

Legislative Council

12th April 1890

Present H. S. Governor Kerr C M S
 Honble The Colonial Secretary
 " The Colonial Surgeon
 " F. S. Cobb
 " J. J. Felton

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 27th December 1889 were read and confirmed.

H. S. laid on the table the annual account of the Colony for the year 1889 and the financial statements, and pointed out the falling off of the revenue under the head of Customs and the excess of expenditure under the head of Revenue Services caused by the purchase of the Pilot boat which cost nearly £700.

He remarked that the actual balance to the credit of the Colony was more ^{than} that shown in the account as there was a large sum accruing up to the 31st December as Dividends on investments of Savings Bank funds and on amounts invested as Surplus funds and the produce of Land sales.

Mr Cobb said the falling off in Customs was very easily explained as Customs duty represented not the duty on articles consumed but that on goods imported and that when the firm of Dean Sons was taken over by the Falkland Islands Company there was a large quantity of liquor in store in excess of the amount required for consumption which reduced the imports for a time.

H. S. then said there were some other

items chargeable to last year which would have to be taken into account this year amongst others was the available half salary of the Colonial Secretary which the Secretary of State considered the administrator was entitled to draw.

H. S. also remarked on the success of the Savings Bank and said that upwards of £18000 had already been deposited in it which for so small a population was a very large amount.

H. S. then introduced Ordinance No 1 of 1890 "An Ordinance for the Summary Punishment of Perjury" and moved the 1st reading of the Bill.

The Honble the Colonial Secretary seconded the motion and Bill was read a first time.

Mr Felton asked if the penalty in the ordinance was the highest that could be enforced.

H. S. - said it was the limit in cases of summary proceedings but that the Ordinance did not interfere with the power of the Court to direct a prosecution in the ordinary way, when the punishment would be as provided by the law on the subject

H. S. then moved the second reading of the Bill - seconded by the Honble F. S. Cobb and carried

H. S. then moved the third reading and passing of the Bill - seconded by the Honble J. Felton and agreed to

H. E. then introduced Ordinance No 2 of 1890
 "An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No 6
 of 1889 to amend the Laws relating to Jurors
 and Juries". This Ordinance, he said,
 was rendered necessary by the disallowance
 of the Ordinance to abolish the coroners court
 the Jury Ordinance had already been
 amended in Committee but in this case
 the original Ordinance had received the
 Royal Assent, the Committee had no power
 to deal with it and it became necessary
 to repeal ^{the} section in the original Ordinance
 and substitute the amended section.

H. E. then moved the 1st reading of the
 Bill.

The Honble the Colonial Surgeon seconded
 the motion and the Bill was read a first
 time.

H. E. then moved the second reading
 of the Bill. This was seconded by the
 Honble the Colonial Secretary and carried.

H. E. then moved the third reading
 and passing of the Bill. Seconded
 by the Honble F. E. Cobb and agreed to

H. E. then said in connection with
 the minutes confirmed at this meeting
 it was his intention before bringing
 forward the Estimates for next year
 to introduce an Ordinance to amend the
 Custom tariff by admitting Perfumed
 Spirits to be imported free of duty
 and also to amend the Ordinance by reducing
 and regulating the tonnage dues on vessels
 of

of a large tonnage entering at places other than Port Stanley.

Mr Cobb asked if the removal of the duty on methylated spirits might be included in the ordinance and suggested that Lemonade and Ginger ale might be admitted duty free.

Mr Felton asked if in dealing with tonnage dues in the local trade, could vessels be free after a certain number of trips

H. S. said he would consider both these points when framing the Ordinances.

Read and Enforced

This 16th day of May 1890.

S. Lakenham Clerk.

Collected in the absence of the Clerk by the Council. W. H. M. G. G. G.

Legislative Council.

10th May 1890.

Present -

H.E. Governor Kerr C. M. G.

The Hon^{ble} the Colonial SecretaryThe Hon^{ble} the Colonial SurgeonThe Hon^{ble} J. E. Cobb.

In the absence of the Clerk of the Council, the Minutes were taken by the Colonial Secretary.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th April 1890 were read and confirmed.

The Governor then introduced to the Council Ordinance No. 30, 1890 entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the payment of expenses arising out of the trial under the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts of British Subjects who are natives of or residents in the Colony of the Falkland Islands", which he had framed in accordance with instructions received in a Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State and which was similar in every respect to an enactment passed in the Gambia and H.E. moved the first reading of the Bill.

The Hon^{ble} the Col. Secy seconded the Motion and the Bill was read a first time.

H.E. then moved the second reading of the Bill and being seconded by the Hon^{ble} J. E. Cobb the Bill was read a second time.

H.E. then moved the 3rd reading and passing of the Bill and being seconded by the Hon^{ble} the Col. Surgeon the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. then introduced Ordinance No 4 of 1890 entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Customs Consolidation Ordinance 1882," and he stated that this Amendment was brought forward with a view of reducing the tonnage dues on vessels entering at other ports of the Colony than Stanley as complaint had been made of the rates now levied which would be severely felt when certain large steamers called at the West Falklands for frozen mutton which it was anticipated they would do before long. The Governor also stated that he had added another clause to the original draft Ordinance providing for the Office of Customs in the West Falklands, appointing a fit and proper person to be his deputy for the purpose of receiving the entry and clearance of vessels during his unavoidable absence. The Ordinance also provided for the importation of perfumed Spirits and Cologne Water and Lemonade without the admixture of spirits free of duty and likewise Methylic Alcohol under certain restrictions.

Mr. then moved the 1st reading of the Bill and being seconded by the Hon^{ble} Mr. Col. Sec^y the Bill was read a first time.

Mr. Cobb said that it was desirable as far as possible to remove restrictions on vessels trading to the outports and he thought clause 3 a step in the right direction but the absence of the Assistant Collector of Customs at a port in the Far South was an

Island would still cause great delay. to a vessel entering at Hill Cove for instance He admitted the difficulty of the question but suggested that station holders who were consignees of vessels trading with sheep or bringing wood from the coast might enter them themselves under the authority of the Assistant Collector of Customs, providing they were not importing dutiable goods and that in the latter case a neighbour might be deputed to attend to the business. Probably if liberal instructions were issued to the Assistant Collector of Customs there would be no further trouble. With regard to clause 4 he asked whether two visits to Stanley in the year would be a regular trader to the Island or whether two entries at outports were alluded to. In clause 5 he suggested the addition of ginger beer to the articles to be imported free of duty and quoted authorities to show that no process of purifying Methylated spirits had yet been discovered.

The Governor said he hoped that the provision in Clause 3 for the occasional appointment of a deputy by the Officer of Customs would be found to work satisfactorily and he thought that if timely notice was given to the Assistant Collector of the expected arrival of a vessel at any particular place he would if not able to be present himself appoint a person in the near neighbourhood of such place

to act in his stead, the responsibility of making a proper appointment according to the circumstances resting on the Assistant Collector whose authority and usefulness would be seriously interfered ^{with} by any independent arrangement being made.

With reference to the exemption from tonnage dues on vessels making more than two entries during the year he had not thought of applying it to vessels entering at Stanley but only as applying to the West-Island and harbours and places other than Port Stanley. H.C. then moved the second reading of the Bill and being seconded by the Honble J. S. Cobb the Bill was read a second time.

It was agreed that Ginger Beer and Ginger Ale without the admixture of spirits be likewise admitted duty free.

H.C. then moved the 3^d reading and passing of the Bill and being seconded by the Honble the Colonial Surgeon the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Governor then said It beg now to ask Honourable Members to attend to a statement which I have to make, to be followed by a motion.

Soon after the arrival of the last mail from England an extract from an Irish newspaper the Belfast News Letter was shown to me, of which I have caused this copy to be made

"Mr MacNeill asked the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Mr Ker

" The Governor of the Falkland Islands, who
 " returned to this Country last Autumn
 " had recently gone out to resume the
 " duties of his office although he is now
 " in his seventy second year; whether he
 " will explain why although the usual
 " term of a Colonial Governor's Office is
 " six years Mr Ker has held the Government
 " of the Falkland Islands for nearly ten
 " years, and whether the reappointment of
 " a Colonial Governor who is over sixty years of
 " age, is usual: whether specific charges have
 " been made against Mr Ker amounting
 " to wilful contravention of quarantine regulations
 " and the consequent imputation of infectious
 " disease attended with much loss of life
 " into the Falkland Islands by Mr Cobb and
 " an official Member of the Executive Council
 " of the Falkland Islands and by Mr James
 " Smith, and whether the Memorials of
 " these gentlemen embodying these charges
 " have been received by the Secretary of State
 " for the Colonies: whether Mr Smith has also
 " in his Memorials to the Secretary of State
 " accused the Governor of the embezzlement
 " of a sum of £200, and the falsification
 " of public accounts with the object of concealing
 " that embezzlement and prayed an investigation
 " into these charges which had been openly
 " made throughout the Colony; whether the
 " attention of the Governor was directed to
 " these charges during his stay in this
 " Country, whether Mr Smith and Mr Cobb
 " had any opportunity of becoming

acquainted with the replies of the Governour to
 their deliberate statements which they have
 expressed themselves ready and willing to
 prove: why having regard to the gravity of
 these charges against the Governour has
 there been no public investigation into
 his conduct, and why having regard to his
 advanced age has the unusual course
 been adopted of permitting him to
 hold his office for a period far in excess
 of the term for which such offices are usually
 held.

It would be unbecoming in me to take notice
 of such remarks as relate to the selection and
 appointment of Her Majesty's Officers, and I have
 no desire to enter into any questions re-
 flecting on the manner in which I have
 performed my Administrative duties. The
 Governour of a Crown Colony is entrusted with
 powers which involve serious responsibilities
 and his public acts are always open and
 subject to criticism which may occasionally
 assume a hostile or even an offensive character.
 I only desire to bring to the knowledge and
 notice of the Council as its President the infamous
 imputation which is said to have been made
 respecting me in the House of Commons on
 the 17th of February last that I had embezzled
 a sum of £200, and falsified the public
 accounts with the object of concealing the
 embezzlement, and that these charges had
 been openly made throughout the Colony.
 It will know that the public money never
 comes into the custody or possession of

the Governor, and that he does not keep the accounts: and that these duties devolve on the Treasurer, who has to account monthly for every penny which comes into his hands, and who has to transmit vouchers to the Auditor General for all sums expended by him, and whose balances are also counted by responsible Officers at stated periods as well as on uncertain occasions. The duty of the Governor is to control and check all expenditure of Public Money, so that no payment can be made without his written sanction. But this imputation, however absurd and impossible it appears to those who are acquainted with the circumstances, assumes a different aspect when it goes forth to the world as an utterance from the House of Commons and becomes an odious and most infamous slander of the most damaging nature, for who among the thousands who read and hear of it know that the Governor of the Falkland Islands has no access to public money or account.

The origin of this abominable fabrication is imputed to a Mr James Smith and is an instance of the grave evils which often spring from very contemptible sources, and how a mean obscure illiterate and despicable individual may in his craving for notoriety and in his ignorant and misdirected malice become the cause of infinite trouble and annoyance to innocent

and honourable persons and of pecuniary loss and disastrous consequences to those who venture to publish such vile imputations.

I have already sent instructions and powers to my Agents in England to obtain the information necessary for bringing all the publishers of this Calumny to justice, but as long as I hold the post of Chief Justice in this Colony I am deterred from instituting proceedings against its originators. The time will soon come however when I shall be relieved from that restraint, and in the meanwhile my only course is to request this Honourable Board to place on record, as publicly as it has been made, a refutation of the vile imputation which has been cast on its President.

I therefore move the appointment of a Committee of two Members of this Chamber to report to it concerning the allegation that "Mr Kerr the Governor of the Falkland Islands had embezzled £200, and falsified the public accounts with the object of concealing the embezzlement and that these charges had been openly made throughout the Colony."

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary seconded the motion.

H.C. then appointed the Hon^{ble} J. S. Cobb and the Hon^{ble} J. J. Zetlan to be members of the Committee for this purpose.

Mr Cobb stated that as his name appeared in connection with this matter he would

at once say that he had had ^{no} communication whatever with Mr Mac Keith - that he had had the misfortune to differ from His Excellency in a question respecting Quarantine Regulations - concerning which his colleague Mr Letton and himself had addressed a Memorial to the Secretary of State, which had passed through the hands of the Governor in a fair and aboveboard manner.

The Honorable the Colonial Surgeon stated that he had not induced the libel complained of by the Governor in any of the newspapers which he had received.

The Governor stated that respectable newspapers as a rule abstained from publishing libellous statements, being aware of their liability to actions or prosecutions for so doing.

Read & Confirmed
this 14th May 1890

W. H. D.
Governor

Henry B. Lameson
Clerk to the Council

The Committee
appointed by His Excellency
the Governor in Legislative
Council on the 10th May 1890,
to report to the Legislative
Council concerning the allegation
that (1) Mr. Kerr the Governor
of the Falkland Islands had
embezzled £200, and (2) falsified
the public accounts with the
object of concealing the embezzlement,
and (3) that these charges had
been openly made throughout the
Colony, have the honour to
report as follows: -

As to Nos. 1 and 2. That
on these points they have no
information

information, or access to
information, and are therefore
unable to make any report.

As to No. 3 That they
have not heard that the
charges have been at any
time openly made throughout
the Colony.

The Committee desire
to add an expression of regret
that allegations of so serious
a nature, affecting the
character of the Governors of
this Colony should have
been made.

Secretary.

J. J. Fenton

Stanley,

13th May, 1890.

Legislative Council

14th May 1890

Present. A. S. Governor C M G
 Honble The Colonial Secretary
 " " Colonial Surgeon
 " F. R. Cobb
 " J. J. Felton

The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th instant were read and confirmed.

A. S. said the Council had been summoned to receive the report of the Committee appointed by the Governor in Council at their last meeting to enquire concerning certain slanderous allegations against His Excellency

Mr Cobb handed in the report which was read by the Clerk and is as follows;

"The Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor in Legislative Council on the 10th May 1890 to report to the Legislative Council concerning the allegations that
 (1) Mr Kerr the Governor of the Falkland Islands had embezzled £200, and (2) falsified the public accounts with the object of concealing the embezzlement and (3) that these charges have been openly made throughout the Colony, have the honour to report as follows:—

"As to Nos 1 & 2. That on these points they have no information or access to information and are therefore unable to make any report
 as to No 3 That they have not heard that

that the charges have been at any time
openly made throughout the Colony

The Committee desire to add an
expression of regret that allegations
of so serious a nature, affecting the
character of the Governor of this Colony
should have been made.

sd/ Fred S. Cobb
Stanley sd/ J. J. Felton
13th May 1890

The Council was then adjourned
sine die

W. Kerr

Read and confirmed

this 14th July 1890

Henry B. Jameson
Clerk to the Council

Governor

Legislative Council
14th July 1890

Present H. P. Governor Kerr C M G
Honble the Colonial Secretary
" the Colonial Surgeon
" ~~Read the Colonial Chaplain~~
" J J Felton

The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th May last were read and confirmed.

H. P. informed the Council that before proceeding to the Estimates of 1891 he would introduce Ordinance No 5 of 1890 "An Ordinance to make further provision for the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the year 1890"

The Governor then went through the ordinance explaining the terms and moved the suspension of the Standing Rules and orders and the first reading of the Bill.

The Honble the Colonial Secretary seconded the motion and the Bill was read a first time.

H. P. moved the second reading of the Bill - seconded by the Honble F. Ellobb and carried

The Governor then moved the third reading and passing of the Bill seconded by the Honble J J Felton and carried

H. P.

H. S. then introduced Ordinance No 6 of 1890
 "An Ordinance to provide for the service of
 "the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the
 "year 1891" with the Estimates of Revenue and
 Expenditure - He moved the suspension of
 the standing Rules & Orders and the 1st reading
 of the Bill. This was seconded by the
 Honble the Colonial Surgeon and the Bill
 was read a first time.

H. S. explained the reason for the
 alteration in the form of the estimates by the
 direction of the Secretary of State and stated
 that although differently arranged the figures
 were on the whole the same as in preceding
 years the principal amounts being calculated
 on the average of the last three years - there
 was a slight increase on both sides in
 consequence of the instruction that all
 fees receivable by public officers for their
 private use should be paid into the Treasury
 and repaid to them by the Treasurer.

The vote for school materials and the
 amount of fees payable to the mistress of the
 infant school had been reduced, as a stock
 of school requisites of the value of £100 had
 accumulated in the Government office and
 the attendance and fees at the Infant school
 had fallen off that fees received amounted
 to less than the sum hitherto allowed to
 be deducted from them, although one
 assistant teacher and the school cleaner
 were expected to be paid from them.

Mr Felton said he did not approve of the reduction of Mrs Durose's salary or allowance as it would tend to depreciate the value of her services and lower her in the estimation of the assistants and parents of the children and might influence others to send their children to another school.

If the attendance had fallen off so that the fees did not pay Mrs Durose and the assistants that had been allowed he would suggest that she should receive the school pence and pay what assistants she might require.

Mr Cobb said he would support any proposal to secure to Mrs Durose her present salary and allowance
 H. S. then moved the second reading of the Bill - seconded by the Honble W. S. Cobb and carried
 H. S. then moved the 3rd reading and passing of the Bill - seconded by the Honble J. S. Felton and agreed to.

The Governor informed the Council that Mr Brooks the Colonial Secretary was leaving the colony by the mail steamer now expected on leave of absence Mr Sanguinetti had been sent out by the Secretary of State, who had directed his name to be placed first on the Commission so that he could administer the government should occasion arise.

The Council was then adjourned sine die.

Read and confirmed
 His 2^d Decr 1890

Thos
 Governor

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
of
THE HONOURABLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

29th December, 1890.

Present :

His Excellency the Governor.

Hon. F. S. Sanguinetti, Acting Col. Secretary.
,, S. Hamilton, Colonial Surgeon.

Hon. F. E. Cobb.
,, J. J. Felton.

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on the 14th May last, were read and confirmed.

His Excellency said that the first Bill which he had to introduce pursuant to notice was

“An Ordinance for taking the Census of the “Falkland Islands.” The taking of the Census in 1891 in the Colonies was one of the subjects considered at the Colonial Conference of 1887, with a view to securing uniformity throughout the Empire, but the Census Act, recently passed, of which he laid a copy on the table, did not differ from that for 1881, to which the Bill now before them was almost precisely similar. He moved the suspension of the standing Rules and Orders and the first reading of the Bill. The Hon. J. J. Felton seconded the motion and the Bill was read a first time.

The Governor moved the second reading of the Bill, seconded by the Hon. the Colonial Surgeon, and the Bill was read a second time.

His Excellency then moved the third reading and passing of the Bill, seconded by the Hon. F. E. Cobb, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

His Excellency then introduced “An Ordinance to provide for the Insurance of Parcels “in the Post,” which he said was framed in consequence of a representation from the Postmaster General, who stated that the system of insurance on parcels from Great Britain to India had already been established, and had worked so satisfactorily that it would probably be established in all the Colonies, and that he was prepared, if this Colony responded, to commence it from the 1st of January, 1891.

Ordinance No. 9 of 1889 would be repealed, but provision was made in Section 2 of the present Ordinance to give compensation for loss or damage of uninsured parcels as in that Ordinance.

His Excellency moved the suspension of the standing Rules and Orders and the first reading of the Bill, this was seconded by the Hon. J. J. Felton, and the Bill was read a first time.

His Excellency then moved the second reading of the Bill, seconded by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Governor then moved the third reading and passing of the Bill, seconded by the Hon. the Colonial Surgeon, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Governor then introduced “An Ordinance for authorizing the Sale and Convey-

ance of certain lands of the Crown to the Falkland Islands Company,” and said: It appears that the object of this Bill is misunderstood, and as it has come to my knowledge that some persons have objected to it, I will before moving the first reading endeavour to explain the circumstances which have led to its introduction.

By the Land Ordinance of 1871 the price of country lands of the Crown is fixed at 4/- per acre, and by Ordinance No. 1 of 1872, lessees of Crown lands are required within ten years from the date of their leases, to purchase 160 acres of land on every section of 6000 acres, and that Ordinance contains a provision that the lessee may at any time during the continuance of the lease, purchase at the upset price of and any further quantity of land comprised in his station. By Ordinance No. 1 of 1879, the price of the land which the lessees were required to purchase was fixed at 2/- an acre.

The price of Crown lands may from time to time be raised or lowered by the Secretary of State.

Most of the leases now in force were granted by Governor D'Arcy in accordance with the provisions of an Ordinance passed in 1870 which gave the lessees the preemptive right of purchase at 2/- an acre. That Ordinance was disallowed, but the lessees were confirmed in the enjoyment of their leases by subsequent Ordinances and for a long time they contended that they had the right to purchase their lands at 2/- an acre. Mr. Blake, Mr. Waldron and others, applied to me for the purchase of their land on those terms, but on my pointing out that they had no such legal right, and that the revenue to be derived from the purchase money at that rate would be less than the rent when raised to £20 a section, they asked me to favour their applications to the Secretary of State for the purchase of their lands at a price which when capitalized would give the same amount of revenue as the £20 rent. This appeared to be as nearly as possible 3/- an acre, and I agreed to forward to the Secretary of State for his consideration any applications which might be made by any of the lessees, for the purchase at that price, of the whole of the land held by them. The first application of this nature was made by the Falkland Islands Company on the 9th September last, which I transmitted to the Secretary of State for his consideration, and he has authorized the sale to be made; but as it would not be expedient to lower the price

of country lands generally to 3/- an acre, which would enable persons to select the best portions of their holdings at that price and reject the valueless land, it has become necessary to pass Ordinances in respect of each sale which is made on these terms to enable the land to be sold at a lower rate than the rate fixed by the Ordinance of 1871. Within the last few days I have received an application from Mr. Bertrand to the Secretary of State for the purchase of his Station at Roy Cove, which will be forwarded in due course, and which when sanctioned will require an Ordinance to enable the sale to be made as in the present case, and so with regard to others who intend to make similar applications.

Previous to the year 1881 all the money received for the sale of Crown Lands had been treated as ordinary revenue, and had been expended in the current service of the Government. In that year I was instructed by the Secretary of State to pass an Ordinance to provide for the renewal of the existing leases at a rental of £10 a section as they respectively expired, in consequence of which I made a full report respecting the Crown Lands, and advised that on the renewal of the leases the rents should be raised to £20 a section, and that all money received from the Land Sales should be capitalized and the interest only be used for current expenditure. I received authority to change the provisions of the Ordinance from £10 to £20, and in that form it was passed as No. 9 of 1882.

Lord Kimberley also approved of my suggestion for capitalizing the proceeds of the sale of Crown Lands, subject to the proviso that the revenue proper to the year in which any sale took place was sufficient to meet the expenditure of the year.

Since that time the proceeds of such sales have not been expended, but are intended to form part of a fund which will produce a sum in aid of revenue equal to that which would have been received in rent had the land not been sold.

The rent of the land now about to be sold to the Falkland Islands Company is at present £226 a year, and if all the leases were renewed it would be £331, while the interest from the purchase money will be £364. In the case of Mr. Bertrand his present rent is £109—if the lease should be renewed it would be £218, and the interest on his purchase money (£9,490) will be £237.

Down to the year 1867 there was not a single settler on the West Falklands. In that year Mr. James Waldron settled on 42,000 acres, and at once expended £10,000 in stocking it with sheep from the River Plate.

At that time the revenue raised in the Colony was only £1000, and of that amount £100 was derived from the sale of Crown Lands, £300 from rent of land, and the rest from Licenses, Auction duties, Wild cattle, and other small receipts. The Imperial Government granted £5875 in aid, besides an expenditure of £1200

by the War Office. In 1869 the whole of the West Falklands was settled, and the revenue from the rents of that Island was £1900—and in 1891 the revenue will be £3457 for the whole Colony. In 1898, when the whole of the rents will have been raised to £20 a section, the revenue from Crown lands will be £5298, and should the lessees purchase the lands on the terms of the proposed Ordinance, the revenue will be still further increased.

It should be a matter of rejoicing to all who have the welfare and prosperity of the Colony at heart, that the settlers on the Crown lands have succeeded, after the expenditure of a large amount of capital and after long years of unremunerative toil, exposure and anxiety, in securing the reward which they deserve, had it been otherwise the Colony would have been in a very miserable condition; as it is, the population since the Colony has been fully settled has increased threefold, employment at good wages has been afforded to a large number of people, and those among them who have been thrifty have saved considerable sums of money, as is evidenced by the large amount deposited in the Government Savings Bank, which now amounts to £20,000, and is regularly increasing, and the fact that many of the industrious shepherds and others are forming grazing Settlements in the neighbouring Republics.

My long term of administration has enabled me to observe accurately the progress which has been and is being made, which, with the opportunities I have had of consulting the records left by my predecessors, enables me to speak with some authority on this question.

I satisfied myself before proposing the increase of the land rent to £20 a section, that it was a fair and just rent for fully stocked stations as shown by the returns to which I had access, and to the statements which were furnished to me, and (looking to the risk attending the price of wool) the calculation of the value of the land in fee at 3/- per acre is in accordance with that rate of rent.

His Excellency then moved the suspension of the standing Rules and Orders and the first reading of the Bill. The Honourable the Colonial Secretary seconded the motion.

The Honourable J. J. Felton moved as an amendment that the following section be added to the Ordinance, which he said applied, as it stood, solely to the Falklands Islands Company.

“Should any other lessee or lessees of country lands of the Crown desire to purchase his or their lands without selection, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the sanction of one of Her Majesty’s principal Secretaries of State, to sell and convey such lands on the terms hereinbefore provided in the case of the Falkland Islands Company.”

The Honourable F. E. Cobb seconded the motion, and said, he had much pleasure in seconding the amendment proposed by his honourable friend, as it would tend to remove the absurd impression that the Company was specially favoured by the Ordinance; so far

from that being the case he understood that Mr. Blake could have secured the same terms over two years ago. He considered that the policy of selling land outright at a fair value was a proper one, for people would always spend more on their own property than on leased Crown land, however long the leases might be. As an instance of this he said that the Company had ordered the whole of their purchase to be fenced in at once, and that further sub-divisions would follow, thereby leading to the employment of a good deal of labour and doing good all round. No doubt other purchasers would do the same.

The motion was carried without a division and the Bill was amended accordingly.

The Honourable the Colonial Surgeon said there had been a great deal of secrecy about this Bill, which he opposed on the following grounds. First, that the price of four shillings an acre was the proper value of the land, and Second, that the Crown land should not be sold at all. He also said the two unofficial members were interested in the Bill as representing the sheep farmers and he did not see how they could vote in the matter,

His Excellency the Governor reminded the honourable member that the existing law gave the lessees the right of purchase of the land during the term of their leases, and that he had already gone fully into the question of its value, which was a matter for the decision of the Secretary of State.

The Honourable F. E. Cobb said that had this Ordinance been introduced before the sale had been arranged by the Secretary of State, he might as an interested person have felt some hesitation in voting, but as the Ordinance was framed to carry out the Secretary of State's instructions, he looked upon it as a matter of form and would disregard the honourable member's suggestion.

The Council then divided.

For the first reading:

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

„ F. E. Cobb.

„ J. J. Felton.

Against:

The Hon. the Colonial Surgeon.

Majority for the first reading of the Bill. 2.
The Bill was then read a first time.

His Excellency then moved the second reading of the Bill, seconded by the Honourable F. E. Cobb, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary moved that the title of the Ordinance be amended by adding the words "and other lessees of the Crown" to the original title.

The Honourable J. J. Felton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the title of the Bill was amended accordingly.

His Excellency then moved the third reading and passing of the Bill, seconded by the Hon. J. J. Felton, and the Bill was then read a third time and passed.

The Honourable J. J. Felton said that

he hoped the explanatory remarks which His Excellency had addressed to them respecting the Crown lands would be embodied in the minutes of the proceedings.

His Excellency the Governor then said that as the time of his departure from the Colony was drawing near and as in the absence of any immediate necessity for legislation it would probably be the last occasion on which he would meet honourable members in their places, he wished to say a few words before taking leave of them. Although there had on several occasions been differences of opinion between them on public questions, he felt quite sure that in opposing him they were always actuated by honest convictions and motives, and he was certain they gave him credit also for acting according to his views and convictions of right. His sole aim had been the welfare of the Colony and its inhabitants, and it was a matter for which he thought he could justly claim credit that the resources of the Colony had been largely developed during his administration and that the welfare and prosperity of the inhabitants had been increased. It had been his constant wish and endeavour that this end might be attained and he felt sure that he had succeeded in achieving it. No public man, especially the Governor of a Crown Colony such as this one, could expect to escape misrepresentation, but he could afford freely to forgive whoever had maliciously tried to injure him, because he was sensible that they had never been able to do him any harm, and he thought they would probably regret their conduct before they died, or afterwards.

The Honourable F. E. Cobb said, he congratulated his Excellency upon leaving the Colony in a more flourishing condition than it was when he arrived and that although it could not be denied that there had been at times considerable differences of opinion on public matters, and the atmosphere had been much heated on several occasions, he was glad to think that their differences had been confined to public affairs and that he was sure he might say both for the other unofficial member and for himself that they had the greatest respect for his Excellency personally and wished him prolonged life and every happiness in his retirement.

The Honourable J. J. Felton said that he had received every kindness and consideration at His Excellency's hands and that he joined with Mr. Cobb in wishing His Excellency health and prosperity in his retirement.

The Council was then adjourned *sine die*.

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