

C. S.

MISC. (Col. Devel.) (Employ. & Unemploy.)
INDUSTRIES (Agriculture)
EDUCATIONAL (Miscellaneous)
PUBLIC WORKS (Labour)
(Roads)

WAR/W2H/8#11

19 46.

No. 106/46.

Hon. D. W. Roberts

SUBJECT.

19 44.

11th April

Previous Paper.

POST WAR PLANNING.

cf. 109/43

BOOK FILE

MINUTES.

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Dietary, Water, Beef, & Tins.
(23.6.46)

Subsequent Paper.

REGISTERED 1902.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY", RADIO.

Dear Sir Allan,

I venture to write to you on the subject of the recent deliberations of the Labour Advisory Board on Post War Matters. I was not able to attend all the meetings nor did I feel competent to commit the Farming Industry in any way without first having a consultation with members of the local committee of the Sheepowner's Association. This was out of the question at the time, with Sheep Shearing already under way. I thought I would also like ^{to hear} the views of my Managing Director and telegraphed him on the 4th December detailing the agenda.

I should also say that following a meeting of the Board in August last where farmers were present, I felt impelled to write privately to Mr. Young regarding possible improvements, particularly of cookhouse conditions. I have now received by airmail the reply to my telegram. This appears to embody some of the ideas privately expressed by me, as well as some that have been brought up at the meetings by working class witnesses which had not occurred to me.

Here in brief is a resume of the views of my Company, which I hope may be of some help, and will, I know, be of interest to you.

'POST WAR OUTLOOK:'

Hard work and practical thinking sum up the prospects, but even this will not affect the price of wool on which the whole of the Colony's economic life depends.

DEMOBILIZATION AND ABSORPTION OF LABOUR WITH INDUSTRY.

At least 100 are required to bring Camp gangs up to normal, but certain developments under consideration will, if they mature, give employment to a greater number and the abalance, if any, to be provided for will then be trifling. But the problem is not this, it turns on whether men will or will not take Farm work, and unless they can be directed, no effort of the Government or any other body is going to solve this question, and what must be impressed on everyone is that sheepfarming is the only industry in the Colony and is likely to remain so.

The Government of the Falkland Islands, the town, and, of course the Camp all live on the sheep and when this is fully realised, then there is some hope that the realisation may at last bring the hard facts home and lead to constructive thinking.

(a) OVERTIME. A hard and ^sat rule not advisable. Shipping^u most concerned. If vessels loading or discharging cannot work overtime when required it will probably result in increased fares and freights to meet standing charges, which, even on a small vessel may be £ 100. or more per day.

(b) IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS - INTERNAL.

An air service primarily for medical cases, mails and such passengers as can be provided for, which will be necessarily limited by the comparatively small aircraft to be employed.

Camp tracks suitable for light car traffic where improvements similar to the work done on the Darwin Harbour, Fitzroy track can be carried out at a reasonable cost.

A weekly service between a point in East Falkland and a point in West Falkland by a small but powered vessel such as "Black Swan".

Metalled roads suitable for heavy motor traffic are out of the question. The cost would be enormous. Even if the British Government provided all the funds for construction, the Colony would be saddled with a heavy annual charge for maintenance, which could well be used for other more vital needs. The idea is considered inherently wrong.

OVERSEAS.

Any improvement unlikely until shipbuilding costs go down. As we are out of the tracks of any of the regular lines, we shall have to continue to rely on our own efforts.

(c) AMLIORATION OF CAMP LIFE.

Modernisation of existing, cottages where necessary, provision of additional cottages, all cottages to be on the telephone. An enquiry into cookhouse conditions with a view to improvements where possible. Improvement of milk supplies. Libraries. Cinema performances in Camp Settlements. Servicing of Wireless Receivers at main settlements, say Darwin Harbour, Fox Bay.

(d) CAMP EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Travelling teachers may be required for some time yet, but efforts should be made to increase their numbers and their status. Some of the men employed have done excellent work in the past and providing men of character can be selected the scheme has much to commend it. Secondly, The education of Camp children in a boarding school situated in the Camp in a convenient site, preferably on Falkland Sound.

Syllabus to lay some stress on the special requirements of Camp workers, i.e.,

Boys. Animal husbandry. Grasses. Agricultural Machinery. Girls. Rural Domestic Economy. Care and management of poultry, milking, and to include practical work i.e. growing vegetables, poultry, cows, doing all necessary maintenances. For pupils of definite promise, scholarships to Agricultural schools in England or dominions.

(e) FORMATIONS OF FARMING - CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

If this is meant for present Farmers it is unlikely to be of any interest to them.

In normal times they sell their produce in a world market at a world price and can buy the bulk of their stores at wholesale prices plus a small buying commission.

A co-operative society could not improve on this arrangement and members would also have to co-operate in any loss the society might incur.

(f) SMALL HOLDINGS. Before expressing any opinion, one would like it to be stated explicitly what is meant by "Small Holdings". If it is the English definition, i.e. holdings of 50 acres or less, it is very doubtful whether a living would be made out of raising milk, eggs and possibly potatoes and other vegetables for Stanley. Dairying and poultry are expensive, as a considerable proportion of the feeding stuffs required must be imported.

Potatoes are a chancey crop and most householders raise their own requirements of vegetables.

Products requiring glass houses and heat require considerable capital, and the market is very small.

(g) REORGANISATION OF FARMING INDUSTRY ON MODERN CO-OPERATIVE LIVES.

This does not appear to mean anything when applied to the Falkland Islands Sheep Farming Industry and one can only ask, What does it mean?

(h) VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AS AN EMPLOYER OF LABOUR.

This department or its equivalent whose primary duty is to administer the Stock Ordinances, should certainly not be regarded as an employer of labour.

X It is suggested that enquiry should be made into the expenditure incurred by this department since Mr. Weir's first appointment to date, the work done, and the results obtained, and that Government should co-operate in this and make all the relative facts known so that a fair judgment can be arrived at.

As a Director of Social Progress as in E and F. A highly paid official with a comparatively large department is certainly not necessary to supervise and direct small holders.

We stand by the Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association's demand for the abolishing of the department and suggest that if the course outlined above X can be carried through the outcome is certain.

(i) CREATION OF NEW INDUSTRIES.

We fear there is little hope of any development and all concerned must realise what the Falkland Islands really are. A poor windswept land probably incapable of much real improvement even at any cost. Certainly not at a cost which is economically possible.

Its only value to the Empire, a Naval Base. It is out of the track of shipping thanks to the Panama Canal, and it is out of the track of the World's Air Lines.

(j) The view that Stanley is a parasite which largely lives on the Sheep Industry should be much more thoroughly understood than it is.

We maintain that efforts should be made to restrict the resident population of the Colony by allowing no fresh permanent settlers in, that is to say all employees and their families brought in must sooner or later be repatriated. In the past the young men with energy and vision went to Patagonia and many did well. There is room for them today in the Dominions and Falkland Island Funds should, if necessary, be utilised to help those who show initiative and would like to make a start in a country where there are opportunities for mixed Farming. Stock Farming calls for considerable capital.

(k) SOCIAL SECURITY.

The standard in this Colony is comparatively high, mainly due to the employers. This should keep pace with developments in England, and it is a matter which has been under Owners' consideration for some time past. When the British Government's proposals are known we intend to make comparisons and see how far we can improve Falkland Islands conditions and the cost.

I shall be glad at some time convenient to you, to discuss some of the above points with you in some detail.

Yours Sincerely,

DRAFT LETTER.

PERSONAL.

Dear Captain Roberts,

Thank you very much for your long, interesting and instructive letter of April 11th, which I received shortly before going to Douglas. I am beginning my reply exactly three weeks later, and because the whole subject matter covers so wide an area it may take me three or four days to complete.

2. All the problems which you cover have been continually in my mind from the beginning of my sojourn in this country just over four years ago. These problems are controlled by certain factors which can never be disregarded; these are the smallness of the population, remoteness from the home centre and the lack of easy inter-communication. In addition to these factors there is the future to be remembered, the fact that we are really tied to the South American terminus.

3. Now I will deal with the points of your letter point by point, in so far as is possible, as you have set them out.

4. POST-WAR OUTLOOK.

As you rightly say the price of wool controls the future as we can see it to-day. It should not be beyond the power of this Colony to seek for some other source of production and wealth. In the ever-changing world this must be so, but I am no prophet who can foretell to-day what that can be. Therefore, one can only think in terms of wool, or meat, or wool and meat.

5. I, myself, am very pessimistic that the consumption of wool may continue on the same scale as before the war, but it seems difficult to maintain a market as large as it was before 1939. We have to face the competition of artificial wool; in clothing it would appear inevitable that world requirements will be less owing to a variety of reasons as much as diminution in wealth, modern tendency to wear less and a foreseeable decline in population, especially in Europe; the carpet industry should, on the other hand, immediately after the war thrive, but in no long time this, too, must in my opinion become an increasingly declining market due to decrease of population, decrease in large houses, and absence of domestic labour. Moreover, the

influence/

influence of America and experience of the Continent must teach the Home country that carpets are not necessary in the majority of households. I am afraid I have the same despondency when I consider the other uses to which wool has been put.

6. I am not, of course, forgetful when, or even if, control over prices will be lifted. It may well be that control will be forced upon us for many years to come. If that is so control will inevitably be imposed on every aspect of the wool and wool-growing industry. This would mean a very close reduction on profits and interest of owners.

7. As regards meat I can see no future at all. I showed you once, I think, a Statistical Table showing world consumption of meat as portrayed by imports in every country of the world. The figures for many years had remained constant and the surprising fact was perfectly clear that Great Britain was far in a way the greatest consumer of all meats. The following table covers the ten years' pre-war period, and it shows by imports how much Great Britain profited the market.

Beef (all kinds) ..	70.24 %
Mutton	95.24 %
Pork (all kinds) ..	42.24 %
Ham, bacon &c.	91.38 %

8. One cannot get away from these facts. However, in the papers and broadcast talks there is a constant repetition war and the feeding of the population. No-one, so far as I have read, has faced up to the fact that no-where in Europe at all is there a consumption of meat comparable to that in the United Kingdom. I cannot believe that it is possible to alter this. The people of Europe from time immemorial have not been meat-eaters and the ranges of the people themselves are not made for meat-cooking. It appears to be forgotten that the working classes of Europe, especially in the country, employ their women to a very much greater extent than in the United Kingdom in manual labour, thus making it impossible for the cooking of meals such as we understand. I have lived, on and off, for many years on the Continent of Europe chiefly in country districts and one of the most striking things is this lack of meat. Moreover,

as I have already pointed out there is likely to be a decline throughout Europe of population so that even if a market were created it, too, would grow small. Actually I think there is reason to believe that meat consumption in England will decrease. Women are no longer tied to their homes and the decreasing sizes of families permit them greater freedom. The creation of in cities would tend to make home cooking, especially of meat, less and less a feature of home life, and even when joints are cooked they will be smaller and smaller to fit the ovens, as you and I have already witnessed.

9. The above remarks are saddening, But I think we must face them.

10. If, therefore, my views are right the sheep-farming industry here faces a bleak future.

11. As you are probably aware there was appointed in November, 1941, a committee on Hill Sheep Farming in Scotland under the chairmanship of Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Its report was published sometime in January this year and a conclusion was reached that, left to itself without Government subsidy, the industry would be a dying one. The committee produced various recommendations passed through on the assumptions that control of supplies and prices of agricultural commodities would remain for some time, and that farming would not be allowed to suffer a post-war slump. They advocated a scheme to restore fertility on the hills in-by land and the encouragement of the return of labour by the creation of suitable conditions.

12. I do not think there is much difference in climate or in soil in the hill farm lands of Scotland and the Falkland Islands. Certainly the restoration of fertility equals the improvement of animal food production and the return on labour is identical.

13. The committee further made recommendations that a Hill Farming Reserve Station should be created and a State Fertilizer Service should be started, improved marketing and a single organisation to handle sales.

14. As regards the return of labour that advocated an improvement in living conditions in the hill areas through housing schemes

&c. The encouragement of single family , the holding of immediate experiments in the use of aircraft to distribute fertilizers in the hills and a greater to hill sheep-farming and afforestation. That scheme, it was assumed, would cover at least a period of fifteen years and would be an annual charge on the Imperial Government of about £1,000,000.

(8)

Stanley a parasite

-

A mere catch-phrase, a plausible slogan that ignores fundamental facts.

Apart from H.G. recession, why did the F.I.C. consider it necessary to erect stores both for shipping & wholesale or bulk warehousing, let alone why they considered a floating dock essential? These require man-power & I have no doubt that very soon the Govt. will be attacked for not keeping the town roads in repair. They have taught the people to expect motor delivery & their demands must now be met. Even in the stress of the war & the strain of delivery of motor vehicles they have asked, I almost said demanded, fresh vans & lorries for this sole purpose.

mass movement which can
not be attributed to any
one single cause.

mis-directed education in
Victorian days.

? ease of communications which
unsettle the former
placidity of agricultural
workers.

a daily press which is by
its nature sensational
& therefore shock-sought

taxation in the form of
estate & death duties
which in course of time
eliminate the land
owner & substitute for
him corporate bodies,
such as companies or
co-operative societies.

absentee landlords who
are replaced by
salaried managers,
a result that for
social security reasons
make dis-entailment the
paramount aim instead
of improvement of estates.

(b) the lure of city lights
which draw man-power
particularly through their
women-folk, to leave
the country-side

a prolonged tendency
to disparage the agricultural
labourer as a rut-worm,
a clod-hopper, a
Rube with a shaw in
his mouth

the misplaced humour
of country dialects.

Unrestricted advertisement
for holiday-making
& amusement

Tendency to hang on
remoteness especially
in hospital facilities.
e.g. It is no longer
considered the "thing"
to be born & die in
the same bed.

Ex parte lecture over
the W/T which provides
cranks & fanatics
to put over most
plausible, arguable
only partially heard
or understood.

Refusal to accept
the fact that we
are the sons of
our fathers & as
a result to incubate
discontent to improve
in our own time
instead of leaving
natural evolution to
play its part.

Destruction of Rural
Life.
Chain-stores, distribution
of articles from the town
rather than support
of the local shops.
e.g. boot-makers, grocers,
butchers &c.

Sheep & Kitchen Fables
by fanatics such as Lockley
& Dalry on worse style
by amateurs (possibly
pse. writing authors) such
as

DRAFT LETTER.

May 11/15 11 (4)

STANLEY THE PARASITE.

I must confess I was rather surprised that twice in your letter you referred to the opinion that the town of Stanley is a parasite on the sheep industry. I do not think you really mean this, because, although it is true that the town of Stanley exists through and for sheep industry (apart from Naval requirements), it is equally true that without a centre such as Stanley the sheep industry itself could not exist. Even if the Colony were under an ownership firm or individual there would have to be somewhere a headquarters.

2. It may well be agreed that Stanley is in the wrong position, but Stanley was established before the sheep industry which fact, incidentally, also disproves the parasitical nature of the place.

3. No, that Stanley is a parasite is a mere catch phrase; a possible slogan that itself incurs fundamental facts. If, therefore your directors seriously do look upon Stanley as a parasite, why then did they erect their stores, warehouses; why, too, did they build a dry dock. I should imagine that the growth of Stanley is due more to the activity of the Falkland Islands Company than anybody else.

4. When you read the above I expect you will smile inwardly, but I should like you to consider the constant repetition of the parasitic story as a disservice, as the real trouble is that there are not more parasites and that more town-ships have not been created.

DEMOBILISATION AND ABSORPTION OF LABOUR WITH INDUSTRY.

The demobilisation of the men serving at present with the Colours presents quite a serious problem. If the released men are willing to return to, or take up work in the camp all is well. Unfortunately there is no certainty of this and one must face the problem on the presumption that only a few men would be willing to go out on the ranches. It is obvious that the only way to make certain of a full labour supply in the camp is by inducement and I think an analysis of reasons why men are unwilling should be given first place.

2. This problem is not one confined to the Falkland Islands; it is almost universal. Statistics show a most remarkable tendency over increasing man-power living on the country-side. You know this as well as I do, but I give you here a small table, not in itself of any real value, to illustrate my point. There are no figures for 1941, but it is most remarkable how agricultural communities have lost their population at an alarming rate. It would appear that this depopulation of rural areas is due to a great variety of causes. I, myself, am inclined to believe that the primary cause is actually physiological, the mass movement directed by some instinct of a character somewhat similar to the mass movements of the past. But, of course, there are many features which hold the probability of such a movement and these I would mention.

- (a) ? education in Victorian days. Later in this letter I will give you my views of education which would extend my views why I consider this important.
- (b) Ease of communication which unsettled the former placidity of agricultural workers.
- (c) A daily press which is by its nature ephemeral and therefore short-sighted. I do not think anybody will deny that the provision of papers must be unsettling as they reveal the possibility which in real life is almost impossible.
- (d) Taxation in the form of Estate and Death duties. These have gradually eliminated the land-lord and replaced him either by a small-holder or co-operative bodies such as companies and co-operative/

co-operative societies.

- (e) Absent land-lords, who by their absenteeism, are mere parasites whose sole interest in their land is revenue. These land-lords have to be replaced by hurried bailiffs or managers who must, for their own security, make dividends of the paramount aim inside the improvement of estates and conditions of labour. It would be a brave manager who ventured to gamble on improvements without the consent of his master. Of course this could be remedied by forcing the land-lord to give up large percentage of his income and improve in every way his land.
- (f) The lure of city lights which brought man-power to them, particularly through their women-folk, and so they leave the country-side. I can think of no remedy for this with easy communications as in (b) above. Young men and women naturally go into town as often as they can afford it and returning to their cottage at say eleven o'clock knowing that they have to be up and at work at 5.00 a.m. They would change such discomfort the very first opportunity provided.
- (g) For many years, possibly from time immemorial, it has been the general practice to disparage the agricultural labourer, to look upon him as a nit-wit, a clod-hopper, a rube with a straw in his mouth. And in addition there is the misplaced humour shown in parodying country dialects. These tend to make life in the country unattractive for the young.
- (h) The unrestricted advertising by railways, holiday resorts &c. This movement has been going on for a very long time as it originated with the idea of providing healthy relaxation for town-workers who might have been interested to go to the sea-side or into the country to enjoy themselves at a rate within the limit of their pockets. But recently these inducements have been offered to the country workers who by the nature of their work cannot afford the time. Rather than forego the pleasures as advertised they are inclined to leave the country.
- (i) There is a general tendency to harp on the disadvantage of remoteness/

remoteness but I rather think that most Englishmen are masochistic subconsciously. They are by nature shy, inclined to belittle themselves and to take a delight in pointing out the terrible disadvantage they live under. Climate is a favourite item of the more recent lack of medical and educational facilities. In these last They are encouraged in the press, lectures, broadcasts &c. The modern practice of endeavouring to oust the General Practitioner by sending people into Hospital must, in my opinion, react unfavourably in keeping agricultural labourers in the country. It used to be the proud boast of many people in villages and isolated homesteads that "I was born in this bed and I hope to die in it. My father and my grandfather were born and died in this house" To-day children are more often than not born in a community bed and frequently die therein.

- (j) I have mentioned above the influence played by the press &c. There seems to me a further danger, more particular than general, and there is a great practice to allow ex-parte lectures over the wireless telegraph. Such lectures never being debated or refuted they slip over without any thought of their possible effects. Any crank or fanatic can put over more plausible and more biased arguments which are only partially heard or understood in the country-side having the most unsettling effect. We are constantly being advised to improve our status but one never hears anything about our past, by which I mean the ties of history. Not so long ago a blacksmith taught his son to be a blacksmith and was proud of the fact that for hundreds of years his father and their fathers before them had been blacksmiths. To-day the son is told to improve in his own time and not to count anything more on the and natural evolution of improvement. It is quite true that the argument "what my father did is good enough for me" no longer holds inside. The youth is encouraged, almost driven towards what others call bettering himself but which he never actually has desired.

- (k) Village life in England and presumably settlement life in the Falklands/

Falklands is to a very large extent being destroyed. In the former one might almost say has been destroyed. The village shop has been replaced by the distribution of articles from town and the setting up of branches of the big general stores. One cannot find the village boot-maker, nor the grocer, nor the butcher, nor yet the baker. The last two have almost been legislated out of existence. The common carrier, hillger as displayed and the gossip of the village green is in the tea-shops and cafes adjoining the cinema.

16/5/44.

(18)

All my previous remarks have been in the nature of generalisations but I set them out in order to emphasize my belief that a movement from the land is the result of factors over which one has no control.

These same factors apply to the Falkland Islands and as you suggest the whole question of labour in the field, i.e. camp, and entirely one for the free choice of the men.

2. They fully realise that the Colony depends, at the present, entirely on the wool business and, therefore realise too that the work that business requires is easily divisible into two spheres - field and town. They must live and the scope open to them lies only in these two spheres. If, therefore, a man is free to choose, as he is, the bias towards the town, as I have endeavoured to show, must somehow or other be counterbalanced. That is the whole crux of the situation in my mind.

3. Naturally I have given much thought to this problem. There seems to be three possible remedies

- (a) Immigration
- (b) Education
- (c) Improvement of country conditions.

4. Immigration apparently does not apply to a large number of the farmers or managers. I do not know what arguments there are against this but as no one can foresee what will be in the minds of men after the war this solution is, for the moment, in academical stage of discussion.

5. It is obvious, too, that if immigration were to be encouraged the conditions offered must be sufficiently attractive to ensure the immigrants being made sufficiently content to remain on the land.

6. The question of education is extremely difficult in a very small community. There is, of course, the question of expense which can only be met from revenue. I agree that the improvement of agriculture, which includes sheep-breeding, should be stressed in every way but unfortunately public school-teachers are trained on standardised lines, tied to their unions and bound down by fixed curriculum.

7. There should be given the chance and opportunity of taking up and succeeding in whatever sphere of life a child may choose. One

immediately/

immediately enters a vicious circle - subject - teacher - opportunity.

8. I need not enlarge on this point but I should like to quote from a recently published book - Alicia Street's 'The U.S.A. at Work and Play' page 50 - "Everywhere there has been a lowering of standard to provide education suitable to the average mentality rather than to the ability of the student who is fitted by temperament and talent to go on to the University." If that is true in America how much more true will it become in the Falkland Islands.

9. Education has always been a pet subject of mine particularly because of the absorbingly interesting problems. My experience has shown the difficulty of adapting education to the local needs and when education ceases between 14 and 15 very little has been accomplished in providing a career for a boy or a girl. It is at 14, more or less, that a child leaves his childhood and enters youth. Up to 14 he should have been taught to appreciate discipline so that he can concentrate and study by himself without the need of the continuous presence of his teacher. This is where the education system of Great Britain breaks down and has provided the agitator with the gift of the slogan, "Equal chance for all". The public schools of England, as in the Falkland Islands, do not discipline the child. Home influence is inclined to mock at authority and overlook disobedience; the Principal Teachers are recruited from Great Britain and, as I have said, are not free agents. The great difference between a rich man's son and a poor man's son is that the former is disciplined and obedient, the latter must by the very reason of his parents' poverty be always under the influence of home and aloofness from his teacher.

10. I have written elsewhere, at considerable length, on this subject and have endeavoured to influence the Educational Officers to try and bend the studies of their pupils towards agriculture. I do not think much success can be attained until one can set up a secondary school here to be primarily an Agricultural School.

11. It may well be said that such an idea has long existed but its execution has proved of little worth in practice. Agricultural Schools cannot be said to have met with much success elsewhere, especially in Great Britain. This has been due to a great number of causes: (a) wrong type of student, e.g. town-born persons incapable
of/

of saturating themselves in land-mindedness, (b) proximity of urban amenities which by their attractiveness make the long regular hours tending cattle a burden of dull dreariness, (c) impatience at the slowness in return for one's labour; and scores of other similar reasons. A man must be born a farmer, must have such a love for the soil and its products, that he needs but very little of the relaxation of the cinema or the dance-hall, must prefer to live with nature rather than in the glamorous artificiality of a town, must find his enjoyment in the freshness of earth and the miracle of growth rather than in the staleness and sordidness of the conglomeration of brick and mortar.

12. Here conditions are such - for the moment - that there is just a chance that a real landward bend of mind might be restored, maintained and made to succeed. One may just be in time; but there is no doubt that the danger of the false misleading glare of town life may already have grown too strong and country-life already jeopardised.

13. Where it is impossible elsewhere, it may be possible here so to make life in the country enjoyable and profitable that a country-life would be even more attractive and alluring than that of the town. One would strike at the very root of the tentacle, which draws men from the village, the fear and instinctive dread of continuous and apparently unintelligent drudgery of the farm. My contention is that farming in any of its forms cannot survive at its best unless it is made so interesting and inspiring that it becomes a hobby and a love. One must keep on the land the intelligent and the far-seeing, the progressive and the liberal and not be content with the slow, conservative and the almost unimaginative.

14. If, therefore, before counter attractions grow too strong and numerous, one were to teach agriculture, show its beauty, its science, its possibilities, one might so interest him that the go-ahead impatient youth, brimful of ideas and hopes, would look to the land not only as a source of livelihood but as that of his life's happiness and content.

15. This is an ideal that perhaps may seem too utopian and I could not imagine it ever possible to attain it in Great Britain. Nor do I consider it a possibility in tropical countries where education directed so long towards black coatedness has ruined natural

country/

country mindedness. But here the children are at most only one generation away from the soil, and they have not yet been completely enmeshed in the attractions of the town. Moreover most of the parents have worked on the land and the vast majority are of age-long rural stock.

16. The annual output of boys leaving school is in the neighbourhood of 14. For the moment one can ignore the girls though they would have to be considered at a fairly near date, since they must obviously play an equally important role in the future of the Colony as the boys.

17. I propose that the boys be encouraged to look forward from the very start of their school life to a life on the land, and that instead of going to work on leaving school should expect to proceed to the Agricultural High School and Institute, where they would remain five years.

18. During this period they would receive a secondary education directed entirely to agriculture and its needs, each individual boy being encouraged in that branch of agricultural study which appeals most to him. In practice this system would in time cover almost all the requirements of society so that eventually there would be educated a black-coated quota but with this sole difference that black-coatedness would be regarded as ancillary to and not superior to agricultural achievement proper.

19. In order still more to encourage attendance at this proposed High School I submit that at the primary schools teaching should foster the idea of the great attractiveness of country-life as opposed to the artificiality of the towns and that entry to the High School could only be allowed to the intelligent and brighter lads to whom a weekly allowance of £1 would be paid throughout their High School career.

20. The secondary schooling would end at the age of 19, so that a boy would have five years of this specialised schooling, all of which would be directed to the forming of co-operative communities outlined below.

21. If the school proved successful I would propose that it be extended to the services of girls, and so direct them, too, towards life and work upon the land.

22. For some time to come one can only reckon on a maximum of the

14 boys annually entering the High School - the figure of the elementary school output. Thus at the end of the five years there would be a college student population of at most 70, and there would be from then on a steady flow of 14 young men thoroughly trained in the chemistry, biology, botany, &c., of modern scientific farming.

23. As you will understand that was not the end of my proposals which unfortunately are held up for discussion and definitely dependant on post-war conditions.

24. It would be beyond the powers of our finances to put into practice such a scheme, which, if adopted, would be of Imperial, and probably National improvement, but I hope it will indicate to you upon what lines I have been thinking and what fields I have been exploring.

19/5/44.

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I think you will notice that running through the above remarks there is a line of thought closely resembling that enounced in your para (d) educational facilities. The former is more general in its whilst the latter is particular of local conditions.

2. There are several problems to be thrashed out. A Boarding School or Hostelry was, I believe, instituted one time, but the reluctance of parents put an end to the scheme; a Boarding School permanency and the distribution of children, together with their numbers, mitigated against that; a properly run Boarding School requires a married Headmaster or a Headmaster and female housekeeper, a cook, and at least one domestic servant, probably two, at least two Assistant Teachers (one male, one female) to look after the children. This would, in post-war conditions, be an expensive overhead charge which, spread over a small number of children, would be an appreciable tax that might, in the decreasing number of children, be out of all proportion.

3. You outline a syllabus which is in elementary stage to what I have outlined above for an Agricultural High School; I am in entire accord thereof and your suggestion about scholarships to England or the Dominions is one which I favour very much. In fact I have already written to London in regard to two or three of the young men who recently volunteered.

4. As you know the Government recently decided to increase boarding allowances in Stanley. This may prove appreciative, but we have not yet got the agricultural bias nor the type of teacher wanted. You, of course, realise as well as I do that the problems of education are in discussion throughout the world, but we here are under the extra difficulty of having no close link with large centres. The recent experiment of scholarships to Monte-Video are obviously a mere stop-gap and cannot effect the agricultural industry here, except possibly on its clerical side. In any case they are merely an expediency and something will have to be done.

5. It would be difficult to ask Imperial Government for assistance in elementary schools but a very good case indeed could be made

out/

But for an institute such as an Agricultural High School.

6. (c) Improvement of country conditions. It is quite easy to argue that if one improved the conditions of life in the camp one would go a long way towards solving the labour question. You do not require from me any analysis of present conditions suggesting as to the future; you are as well aware as I am of all these and probably far more so.

7. I sometimes think that however much one improves the amenities of rural life one cannot overcome all those tendencies outlined in para . That is real pessimism but all over the world it is the same.

8. Of course if the school scheme were to prove a success which would be a matter of more than five years after it had started you might succeed in inducing people back to work on the land. But throughout all these arguments and discussions there is the one great common factor; that is communications.

9. In your letter to me you touch on the point most interestingly. External communication, that is to say our communication with the outside world, is a post-war problem which cannot be tackled here. The extraordinary and miraculous development of air traffic and the speed with which its outlook changes every day make it impossible to foresee the course of events. Only yesterday we heard how the Atlantic from Newfoundland to Great Britain was flown in 5 hours and 40 minutes. To one born in the Victorian age it is not easy to grasp the full meaning of this. I have no doubt that the Falkland Islands Company have this aspect continuously before them and the recent meeting of the five big Steam-ship Companies concerned with South Atlantic traffic seems to indicate the possibility of a branch-line for passengers only from the South American Continent to this Colony. If that were to take place the export and import traffic might be catered for by some less over-run service, but it is idle, at the present moment, to draw any conclusions. The other phase is that of internal communications.

10. I am afraid on this point; I defer in toto from the opinion expressed in your letter. I cannot conceive any argument against the main trunk road, either on the score of expense, which we do not know, or on the score of maintenance, which we equally do not know. The construction/

construction of a main road would alter the whole aspect of the Colony's economy. It would be in the nature of a complete revolution and would probably at its outstart affect the vested interests of most ranches, and especially the Falkland Islands Company. I do not like the expression 'vested interests' - it has become so distorted and misused by politicians and irresponsible persons that it has become almost a term of opprobrium. The true fact of the matter is that practically everybody in a civilised community has a vested interest of some sort or other from which it follows that whenever any revolutionary spot is undertaken some interests are inevitably affected by it.

Home News

GOVERNMENT OF ISLE OF MAN

PETITION TO HOME SECRETARY

SUGGESTED REFORMS

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The people of the Isle of Man feel that the time has come for the island's Constitution, which is more than 1,000 years old, to be made more democratic. This desire issued early this year in a petition suggesting certain reforms which was approved by the House of Keys and has since been sent to the Home Secretary.

The petition asks that responsibility for the government of the island and the administrative powers vested in the Governor should be vested henceforth in an executive committee to be appointed by Tynwald, and consisting of the Governor as president, two members of the Legislative Council (which corresponds roughly to the House of Lords in the United Kingdom), and five members of the House of Keys, who are the elected representatives of the Manx people. Tynwald is made up of the two branches of the legislature sitting together.

Effective home rule, with the new executive committee as the Government, is the aim. The petition suggests that the executive committee should appoint a chairman who would preside whenever the Governor was absent, and should be empowered to meet apart from the Governor for consultation among members themselves.

GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY

It is objected that at present the Lieutenant-Governor is the sole executive authority. The present holder of the office is Lord Granville, whose term of seven years expires next September. He is a vice-admiral who was put on the retired list in 1935. It has not escaped notice that two previous Lieutenant-Governors, Sir Claude Hill and Sir Montagu Butler, went to the Isle of Man from governorships in India, and that recent appointments to the post of Government Secretary and Assistant Secretary were of pensioned civil servants from respectively Nigeria and Uganda.

In the petition it is suggested that the Government Secretary (who is paid a salary rising from £1,000 to £1,200) should be the officer of the Isle of Man Government and its executive committee, and that the committee should have a voice in his appointment. There is some doubt about the need for an Assistant Secretary, the salary for which was fixed by Whitehall at £600.

Instead of the Governor continuing as his own Finance Minister and Home Secretary, the petition asks that a member of the executive committee shall undertake questions of finance, including the preparation of the Budget, and that the executive should have the general control of the police. Nomination to certain boards by the Governor should cease.

The Speaker of the House of Keys (Mr. J. D. Qualtrough) and a colleague, Mr. Eric Fargher, member of the Keys for Middle, were in London yesterday to pass on to journalists information about the reforms asked for.

The SPEAKER said that now their 1,000-year-old Constitution was getting to the adolescent age there was a feeling that it should be made

more democratic, and that a greater degree of responsibility should be given to the elected representatives of the Manx people. It might appear that the timing of the petition in the middle of a war such as the present was not very happy, but there was no desire to fish in troubled waters or cause unnecessary trouble, and there had been one or two incidents recently which had brought to a head the question of greater responsibility for the elected representatives of the people.

The island had always been a self-governing unit, and for over 1,000 years had had its own form of government. Their Constitution as it stood to-day was fixed by the Isle of Man Customs Act, 1866, an Act of the Imperial Parliament which gave the Government of the island power to dispose of its surplus revenues. But within a year or two it was found that the Act did not carry out what the island's representatives understood was its object, for the Lieutenant-Governor had a complete veto on all expenditure and taxation, and no law could be passed without his approval; and in addition their annual Budget and financial proposals had to be submitted to the Home Office for approval.

It had been of tremendous advantage to the Isle of Man to have had during the years the very valuable advice of the great Departments of State in London. The island had been contented, well governed, and always able to balance its Budgets, and, from a material point of view, they had little or nothing to complain about. And they were anxious not to cut adrift in the slightest degree from the British connexion.

But they did say that democracy was not complete unless the responsibility for government was in the hands of the elected representatives of the people. The Governor should not be both Viceroy and chief Minister. It was embarrassing to him (Mr. Qualtrough) and other members of the Keys to criticize the Lieutenant-Governor's policy and then receive what amounted to a command to go to Government House for a reception. Circumstances should not be allowed to continue in which the King's representative was mixed up in matters on which perhaps people differed from him violently.

HILL SHEEP FARMING IN SCOTLAND

LONG-TERM SCHEME SUGGESTED

The Committee on Hill Sheep Farming in Scotland, appointed in November, 1941, under the chairmanship of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, recommends in its report, published to-day, a State-aided long-term scheme of rehabilitation to rescue the industry from its present exhausted condition. It is estimated that the scheme would, over a period of 15 years, be an annual charge on the Exchequer of about £1,000,000. Left to itself, without Government subsidy, the industry, says the committee, would be a dying one.

The committee's recommendations are based on the assumptions that control of supplies and prices of agricultural commodities will remain for some time and that farming will not be allowed to suffer a post-war slump, and they follow two main objects of policy—the restoration of fertility on the hills and the in-by land and the encouragement of the return of skilled labour by the creation of suitable conditions.

Among the principal recommendations are the creation of a Hill Farming Research Station, a State veterinary service under the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, improved marketing, and one organization to deal with all Scottish wool, some relaxation in freight charges, improvement in living conditions in the hill areas through housing schemes, &c., the encouragement of the single family type of holding, immediate experiments in the use of aircraft to distribute fertilizers on the hills, the restoration of some deer forests to stock grazing, and greater coordination of hill sheep farming and afforestation.

The following table shows the % of the working population engaged in primary production (agriculture, fishing and forestry, but not mining) at succeeding census dates in the principal countries.

Country.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1931.
Australia	-	-	26.5	25.4	24.8	22.9	21.9
U.S.A.	53.8	49.4	42.6	37.4	31.9	26.7	22.5
Great Britain	14.1	11.3	10.2	8.4	8.0	7.1	5.7
Germany	-	39.1	33.3	27.0	25.1		24.0
France	43.0	-	-	33.1	-	28.6	24.5
Japan	73.0	64.0	57.0		45.0	40.0	36.0
Canada	-	-	48.3	42.4	37.2	35.1	31.2
Switzerland	-	-	37.7	31.5	27.3	26.6	22.2
Italy	62.4	57.4	-	59.4	55.4	56.1	46.8

- N.B. Queensland Bureau of Industry: "Economic News".
- N.B. (2). Russia in 1926 78% males were engaged in agriculture
1939 46% only.
- N.B. (3). For greater accuracy it is necessary to combine the above with a table showing the increase in population, if one wishes to have a picture of the capacity of the land to absorb man-power. It follows too that one must have a table of production and an indication of machinery substitution.

Your Excellency,

I had a very interesting conversation with Mr. M. McGill, Manager for J.D. Hamilton on Weddell Island, this afternoon. Certain points he made may be of interest to you.

2. He always has a waiting list of labour wanting to come to him. He accounts for this entirely by the high standard of housing provided. He says that some years ago the housing conditions were bad on the island and they could never keep labour but since they have taken things in hand conditions have changed.

3. He does not consider that the higher wages obtainable in Stanley attract labour. The general reluctance to work in the camp is entirely due to conditions and to the educational and medical ~~difficulties~~ due to lack of communications.

4. He complains bitterly of the system of mutual aid on the West by which farmers prevent the free flow of labour. He quoted instances of ostracism because a man is taken on at one farm without the manager having virtually obtained permission from the previous employer.

5. In his opinion most of the difficulties in the camp are due to absentee owners refusing to allow money to be spent.

6. He described how boys working on farms are kept on the farms at boys wages until they are eighteen or more and often cannot leave to better themselves because they are tied down with debt to the farmer.

7. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme of the road and ferry service as he considers that the relaxation of the hold of the Falkland Islands Company would be a great blessing to everybody, quite apart from the question of speed.

8. He incidentally spoke very highly of Dr. Dunlop. His reason for being in Stanley shows how difficult situations can arise. He states that Dr. Dunlop recommended electrical and massage treatment for him in Montevideo. On arrival here the Senior Medical Officer does not consider such special treatment necessary and thinks he can help him by treatment locally. In these circumstances the Senior Medical Officer naturally refuses to grant a medical certificate for travel. It is easy to see how irritating such a division of expert opinion is to the mere patient. I explained the position and Mr. McGill is prepared to accept it.

LB
2. 6. 44

Families.

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	No children.	1 child.	2 children.	3 children.	4 children.	5 children.	6 children.	7 children.	8 children.	9 children.
Stanley	138	65	42	16	6	3	-	2	-	-
Other Districts E F	32	27	20	13	7	3	4	-	1	-
West Falklands	21	18	15	11	3	-	-	-	-	1
	191	110	77	40	16	6	4	2	1	1

Unmarried Males 20-60.

Stanley	116
Other Districts E.F.	82
West Falklands	47
Shipping	<u>9</u>
	<u>254</u>

Houses.

Stanley

Occupied by owner	178.
Rented.	92.
Warrant Government.	<u>38.</u>
	<u>308</u>

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C E N S U S, 1 9 4 6.
Civil condition of the Population.

MARRIED

District.	Under 20.		20 under 30.		30 under 40.		40 under 50.		50 under 60.		60 under 70.		70 & over.		Total			Total 1934.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Stanley.....	-	2	26	52	52	59	66	91	63	49	35	30	14	5	256	288	544	225	248	473
Other Districts, E.F.	-	2	13	21	40	44	33	21	11	11	12	6	4	1	113	103	216	118	107	225
West Falklands.....	-	2	15	17	19	23	22	15	13	13	8	-	1	-	78	70	148	81	72	153
Shipping.....	-	1	2	1	5	3	3	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	16	6	22	20	3	23
Totals.....	-	7	56	91	116	126	124	127	93	73	55	36	19	7	463	467	930	444	430	874

UNMARRIED.

Stanley.....	218.	203	57	32	26	12	21	10	12	5	9	-	4	-	347	262	609	370	302	672
Other Districts, E.F.	126	114	31	6	22	2	16	2	13	-	7	-	4	-	219	124	343	304	156	460
West Falklands.....	74	63	22	10	11	1	7	-	7	-	6	-	-	-	127	74	201	178	82	260
Shipping.....	6	-	4	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	15	25	3	28
Totals.....	424	380	114	48	62	15	46	12	32	5	22	-	8	-	708	460	1168	877	543	1420

WIDOWED OR DIVORCED.

Stanley.....	-	-	-	2	1	3	4	12	8	8	4	24	9	24	26	73	99	14	54	68
Other Districts, E.F.	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	-	1	8	3	1	1	11	9	20	11	6	17
West Falklands.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	-	2	-	3	1	14	1	15	12	1	13
Shipping.....	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	5	2	7	-	-	-
Totals.....	-	-	2	3	2	4	9	14	16	9	14	28	13	27	56	85	141	37	61	98

ESTATE LOUIS WILLIAMS

STANLEY,

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

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Personal Private

23rd June 1946

Dear Gladen, Tonight going through
Ome's papers I came across
Kinnear's report on Nutrition, with
all those complicated calculations
& tables - which do not impress
me in the slightest.

I do not know whether you
are likely to revive local interest
in nutrition, but I offer you, for
what they may be worth from a
non-scientific standpoint, the following
remarks.

I have always had a bee
in my bonnet to the effect that
a predominantly mutton diet is

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STANLEY,

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

not the best for a labourer.

Beef is much better, and I think it might prove useful to try and intensify the consumption of beef both on farms and in Stanley.

I think that there is plenty of beef available if it could be organized properly. For instance I know that at Cameron's San Carlos they often have so much surplus cattle that they just kill a lot off (as many as 150 at a time) for the sake of the hides & so as to manure their oatfields.

There are two points concerning beef; 1) It is not so profitable to the butchers as they make much more out of sheep because they nearly always get good prices for the

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Sheepskins.

This might be overcome by establishing a quota for butchers by which they must slaughter a given number of cattle per annum (or per quarter) in relation to their sheep slaughtering.

Whether some similar scale could be applied to farm settlements is a moot point, but it might be tried.

2) The second may is to get the average family to buy beef when available ~~at~~ as the price is generally 5/- per lb as against 3/- for mutton.

Two things could be tried.

a) Propaganda. Stimulating the demand for beef if it can be reasonably maintained that it is a better item of diet for

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STANLEY,
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(4)

the working man.

My purely personal opinion is that 3 generations brought up on a surfeit of mutton, apart from the immediate effect on the consumer, also affects the intellect?

b) Endeavouring to get the meat marketed in proper "joints" as practised by butchers in England.

With mutton so cheap and sold "in quarters" I know there is a terrific waste of meat, and this might also happen for all I know in regard to chunks of beef, whereas if beef was marketed in smaller properly cut joints the housewife could probably use much more beef, or shall I say often, without it affecting her butcher bills adversely?

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I cannot quote any particular authority but I know that it is a fact that in Australia certain contractors when undertaking big works in sheep country stipulate that beef shall be available for their gangs as they have such a poor opinion of mutton as a food for doing hard work on.

My own personal opinion gathered from personal observations is that one is apt to be largely what one feeds on. When in Norway in certain parts where the people exist largely on a purely fish diet, they certainly gave me the impression of having "fish faces".

In the Argentine (not Patagonia) where the labourers consume beef every day, you can see outstanding

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types of workmen (many of them descended from the dregs of European emigrants) particularly among stevedores in the grain shipping ports. They may ruin their constitutions by living in hovels, knocking one another & by getting riddled with venereal diseases, but those that avoid these evils are most excellent types of manhood, and though lacking in schooling the brightness of their intellect is not to be denied.

The next point I may dwell on is fresh fish. Why the hell cannot we get more of it?

Personally I think that ~~hatter~~ mullet is most uninteresting, but would like it once a week and I think a lot of other people would also

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(7)

appreciate it.

Yet again, why are the rivers and streams in the Falkland Islands not stocked up with Rainbow Trout, Salmon Trout, Brown Trout and even Salmon itself?

The footling experiments carried out by Hamilton at Moody Valley to try and establish trout from ova have proved quite illusory. What is needed is to import yearling fish - a good few hundred of each kind and placed in the various rivers and streams. It might cost a few thousand pounds but would give (if successful) immediate returns to the Colony's population both in food and sport in a couple of years — much more to the point than the £100.000

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

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or so that has been spent to ~~no~~ no purpose during the 23 years I have been here in the Stock Dept. now Agricultural Dept.

We had the model farm. It died before it had got even on its feet. Now for the past 9 years we have had the Agricultural Dept. spending up to £9,000 p.a. and only one positive result. The dairy cattle certainly have benefited from the 2 pedigrees ^{bulls} that were brought from New Zealand in 1938 or 1939.

In my opinion all the rest of the money has been wasted.

One more point. It is high time that private people in Stanley should be permitted to be at liberty again to keep a few cows.

ESTATE LOUIS WILLIAMS

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On the Common without being (9)
"registered dairies" and to sell their
surplus milk to their friends and
neighbours.

Certainly have some form of
Control as to the health of the cattle
the personal health of the
people who handle the milk

and some easy standard
of hygiene for utensils and byres.
Kincaid thought of these things
from the standpoint of a "hot" climate
and not in relation to an exceedingly
temperate climate and the advantages
of a "peaty" soil, which is in itself
a disinfectant.

I know that the two small
dairies in Stanley cannot possibly
supply all who should with
sufficient milk, and as to

ESTATE LOUIS WILLIAMS

STANLEY,

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(10)

the standard of hygiene in these dairies I am prone to query it, particularly when I have seen the Cows standing in their small paddocks with their teats trailing in the mud. That never used to happen when about 20 families kept odd cows in Stanley and marketed their surplus milk.

For God's sake let them do it again.

When Kuinard issued his report he rated turned milks at 6^d per tin. Actually some was being sold at 4½^d per tin. Now the price for evaporated milk is 11^d per tin and Condensed milk 1/3^d or 1/4^d per tin.

Although I import turned milks, I have always said "I'll hell with the Tin Cow" and I mean it.

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Tinned milk may be sterile (11)
and safe whereas fresh milk
may have some manure in it -
Who the hell cares in this climate
provided it is free of T.B.

This matter of increasing
fresh milk supplies, also means
resumming the old supplies of
Tussac (or Tussock) grass.
Years ago there were always 2
often 3 Cutters, flying regularly
from Stanley to the islands
(Kidney Is &c) bringing in
bundles of tussac, reputed to
be 28 lbs each, selling at 6^d
per bundle, and one could
always rely upon a plentiful
supply of this cheap and excellent

440 (12)
Fodder for cows and horses.

Of course people did supplement the feed by buying pollard and oats, but for the most part the cows were grazed on the common & fed also with tussac.

Unfortunately several of the cutters have been lost, but there is one good hull, belonging to the Cdt. Gov. anchored in the harbor where she has been rotting for years, that many a man in Stanley would be pleased to acquire, put a couple of strikes into it and re-commence tussac running. (I mean the hull of the "Penguin").

And so to bed.

Yours sincerely
J. G. Thompson

41
H.E.

After Sir Allan Cadman left I
found a number of papers in drawers etc
& made this file for them. It has
lain unmarked in the possession of the
Museum. But I think H.E. may want
to place it in a better manner.

Abe

27.1.47

Thank you - most interesting.

mc 28/1

60/119
1/2/47