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Report on progress of Forest Trees
in the Falkland Islands
1924.

MINUTES.

*Minute from Forest Officer of 7th April 1924 — Encl ①
Report by Forest Officer .. ①a*

*Y.S.
Submitted*

12 May 24

*P.H.
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MINUTE.

7th April 1924

From.....James Reid.....

To

.....Forest Officer..

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

.....Hill Cove.....

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

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Sir,

I herewith beg to submit my annual report
re afforestation experiments in the Falkland
Islands.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

James Reid
Forest Officer .

(1A)

REPORT ON AFFORESTATION EXPERIMENTS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

The Forest trees imported into the Falkland Islands from England and Scotland from 1920 to 1922 continue to be very unsatisfactory. Most of the varieties have died or are dying.

At Mount Low, East Falklands, where the trees were planted out, the conifers, including Scots Pine, Corsican Pine, Austrian Pine, Sitka Spruce and Norway Spruce, have nearly all died.

Up till October 1923 a small percentage did exceedingly well, some made growths of one to three inches and looked very healthy. After that date very severe storms of wind and snow were experienced which proved fatal to many strong and healthy plants. The surviving plants out of 20,000 planted out now number very few and are none too robust.

Amongst the broad leaved varieties the Plane, Alder, and Mountain Ash are the only varieties that remain with any life. A few of the Alders are fairly promising they have thrown out numerous shoots from the base three to eight inches long, should they succeed it might be possible to propagate by cuttings from the old plants after they have become established. The Plane and Mountain Ash were alive but made little growth.

In October 1923 a small consignment of 200 each, *Nothofagus antarctica* and *Nothofagus*
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obliqua were obtained from Punta Arenas, South America, these along with the 1000 *Alnus incana*, 2000 Willows, and 500 *Pyrus Sorbus* which were raised in the nursery at Port Stanley were planted out. In January 1924 these were found to be in full leaf except for one or two deaths which occurred amongst the *Nothofagus antarctica*.

In the nursery at Port Stanley the Scots Pine, Maritime Pine, and *Pinus insignis*, one year old seedlings lined out in 1922, fared very badly in the winter months of 1923. Out of 5000 Scots Pine, one year old seedlings, lined out in 1922, fared very badly 1000 remain and are now very promising, having made good growth and are nice stocky plants. The Maritime and *Pinus insignis* too suffered badly; out of 1000 *insignis* 300 are left but do not look very promising, the leading bud of many having been completely burnt up. Amongst the Maritime Pine not so many died but they look a little brown and did not stand transplanting so well as the others.

The seed beds sown with Scots Pine, Corsican Pine and Sitka Spruce

in 1922, look the most promising of any that have yet been tried. The seeds of Scots Pine and Corsican Pine germinated freely; the Sitka Spruce was very backward and I am inclined to think that the seed had either been old or heated on the voyage out, but still a fair percentage will be obtainable. The seedlings at the present date are strong and healthy, should they survive the coming winter a good stock of plants will be in hand. Additional seed beds were also made of the former named varieties and a fair percentage have germinated.

A small quantity of seeds comprising, *Pinus insignis*, *Olearia traversii*, *Pittosporum crassifolium*, *Corynocarpus laveigatus*, and *Veronica gigantea* were received from New Zealand; these were also sown and up to date only *Pinus insignis* and *Pittosporum crassifolium* have germinated.

At Hill Cove, West Falklands, where further operations are under way the seedlings of Scots Pine and Corsican Pine suffered very badly in the seed bed, a large percentage having died during the winter of 1923. Here the Sitka Spruce failed to germinate and no seedlings are available. 2000 Scots Pine including 800 Corsican Pine have been lined out in a small nursery prepared last autumn.

In the autumn of 1923 draining and cultivating operations were carried out in the area known as the Kent Paddock, which was kindly handed over to the Colonial Government by Messers Holmstead and Blake West Falklands. The area of this paddock which is roughly 10 acres is surrounded by a gorse hedge of an average height of 6 to 8 feet; the soil is a peaty-loam lying over a stiff clay, the depth of soil varying from 6 inches to 2 feet. The Paddock has a natural stream running through the centre.

Adjoining the Kent Paddock is a thicket of Poplars planted 30 years ago by Mr Blake and they are throwing up thousands of suckers which will be available for planting out at a later period; 600 of these suckers were planted out in the autumn of 1923 and they all came into full leaf during the following spring.

It is now certain that Forest trees imported from England and Scotland are a complete failure. The only remedy is to hope for the success of locally ^{RAISED} ~~planted~~ trees from seed and cuttings.

signed:

James Reid
2/4/24

Forest Officer