	3.33
"	<i>and</i> Grand, Steeple <i>Jabon</i> Islands	5,400	2,900	2.59	4.06

## APPENDIX I (contd.)

<u>Farm</u>		<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>No. of Sheep</u>	<u>No. of Acres supporting one sheep</u>	<u>Pounds of Wool per acre</u>
<u>San Carlos Sheep Farming Co. Ltd.</u>	. San Carlos	108,300	26,700	4.06	1.74
<u>Teal Inlet Ltd.</u>	. Teal Inlet	123,600	23,300	5.30	1.21
<u>Bertrand &amp; Felton Ltd.</u>	. Roy Cove	74,600	17,500	4.27	2.01
<u>Douglas Station Ltd.</u>	. Douglas Station	134,500	20,900	6.42	1.06
<u>Farms not Registered as Companies:</u>					
<u>R. M. Pitaluga</u>	. Salvador	58,700	16,000	3.68	1.89
<u>Smith Brothers</u>	. Johnson's Harbour	48,900	15,600	3.15	2.04
<u>Mrs. G. S. Yonge</u>	. Bluff Cove	40,200	4,600	8.67	0.60
<u>Estate T. Robson</u>	: Port Louis	37,700	12,800	2.96	2.30
<u>H. &amp; J. Pitaluga</u>	. Rincon Grande	25,700	11,000	2.34	2.81
<u>C. &amp; K. Bertrand</u>	. Carcass Island	4,250	2,200	1.91	5.65
<u>J. J. Davis</u>	. New Island	5,720	2,800	2.01	4.55
<u>J. Lee</u>	. Sea Lion Islands	2,180	1,700	1.28	5.96
<u>MR. R. Napier</u> <u>Mrs. J. Napier</u>	. West Point Island	3,630	2,600	1.40	6.88
<u>W. Macbeth</u>	. Sedge Island	850	380	2.26	1.18



## APPENDIX I (contd.)

<u>Farm</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>No. of Sheep</u>	<u>No. of Acres supporting one sheep</u>	<u>Pounds of Wool per acre</u>
<u>Crown Lands Leased to Tenants:</u>				
Moody Valley	8,570	1,300	6.59	0.70
Mullet Creek	5,370	1,670	3.22	1.49
Sparrow Cove	2,600	650	4.03	4.23
All Farms	2,903,100	637,800	4.56	1.68

## APPENDIX II

The Gross and the Net Value of Wool Exports

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AVERAGE LONDON PRICE PENCE PER LB.</u>	<u>WEIGHT LBS.</u>	<u>GROSS SALE PROCEEDS</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NET VALUE i.e. GROSS LESS 7d. PER LB.</u>
1959	47.94	4,532,079	£ 905,283	£ 773,000
1960	46.75	4,634,075	£ 902,679	£ 768,000
1961	48.1	4,811,754	£ 964,356	£ 824,000
1962	47.047	4,661,386	£ 913,768	£ 778,000
1963	56.0	5,060,766	£1,180,845	£1,033,000
1964	57.06	4,840,687	£1,150,873	£1,010,000
1965	48.05	4,839,724 *	£ 968,161	£ 827,000

\* Owing to a clerical error, for which the Collector of Customs was not responsible, the official figure of the weight of wool exported in 1965 has been given as 5,019,099 lbs. The correct figure is that shown in the above table.



## APPENDIX III

TABLE A

ROY COVE Annual Cost of Pasture Improvement and Extra Revenue from Additional Stock carried

Year	Acreage ploughed and re-seeded	Cost per acre			Total Cost	Nett return per fleece			Extra Stock carried	Revenue increase from extra stock	
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			£
1958-59	395	4	10	11	1793	1	13	10	nil	nil	
1959-60	367	5	0	6	1845	1	15	2	nil	nil	
1960-61	722	3	19	1	2856	1	13	9	nil	nil	
1961-62	462	3	14	1	1711	1	15	0	498	871	
1962-63	1146	3	1	2	3505	2	0	4	1082	2182	
1963-64	607	3	17	2	2342	1	19	2	1650	3231	
1964-65	674	3	17	2	2601	1	15	10	2982	5342	
1965-66	297	5	7	1	1603	1	16	11	3850	7106	
1966-67	450	4	12	11	2141	1	15	0 *	4612	8071 *	
Total acres		5120			Total Cost	£20,397			Total Stock increase	4612	£26,803 Total revenue from extra Stock carried.

\* Estimated on the basis of current wool prices.

## APPENDIX III

TABLE BROTATIONAL GRAZING AT PORT HOWARD

		<u>MILES FENCING ERECTED SINCE JULY 1960</u>	<u>MILES FENCING ERECTED BEFORE JUNE 1960</u>
<u>GROUP 1 SHAG COVE TOP SIDES</u>			
	<u>ACRES</u>		
No. 7	2,097		
8	2,982		
9	1,670		
10	2,449		
SECOND CREEK	<u>4,474</u>		
	13,672	7½ Miles 251 Yds.	30½ Miles
<u>GROUP 2 WHITE ROCK EAST</u>			
PEAT BANKS	5,698		
WHITE ROCK POINT	1,681		
NEAR END	2,153		
LITTLE MOUNTAIN	1,667		
HOME FLOCK	<u>1,328</u>		
	12,527	3½ Miles 54 Yds.	15 Miles 430 Yds.
<u>GROUP 3 SIX HILLS</u>			
FRONT SIX HILLS	1,802		
RAM PADDOCK MT.	2,300		
POND RIDGE	2,161		
GLADSTONE VALLEY	1,848		
MT. JOCK	2,388		
GAP PADDOCK	427		
TRIPLE CHANCE	<u>2,657</u>		
	13,583	25½ Miles 254 Yds.	4½ Miles
<u>GROUP 4 WARRAH</u>			
FRIZLEY BAY	5,797		
BOUNDARY CORNER	5,152		
MT. EDGEWORTH	7,124		
MT. ARTHUR	3,978		
BRIDGE MOUNTAIN	<u>5,091</u>		
	27,142	18 Miles 109 Yds.	11½ Miles 372 Yds.
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>66,924</u>	<u>54½ Miles 228 Yds.</u>	<u>62 Miles 362 Yds.</u>

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