

C.S.

Police.

DEF/POL/1#23

1923

No. 534/23

Manager I & Co.

SUBJECT.

1923

20 July.

Previous Paper.

Complaint by Manager I & Co. regarding inadequacy of police protection of private property.

MINUTES.

Letter from Manager I & Co. 20 July 1923

(1)

J.E.
Submitted before referring complaint to Chief Constable for his report.

J.R.B.
Dilke
23 July 1923.

I am unable to concur in the picture as drawn, but please refer to the Chief Constable and then to the Magistrate.

The Chief Constable should give a record^{herein} of offences reported to the police in this year with dates of occurrence, when reported and action taken. The latter will not of course include any information which should from a police point of view

Subsequent Paper.

be kept confidential.

TTTTT 23 July

Chief Constable

For your early report please

G.R.H.B.

DiC/Sec

25 July 1923

Report from Chief Constable 14 Aug 1923

Extract from diary of Asst. Customs Officer,

(2)

(3)

V.P. Submitted

G.R.H.B.

DiC/Sec

15 Aug 1923

There was I think an incident of some girls being removed. The Chief Constable should report on that. Have there been any complaints this year of indecent letters being sent through the post?

TTTTT 16 Aug.

Chief Constable.

For report please

G.R.H.B.

DiC/Sec

15 Aug 1923

Report from Chief Constable of 18th Aug 1923

Encl (4)

72. Submitted
 W. B.
 O'Casey
 20 Aug 1923

Draft reply herewith. The
 Chief Constable should see it
 before it goes in case he
 wishes to add anything

ttttt 20 Aug.
 Letter to Manager, J. & Co., 27/8/23. (5)

Chief Constable.
 Letter for your perusal
 before issue. Will you kindly
 say if you concur or if you
 wish to add anything and
 return paper as soon as possible.

W. B.
 O'Casey
 27 Aug 1923

Hon Col Secretary 1/ I concur.
 2/ On July 27th the Police brought
 one of the J. & Co. employees, one
 E. Whitney before the court
 on a charge of peat stealing
 in this case. The public re-
 served all information from
 the Police, and it was only

by pressure brought upon
the owner of the post, that
the Police were able to get a
conviction

W. Sullivan

28.8.23

Chief Constable

Letter from Manager F.I.C. of 20th Aug 1923 - Encl ①

Chief Constable.

For your early report please

G.H.B.

Di. C/Sec

31 Aug 1923

Report by Chief Constable of 10th Sept 1923 - Encl ②

Y.P.
Submitted.

G.H.B.

Di. C/Sec

10 Sept 1923.

Ack please and say that the
date to which the police record was
given should have been the 14th of August
the date of the Chief Constable's report
and not the date of the letter ~~that the letter~~
~~which was received by the Chief Constable~~
Add that while this is very obvious
the greatest obstacle to the effective police
control in the past has been the reluctance
of the public, including the Falkland
Island Company, to report offences and
come forward as prosecutors, yet every

endeavour will be made to increase
police supervision for the prevention
and detection of offences.

X Chief Constable to speak.

11 Sept. 23

Letter to Manager, F. & Co., 13/9/23.

(8)

Chief Constable

To enclose x

G.R. 13

O.C./Sec

14 Sept 1923

Hon Col Secretary

noted

W. Sullivan

15 Sept/23

b. Const

Letter from Manager of F. & Co

of 15th July 1924 - Encl (9)

Submitted, before referring complaint,
to Chief Constable

G.R. 13

for CS

10 July 1924

21 July 1924

Chief Constable

Referred

G.R. 13

for CS

22 July 1924

12 August 1921 - Encl (10)

10A

8th August 1924 — (11)

Submitted.

In other communities the acts of
so-called hooliganism would have been
put a stop to earlier because the
public assist the police, and I submit
the second para. of the letter of the
13th of September contains the just view.

It has necessarily, I think been a question of time before culprits would be caught and although none has actually been found breaking windows etc. the police have successfully prosecuted cases of murder with it may be hoped salutary effect.

2. Mr. Turner might be informed that Mr. has learnt with regret of the damage to his property and that in the opinion of the police the individual responsible for the police action has been successful in securing the punishment of persons guilty of vandalism in the vicinity in the night of the occurrence.

3. Mr. Fresham maintains his opinion that it is practically futile to report offences to the police at the

time of the occurrence and it does not appear that any foul can result from discussing or replying his views?

~~ttttt~~ 15 Aug '24

H.C.S.

Para 1. I agree.

Para 2. Mr. Turner spoke to me about this ^{afternoon} on 7th August & I expressed regret: will you please reply as proposed in para 2.

Para 3. I agree. Jn.

15 August 1924.

Letter to the Hon. G. J. Turner

16 Aug 1924

(17)

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited,

Stanley,

20th July, 1923.



Sir,

The recent serious robbery from our lighter "Lafonia" which was perpetrated about the 7th instant compels me to ask, seeing that this is the culminating episode in a series of robberies and hooliganism, whether means cannot be devised to ensure more adequate police protection for the property of my Company and of others in Stanley.

2. The incidents to which I refer, such as stealing from meat safes and clothes lines, removing gates and bridges, sending indecent matter through the post, are all known to the Police, and it seems inconceivable to the writer that these crimes would remain undetected if more energetic steps were taken, especially during the dark hours, when most of these acts are perpetrated.

3. The difficulty of detecting isolated cases of petty thieving etc. is realized, but one has to consider the fact that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice in other communities where the proportion of constables is far less than 1 to 117 of the adult population as is the case in Stanley.

4. I shall be obliged if you will bring this letter to the notice of His Excellency the Acting Governor, as I feel sure that he will agree that the time has arrived

The Honourable

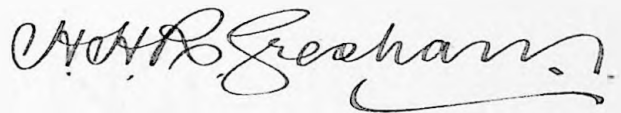
The COLONIAL SECRETARY.

when a strenuous effort must be made to apprehend the criminals, who, during the last few years have defied arrest and who, in fact, seem to have matters all their own way.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. B. Gresham". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Manager.

Hon Col Secretary
 Sir

14. 8. 23

the following are the offences reported during the year of 1923

1) On the 8th of March /23 Mr. Grison reported finding some of his fowls dead. they were examined and their crops taken to the Col Surgeon for examination. The Police kept watch on paddock but no one was seen about.

2nd May Capt Roberts Office door was found open but nothing reported missing.

20th April /23.

The Manager of the Y I Co^{ms} Ltd reported that stores were stolen from the East Store, and that entry had been made by a false key.

Police kept continuous watch, and found that entry was not made by a false key but by a trap door, which I understand existed for years between the Horse Stable and the Store, this I reported to the Manager and he was not aware that such a trap door existed we kept further watch, and I requested the Manager to have the trap door secured, owing to the lack of supervision of his caretaker.

13 June /23

Two Turkeys were stolen from Mr. Robson, ^{sen} afterwards found stowed in Peat Stack on Peat Bog. suspected youths were taken to Police Station and questioned, there was not sufficient evidence for the Police to prosecute.

15 June /23

Street Lamps were tampered with, this was done ~~when~~ during the time the Police were closing Licensed Houses. The offenders are ~~watched~~ known to the Police and are carefully watched but up to

the present we have not sufficient evidence to prosecute.

July 9th/23.

at 12 noon report from the Manager of the F I Co. Ltd. that the cargo of the Lighter Lafonia had been broken into on the night of the 7/23.

The Police made enquiries and on the evening of the 9th were in possession of information that might lead to the conviction of the person or persons who had stolen property on their premises.

The Police immediately applied for a list of the stolen articles so that information could be sworn and search warrants procured.

This list was not received by the Police until 6.30 p.m. on the 11th July/23

at 10 a.m. on the 12th July. search warrants were got.

You will note that this robbery was committed on the night of the 7th July. nothing reported to the Police until 12 noon on the 9th July, list of stolen property could not be obtained until 6.30 p.m. on the 11th July, during which time the offenders had plenty of time to dispose or destroy stolen property.

on inspecting the Lighter Lafonia on noon on the 9th inst. I found that the hatches were not locked, and that the bulk of the stolen property was removed from right beneath the hatch.

26th July

at 10 a.m. The Manager of the F I Co. informed me that the storekeeper at the Millinery Store had seen a certain person some time previous, take a Lady's Jumper from the Store, and that arrangements had been made, in case of a repetition, the Police would

at once be informed.

no information was laid by the J.I.C.

may I add that at the beginning of this year, I personally kept observation on the J.I.C. back store, West End. I noticed that when good required for sale was wanted, that this store was opened by means of a pr of Pliers.

I informed the manager and invited him to meet me at the West Store during the dinner hour, then with a pr of pliers I opened the door myself, and made the remark.

'help yourself!' inside the door was laying whole cheese bacon and hams hanging up and other goods.

The manager knew nothing of this until I reported it to him.

no later than the 10th inst I called the attention of the Manager to half a side of bacon laying in the West Store yard

presumably to be taken away.

nevertheless the Police are in hopes of bringing the offenders to justice

I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant

W. S. S. S.

Chief Constable

Extract from diary of Assistant Customs Officer
July, 1923.

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Mon. 9th. Cargo E.J., 8-45 a.m. - 11.30 went off to "Lafonia" for certain packages of mail cargo, found that vessel had been robbed during week end, and considerable damage done, 4 c/s of Drapery, 1 of Clothing and 1 of Cigarettes having been pilfered, landed at 12-45 and reported to Collector at 1.45 this vessel not ^a being recognised lighter, is not fitted with the usual fitments for Customs locks, as is customary with others, as a matter of fact there was no tarpaulin over the hatch to keep out the weather, it even being possible to place one's fingers between the wooden hatches which were laid just across the hatchway, from the cabin a door led into the hold, likewise from the forecastle, both these compartments being left wide open, as is usual, without any protection whatever of a valuable cargo in the vessels hold.

.

(4)

Hon

Col Secretary
Sir.

I regret not adding to my report, that on the 13th June on that night the Common gate was unhinged the Police have several times, when they thought suspicious people were about watched that vicinity.

There has been no report of indecent letters passing through the Post this year, with exception of two anonymous letters received by the Manager of F.I.C. on the 18 & 19 of July.

They were simply letters advising him to keep watch on several of his men servants, giving their names on Wed 15 inst the Common gate was taken off its hinges but no damage done.

Yr^o Sullivan
Ch Constable

18.8.23

534/23.

27th August,

23.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th of July enquiring whether means cannot be devised to ensure more adequate police protection for the property of the Falkland Islands Company and others in Stanley.

2. His Excellency desires me to state that it is in the view of the Government, essential in the interests of law and order that police protection should be adequate; it would appear from the official records that there is remarkably little actual crime in Stanley; it is not however possible to state whether this is due to the efficiency of the police, the law abiding nature of the inhabitants, or the reluctance of the people to report offences to the police.

3. The offences reported from the 1st of January to the present date have been as follows :-

- (1) 20th April. The Manager of the Falkland Islands Company reported that stores had been stolen from the East Store and that

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Company, Limited,
Stanley.

entry/

entry had been made by a false key. The store was kept under observation. The police found that any person who so desired could enter the store by a trap door between the horse stable and the store without hindrance, and it appeared probable that this mode of entry had been used. It is understood that a caretaker is employed by the Company to watch these premises.

(2) 13th June. Two turkeys were reported to have been stolen apparently by mischievous youths. They were found some days afterwards stowed away in a peat stack.

(3) 15th June. A ladder attached to one Street Lamp was tampered with - no damage was done beyond a bolt being twisted. The offenders were known to the police but there was insufficient evidence on which to prosecute.

(4) 9th July. At noon on this date the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company reported that goods on board the lighter "Lafonia" had been stolen on the night of the 7th of July. The hatches on board the lighter were found not to be locked and free entry was obtainable. There was not even a tarpaulin over the hatch. The list of goods stolen was not furnished to
the/

the police until 6.30 p.m. on the 11th of July thus giving the offenders ample time to dispose of or destroy the stolen property, part of which has however already been recovered by the police..

- (5) In addition to the above the common gate has been twice unhinged but not damaged in any way. No reports have been received this year of any stealing from meat safes or clothes lines or the sending of indecent matter through the post.

4. I am to add that the Chief Constable reports further that he drew your attention early in the year to the fact that your West Store was commonly opened by a pair of pliers by your employees when goods were required.

5. His Excellency suggests that the above report does not indicate that there has been a series of robberies and hooliganism or that there are criminals at large "who, during the last few years, have defied "arrest and who, in fact, seem to have matters all "their own way" as stated in your letter.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown,

for Colonial Secretary.

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,
30th August, 1923.

6

534723.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant and beg to say that I fully realize that it is the wish of the Government to provide adequate Police protection. The object of my letter of the 20th July was to enquire whether the methods at present adopted by the Police for the prevention of crime could not be improved upon.

2. While it would appear from the Official Records that the acts of hooliganism and petty thefts referred to in my letter do not occur, it is well known in Stanley that they have occurred in the past and still do, and I think that on consideration it will be admitted that the reporting of these matters to the Police after the event is practically certain to be fruitless.

3. As regards paragraph 3 of your letter there are one or two points to which I beg leave to refer:-

- (1) The trap door referred to leading from the stable to the back shed was not the mode of ingress, as was at once apparent on examination of the floor above the trap door; this floor was deep in dust which had not been disturbed. It is true that a caretaker is employed by the Company, but only in connection with the Office premises. While he was asked to keep a "look-out" he has never been looked upon as a night watchman.

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary.

(2) While it is true that we were compelled, owing to the large amount of cargo which arrived by the "Oropesa", to use a lighter without the usual locking bar, in our opinion this would not have prevented the burglars from effecting an entry - the use of a small hack saw being all that would be necessary.

The fact that the Police were not in possession of the list of stolen goods earlier was unavoidable. The burgled cases were immediately brought ashore and the remaining goods, which had been put back in wrong cases, compared with the invoices. This took considerable time.

There are two cases not alluded to in your list; in one a man is for trial for forgery; the other was a case of peat stealing. Furthermore, according to a notice on the Gazette Board, there appears to have been another case, quite recently, of theft of material from the Tabernacle.

4. As I have stated above, it is more efficient preventative methods that are required, and I feel sure that if the matter were thoroughly gone into with this end in view benefit to the community would accrue.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. R. Gresham

Manager.

Hon

bol Secretary

Sir,

with reference to letter
from the Manager of the F.I.B. 30 August
1923.

on the night of the 14th July on examination
of the floor above the trap door, the
Manager told me that footprints had
been seen on the dust. This proves
if entry on this date was made by
the trap door, it had been made
previously.

on the 14th ~~July~~ May of this year, the
Police reported to the F.I.B. that a
certain man had removed from
the West store at midday on the 12th
a pudding basin and taken it
away. The Police was unable to pro-
ceed with this case as the F.I.B.
could not certify to having lost
the above named article.

The question of peat stealing has
been reported in this paper.
The question of forgery, the matter
is awaiting trial

10.9.23

W. Sullivan

Chief Constable

534/23.

13th September,

23.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th of August, regarding the alleged inadequacy of the police service and to say that the date to which the police record was given in my letter of the 27th of August should have been the 14th of August and not the date of the letter.

2. I am to add that although in His Excellency's opinion the greatest obstacle to effective police control in the past has been the reluctance of the public, including the Falkland Islands Company, to report offences and come forward as prosecutors, yet every endeavour will be made to increase police supervision for the prevention and detection of crime:

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown.

The Manager,

Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.,

Stanley.

for Colonial Secretary.

9

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

17th July, 1924.

Sir,

I beg to advise you that sometime during last night one of the downstairs windows at the back of my house was broken by stones thrown from the road or, more probably, from the vegetable garden. No noise was heard by my household during the night.

2. I understand that a similar occurrence took place at Waverley House only a short time ago and as such acts have a disturbing effect, especially when women folk are by themselves in a house, I beg leave to draw attention to my letter of the 20th July, 1923.

In answer to that letter His Excellency the Acting Governor, replied to the effect that he could not agree with the views I expressed, basing his opinion on the fact that few offences had been reported to the Police. Whilst it is natural to conclude from the few reports made to the Police that little hooliganism exists in Stanley I beg leave to point out that this gives no indication of the true situation. From opinions which I have gathered the reporting of these offences on the following day is looked upon as practically futile and with this I agree.

3. I realize that this particularly cowardly form of hooliganism, i.e. the throwing of stones in the dark, is difficult to deal with, but, I trust that the Police will devise means to catch the perpetrators in the act, and that if caught, they will be dealt with rigourously. There is no doubt that if they continue to escape punishment such crimes will be on the increase.

4. In conclusion, I may add that I do not consider that these acts are performed by mischievous lads on the

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary.

Stanley.

2.

spur of the moment, but, are the work of an organized gang of youths who ascertain the movements of the constables beforehand.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. B. Gresham.

Justice of the Peace.

Statement regarding my movements
on patrol on Saturday night 26. 7. 24
between the hours of 10 pm & 6 am

To.

27. 7. 24

The Chief Constable

I beg to state that I patrolled the
Town in company of Senior Const
Trayer from 10 pm. to 11½ pm on
Saturday night the 26. 7. 24 I parted
from the Senior Const near the
Colonial Surgeons house at 11½ pm.
he going to his lodgings, and I going
to the Police Station. I again left
the Police Str at 12 midnight and
patrolled Ross Road. Five or six
men from the oil Tanker lying in
harbour was on the road in front
of me as I left the Str. They went
down on the F. I. Boys East Jetty
and went aboard the boys motor
launch to be taken to their ship.
I remained near the Jetty until
the launch left at 12½ am.

I then patrolled via Globe Store
& Stanley Arms. I halted at the latter
place for about 10 minutes, and
during that time a number of
guests left. Waverly House and passed
me. Amongst them was Mr Gresham.
Three men named Victor Atkins
John Barnes. & Mark Campbell
came out of Mr W. Atkins's
boot repairing shop and I walked

up the middle road with them
as far as Pioneer Row. I patrolled
through Pioneer Row and via
the Rose Hotel & John Street to
the Public Jetty & halted there for
some time. I then went via Ross
Road to the Station and entered
it at 2 1/2 am. I patrolled east-
wards several times between
the hours of 3 am and 6 am
and met no person or persons
except as stated above. I saw
nothing suspicious during my
tour of duty.

J. J. Lawlor
Constable

Hon

Col Secy

Sir,

with reference to your
minute of July 19th the Police have
this matter deeply in hand.

with reference to paragraph (2) of the
F I Com. Manager. letter of July 1924
I am ~~at~~ at a loss to know from what
opinions he has gathered that the
reporting of offences is practically
futile, and he notes, with this he
agrees

on every occasion that the F I Com
made any report the matter was seen
into at once,

on the night of the ^{26th} 27 July the small
oil ~~Town~~ Lamp was tampered with
also Lamp in James Street

I attach report from the Const on
Duty showing his movements from 10 p.m.
on the 26th until 6 a.m. on 27th.

D/O Sullivan

12. 8. 24 Ch Constable

Port Stanley

August 8th 1924.

Sir:-

I have the honour to write you with reference to certain damage that was done to my Fathers property.

In the early hours of the morning of the 7th inst my Mother was awakened by a loud crashing noise, as it was blowing fairly fresh she thought something had been blown down in the yard and did not look to see what hour it was, but she considers it was after One O'clock A, M,

About 7.30 A, M, she noticed that three battens had been torn from the fence, in front on the Ross Road & were lying near the Conservatory windows, she also found that five of the said windows had been smashed in presumably by the battens being thrown at them, causing damage which I estimate at about £2.

As this is not the first occasion that either my own or my Fathers property has been destroyed, I would be pleased if more strict supervision could be made by the Police.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant



Hon

Colonial Secretary

Stanley
Secretary.

534/23.

16th August,

24.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 8th of August, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency has learnt with regret of the damage caused to your father's property on the morning of the 7th inst. I am to say that police action has been successful in securing the punishment of persons guilty of rowdyism in the vicinity on the night of the occurrence.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Henniker-Heaton,
Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable

G. I. Turner,
Stanley.