

Executive Council

Monday. 22nd June 1874.

Present

H.E. Colonel W. Arty and all the Members.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 5th December 1873 were read and confirmed.

His Excellency said.

"In May 1873 my attention was drawn to a paragraph in the Times of a discovery made compressing peat into a cheap fuel of considerable combustion within the means of the poor in the neighbourhood of the peat bogs in Ireland and Scotland.

I wrote at once to the Patentees Mess^{rs} Clayton of the Atlas Works, Harrow Road, London pointing out that there was an unlimited supply of peat in these Islands, with mallets handy in the River Plate, coal being then selling at £3 a ton in this part of the world.

It now appears that the firm have given a lease of their Patent to the F. I. Company as will appear from the correspondence the
Clerk

Clerk will read to the board.

I now have the honour to ask your advice before answering Mr Cobb's letter as to whether this Gov^t should make the concession requested by the Company; it is for us to remember that two thirds of the community of this town are composed of those who have but a limited income who could not remain in this inclement climate without the use of the psat placed by Providence at their doors, it therefore behoves this Gov^t to be very chary how in a moment of exultation at the prospect of a new source of trade being opened, which must benefit the settlement, we give away that which is so essential to life; at the same time consistent with the care a paternal Gov^t invariably takes of the labouring class, we should I am disposed to think give every encouragement to a public spirited Company which has come forward willingly to undertake the speculation. The royalty will ^{more} ~~most~~ likely be fixed at 5^s a ton by the home Gov^t than 2^s 6^d as proposed by Mr Cobb, if the Material is worth anything it is worth the former sum and a radius of one mile round the town ought to be retained for the public, giving the

Company the concession of the balance of land not leased, which will be an outside radius of about five miles as per diagram.

There is one advantage likely to accrue to the community by this concession which we must not lose sight of, the patent fuel may be purchased by the people here at a sufficient low price as to enable them to turn the labour they are now compelled to give at the prat bags all the long summer evenings to other more remunerative necessities.

On all these points I wish for your advice as they are important and likely to affect the interests of the people.

The Members unanimously agreed that the large area of Prat around Stanley hitherto valueless should be utilized and every inducement offered to the Falkland Islands Company in the proposed scheme.

In reply to a question Mr. Smith said there would be no occasion to pass a short Ordinance granting the Company the sole right of using Clayton's patent process as the Patents are protected by the Imperial Patent Laws which are in force in this Colony.

D. Watts said there should be no royalty
as the land is valueless, but if any not more than
 $\frac{2}{6}$ a ton.

Ultimately the Board decided that
an area of a mile round the settlement of
Stanley should be reserved to the settlers, and
a royalty of $\frac{5}{6}$ a ton would be a reasonable
rate.

die The Council was adjourned sine

The foregoing minutes were read and
confirmed on the 26-March 1877

J. F. Callaghan
Governor

Falkland Islands Co.
Stanley, 20th June, 1874.

Sir,

With reference to the proposed
re-establishment of a peat manufactory
which I had the honour to mention
to your Excellency yesterday, I beg
to apply for the following:

1. A concession to manu-
facture all the peat on the Govern-
ment lands within six miles of
Stanley, reserving the quantity
reserved for public use.

2. The sole right of using
Clayton's process in the Colony
for a lengthened term.

The amount of royalty
would be fixed by the Home
Government; but I submit, that

Your Excellency
Colonel D'Arcy.

should not

Exceed 2/6^d per Ton. I would
further propose that the
Company should be allowed two
years from the date of the
concession to get the establish-
ment into working order.

I trust that your
Excellency will endeavour to
obtain for us the most
favourable terms possible, as
the risk and expence at the
outset will be considerable,
and if successful, it will
materially benefit the Colony.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient
humble servant

Dear Sir,
Colonial Manager



[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Delect fuel

made

out of Peat

Dr. J. Coll

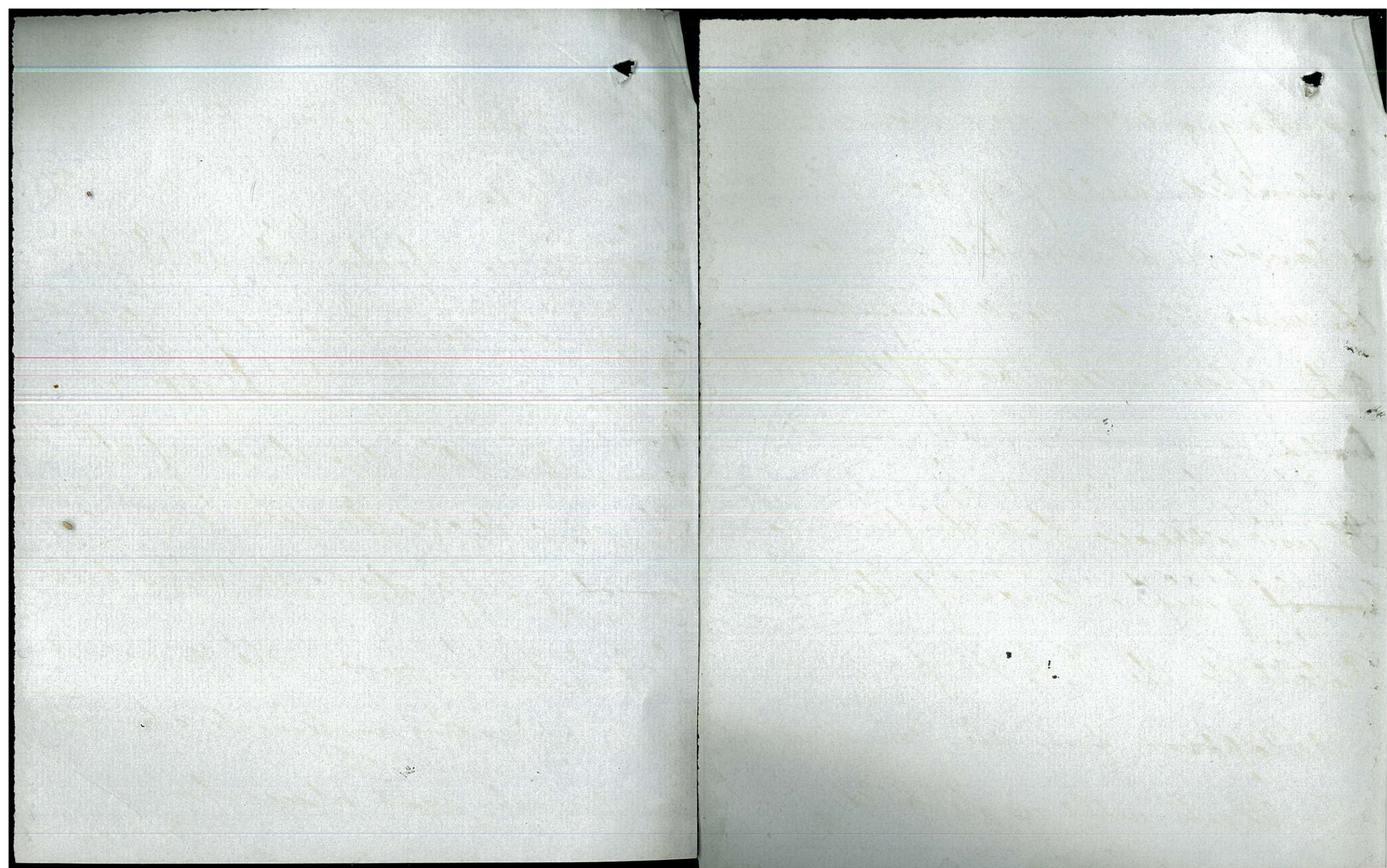
June 1874

pointing out that there was an
unlimited supply of peat in these
Islands, with markets handy in
the river Plate, coal being then selling
at 3 £ a ton in this part of the
world —

It now appears that the firm have
~~been~~ given a lease of their
Patent to the L. & Co. as
will appear from the correspondence
the Clerk will read to the
board

In May 1873, my attention
was drawn to a para: in the
Times of a discovery made
compressing peat into a ^{cheap} ~~fuel~~ ~~fuel~~
fuel of considerable combustion
~~bringing a cheap fuel into the~~
within the ^{reach} of the poor
~~market~~ in the neighbourhood of
the peat bogs in Ireland and
Scotland

I wrote at once to the Patentees
Messrs Clayton of the Mill Works
Barnes Road. London



at their doors, it therefore behooves
this govt. to be very chary how in
a moment of exultation at the
prospect of a new source of trade
being opened, which must benefit the
settlement, we ~~bestow~~ give away that
which is so essential to life; at the
same time consistent with the case
a paternal govt. invariably takes
of the labouring class, we should
be disposed to ^{think} ~~minutely~~ give
every encouragement to a public
spirited Company which has come

I now have the honour to ask your
advice before answering Mr. Cobb's
letter as to whether this govt. should
make the concession requested
by the Company; ^{it is for us} ~~we ought~~ to
remember that two thirds of the
Community of this town are
composed of those who have but
a limited income who could not
remain in this inclement climate
without the ^{use of the} heat placed by
Providence

§

There is one advantage likely to accrue
to the community by this conception

which we must not lose sight of, ~~and~~
the patent fuel ^{by the people here} may be purchased at a
sufficient low price so to enable them
to turn the labour they now are
compelled to give at the great bazaars to other
~~markets~~ ~~accounts~~ all the long summer
evenings to other accounts more
remunerative necessities.

forward willingly to undertake
the speculation. The royalty will
more likely be fixed at 5[¢] a ton
by the home govt. than 2. 6[¢] as
proposed by Mr. Cobb, if the
material is worth any thing it is
worth the former sum. and a
radius of one mile round the town
~~as per diagram~~ ought to be retained
for the public, giving the Company
the concession of the balance of land
not leased, which will be ^{outside} a radius
of about five miles is per diagram
On all these points I wish for
your advice as they are important and
likely to affect the interests of the people.





Ro

There is really a ^{shown below} ~~lesser~~ saving to Colonial Funds than that
 Statement showing the entire cost of the Detachment of
 Royal Marines (including the Naval Surgeon)

	Imperial			Colonial		
Total pay and allowances	1040	"	.	606	8	.
The estimated average cost of passages to and from the colony, each year	200	"	.			
The Commissariat				430	"	.
	1240	"	.	1036	8	.
	1036	8	9			
Total of Imperial and colonial pay &c.	£ 2276 8 9					

To be replaced by

1 Sergeant	at £ 100.0.0
4 Privates @ £60 each	240.0.0
2 Assistant Constables @ £30 each	60.0.0
Colonial Surgeon	300.0.0
	<u>700.0.0</u>

Less £60 from salary of Sergeant
 owing to abolition of office of
 present Chief Constable } 60.0.0

£640.0.0

Saving to Colonial Funds	£ 396. 8. .
Saving to Imperial Funds	1240. . .
Total saving of	<u>£1636. 8. .</u>

Rent of Barracks & Officers Quarters per annum £50.

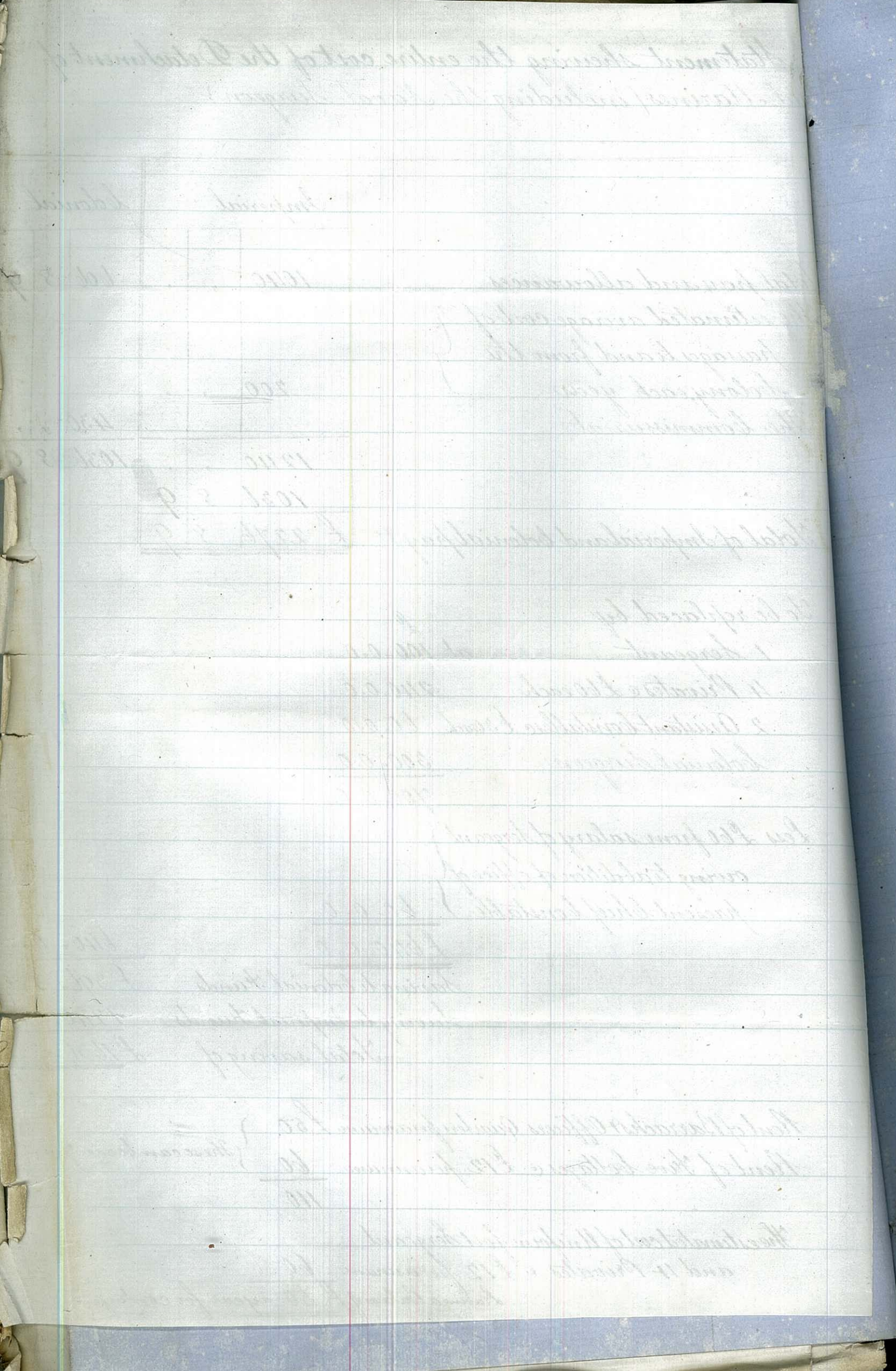
Rent of Five Cottages @ £12 per annum 60

110

} These can be easily let.

The estimated cost of Uniform for 1 Sergeant
 and 4 Privates @ £12 per annum 60

Leaving a balance of £ 50. a year for contingencies



71
Executive Council

Wednesday 31st October 1877.

Present.

His Excellency the Governor
The Colonial Surgeon:
The Colonial Treasurer.
The Police Magistrate.

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of last Council ^{held on the 26th March 1877} were read and confirmed.

The Governor addressed the Council as follows:—

In view of the financial position of the Colony which in the opinion of the Secretary of State renders all possible retrenchment necessary I have the honour to submit a project for your consideration, by which (if it can be safely carried out) a considerable saving of Colonial and Imperial Expenditure will be effected, as will be seen from the statement now laid upon the table.

This project involves the removal of the present detachment of Royal Marines, consisting of a Lieutenant, a Naval Surgeon, a Sergeant and 14 Privates, who receive £1036 a year from

from Colonial Funds and about the same amount a year from Imperial Funds. This is exclusive of the passage money of the two officers, and the rest of the Detachment, (to and from England) who are usually relieved every three years. The passages of the wives and families of the officers and of such of the men as are married (of whom there are five at present, have also to be provided for out of Imperial Funds.

Before proceeding further it may be found useful to give a short retrospect of the various experiments adopted for the protection of the settlements from time to time.

For some time previous to the establishment of a regular Government, the protection of the British Shipping and the Seal Fisheries of the Islands was placed under the charge of the successive Naval Officers, who commanded a small ship of war stationed here.

Governor Moody arrived in January 1847 to establish a Civil Government and brought with him a Detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners consisting of a Sergeant, a Corporal and 10 Privates ^{with} their wives and families. The military pay of these men was charged to the Board of Ordnance and they were also employed on the Public Works, in constructing the necessary buildings & required

at the forming of a new Colony. Governor Moody was
a captain of Engineers and the discipline of the
detachment was under his control.

No 3 of 1847

During the year 1847 on the arrival of some
foreigners in the settlement. Governor Moody
passed an Ordinance, which lapsed in 1849,
sanctioning the enrollment of a Local Militia,
and for this purpose the necessary arms and
accoutrements were received in the Colony.
Captain Moody and the remaining men of
his detachment (8 in number) left in July
1848, on the arrival of Governor Rennie.

The Colony was then left for some time
without a Naval or Military Force, but according
to successive Despatches from Governor Rennie
to Lord Grey, things appear to have gone on in
an orderly and peaceable manner.

It appears from one of Governor Rennie's
Despatches that on account of the disturbed
state of Europe during the French Revolution
and owing to the presence of many aliens in
the settlement, the Militia Force, which was
officered by the Government Officials was
called out for a week's training, when 30
privates, all British Subjects, attended the
drill. This number considering the smallness
of the population must be regarded as a
very good attendance.

In October 1849, 30 Pensioners arrived
in

in command of Captain Reed, and the expenses connected with their establishment and maintenance were provided by the Immigration Commissioners out of the purchase money received for the freehold of Lafohia.

According to a Despatch of Lord Grey, No 10 Military of the 19th July 1850 "the object in sending out these Immigrants was to supply the Colony with a body of men, who would be capable of using arms in case of emergency and who would at the same time be able to live by their own industry. They were promised cottages and allotments of 10 acres of land, and with a right of grazing over an additional quantity of land, not to exceed 10 acres."

In the same Despatch his Lordship says, "in sending out this handful of men, the object was, not to form a fortified post or select the best spots for regular work of defence but merely to obtain the presence of a few steady and loyal subjects trained to arms, who could suppress any sudden tumult or repel any insult from any wandering vessel."

These Pensioners were enrolled for seven years service. In addition to their Pensions the Sergeant received $\frac{1}{10}$ a day, the Corporals $\frac{1}{6}$ and the Privates $\frac{1}{3}$. They were under the Mutiny Act and Articles of War, and were

liable at all times to be called out for duty if their services were required by the Government.

Unfortunately these men appear to have emigrated under erroneous ideas as to their prospects in the Falkland Islands, and in consequence much discontent prevailed amongst them. Various experiments were tried to improve their condition, such as allowing them to work for private individuals, but many of them being old and infirm, there was little demand for their services.

Ultimately the Duke of Newcastle directed that constant work should be found for them on the Public Works and they were thus employed for some time $\frac{2}{3}$ of a day.

Captain Reid having left the Colony in 1852, the duties of Resident Staff Officer were discharged by Sergt. Major Tilton.

In consequence of the Crimean War a Public Memorial was forwarded from the Colony to the Secretary of State praying that some measures of defence might be adopted against any possible attack from privateers under letters of marque from Russia, but Sir George Grey in reply stated that he considered the repugnance to this kind of warfare a sufficient guarantee against its being resorted to. He however approved of the establishment of a guard consisting of a
Sergeant

Sergrant, a Corporal and 4 men to patrol the settlement every night.

About this time 80 volunteers were enrolled by Governor Rennie and placed under military discipline to enable them to co-operate with the Pensioners. These volunteers with the exception of about 20 of them, rendered their services gratuitously. They were called out twice a month for exercise and occasionally in the middle of the night without previous warning.

From a Despatch of Governor More to the Secretary of State, No 15 of 16th March 1857, it appears that the discipline of the Pensioners, who were then under a non-commissioned officer and only drilled for a day or two, now and then, had become utterly lax. Two constables were appointed instead to patrol the settlement at night. Of the original detachment of 30 Pensioners, 7 had died, 11 had been released from their engagements at various times and 5 remained as Colonists. The remaining 7 left the Colony in 1857 having received a free passage to England and compensation for giving up their cottages and relinquishing all further claim upon the Colony.

Previously to this Governor More had reported to the Secretary of State in a Despatch of 1st January 1856 as follows;—"As far as the Colonists

"are concerned the civil force consisting of One
 "Constable and One Garder has been always I
 "believe found sufficient, it has on several occasions
 "been found necessary to call in the aid of the
 "Pensioners, to coerce the crews of Merchant Vessels
 "or aid shipmasters to enforce obedience." In
 the same Despatch he suggested that the Pensioners
 might be relieved by a small Detachment of
 Marines under an Officer.

This suggestion did not meet with immediate
 approval and in January 1858 Captain Abbott
 arrived with the Falkland Islands Garrison Company
 consisting of 2 Sergeants, 2 Corporals, a Drummer
 and 30 Privates, all of whom were married men
 of fifteen years service and drawn from Line
 Regiments. This Detachment was paid by the
 War Office, the Officer receiving in addition £50
 a year from the Colonial Government.

This force did not answer satisfactorily
 as appears from the correspondence between
 the Colonial Office and other Public Departments
 enclosed in the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch to
 Governor McKenzie, No 35 of the 10th August 1863.
 In consequence of this, the former suggestion of
 Governor Moore was adopted and a party of
 Royal Marines consisting of an Officer, a Naval
 Surgeon, a Sergeant and 18 men arrived early
 in January 1864. It was arranged that they
 should receive in addition to ordinary Naval
 pay.

pay, Rations, Quarters, and a second equal rate of pay from Colonial Funds. In consideration for these advantages the men were bound under an agreement to give their services to the Government as artisans and labourers when required and duty permitted. for an extra allowance of $\frac{5}{8}$ a day.

The Lieutenant in command having in 1867 asked for an increase to the Detachment, it appears from Despatch, N^o 13 of the 26th August of that year, from the Secretary of State to Governor Robinson, that the Admiralty in reply suggested on account of unsatisfactory reports received regarding the men, the total withdrawal of the Marines, "in order that they should be employed in their more legitimate duties" and the substitution in their stead of a Civil Police Force.

Governor Robinson reported against this change as follows in Despatch N^o 10 of 17th Aug 1868. "It would not be practicable to adopt this suggestion. The few men in the Colony who are fit for the service would not accept the employment: those who would, and these are few also are not fit for the work; owing to the manner in which people are connected and mixed up by ties of long association and relationship in this isolated settlement it would be quite impossible to find even half a dozen men who could be enrolled as Policemen, with any prospect of success."

Governor Robinson also objected to this scheme on the score of the expense which it would entail in building new cottages and procuring gardens for the men. This objection would not now apply as all the necessary accommodation with gardens could be supplied - if the project I am about to propose is carried out - without any additional expense to the Colony. In fact some buildings would be placed at the disposal of the local Government, which could be advantageously sold or let.

In reply to Lord Kimberley, Colonel D'Ancry in his Despatch No 36 of 15th July 1871 dissented from a subsequent proposal made by Governor Robinson to reduce the Garrison to a non-commissioned officer's command by which a saving of £500 a year would be effected, on the ground that it would be inexpedient to have a force without an officer who could administer punishment. In June 1874, the detachment was reduced to its present strength. This is the only change which has occurred since.

There can be no doubt that of all the experiments tried up to this except the employment of the Sappers and Miners which appears to have answered extremely well, the present arrangement with regard to the Marines is on the whole the

the best, but it is in many respects far from satisfactory. Besides the question of the very heavy expense to the Colony and Imperial Government with which this arrangement is attended, there are other drawbacks to it which must be noticed.

As far as I am able to ascertain the employment of Marines on the Public Works at $\frac{1}{2}$ a day, has been on the whole a failure owing to causes which are well expressed by Lieutenant Elliot in a letter enclosed in Governor Robinson's Despatch No 90 of 12th February 1868, in which he says: — "The men do not care to work for the Government and will use every end &avour to escape it if possible, one reason for which is the great difference in the wages received by them ($\frac{1}{2}$ a day) and those received by civilians which in the case of an ordinary labourer is at least $\frac{5}{8}$ a day, while artificers (which the men in the Detachment are with one or two exceptions) receive various amounts up to 16/8 per day. Some of the men of this party (carpenters particularly) can make in one day for private work done in their own quarters and sold afterwards to Colonists more money than they would receive by working for Government for a fortnight, making allowance of course for the days they would lose by being on duty. Since the arrival of the present officer

I have given orders that the men shall not be allowed to work for private persons as long as there is Government work for them to do. However some of them work in the evening at private jobs and earn a good deal in this way. The fact that of late years it had been regarded as almost obligatory on the Government to find work for the Marines, even at a season of the year unfavourable to outdoor work, whether it was required or not, has had necessarily a demoralizing effect upon them.

As far as my experience of the last eighteen months enables me to judge, the men with perhaps some exceptions, do not at all work satisfactorily on the Government Works and considering the numbers that have been employed for many years past at considerable expense, there is very little to show in the Colony for the ~~very~~ large sums expended in this way.

When the new Gaol is finished, which I hope will be in the course of next year, very little in the way of Public Works will be required and anything that may be necessary can in my opinion be done quite as cheaply by contracting with the local artisans who appear now to be sufficiently numerous for the requirements of the Colony. Upon this branch of the subject, Gentlemen, you yourselves ~~more~~ especially the late Surveyor General are better

better able to form an opinion than I am, and I shall be happy to hear your views regarding it.

As may be expected under the circumstances the discipline of a small party of men in a remote isolated station receiving such high pay (and with such opportunities of earning money in other ways) has never been very high, a good deal owing to the temptations to intemperance. The present officer, Mr. Coffin, has I believe done all he could to improve the discipline of the detachment and I hope his efforts may prove successful.

With regard to the employment of the Marines in support of the Civil Authority I am happy to say that I have never had occasion to use them in this way, and I believe that with one or two exceptions the only occasions on which they or any other Military Force have ever been called on to render assistance of this nature has been in escorting refractory sailors while being conveyed from the gaol in boats on board their vessels to resume their duties. I confess I for one have a very great objection to using a Military Force in this way except in a case of extreme necessity: and I consider that their employment in such service may at any moment lead to very serious and undesirable complications.

This of course is quite a different case from the ordinary one where the Military are called out to repress a riot or tumult on shore which I believe has only been found necessary on one occasion since the foundation of the Colony. This happened a great number of years ago when a disturbance arose amongst a party of emigrants and sailors landed from the steamship "Lyonsmouth". I have it on the authority of the Police Magistrate, who has been here about thirty years, that he has never known the Military to be called on by the Civil Authorities to put down a disturbance amongst the inhabitants of Stanley. The Police Force consisting of one Constable and an assistant Constable has always been sufficient for that. All the various Governors have from time to time testified to the orderly and peaceable character of the inhabitants of the Colony.

In 1844 the Marines were employed in flogging certain sailors of the ship "Staffordshire" who had made a murderous assault upon their Captain on his going to claim them at the Gaol. Although their employment for this purpose was under the peculiar circumstance approved of, nevertheless any future repetition of it was discountenanced by the Secretary of State and the Naval authorities.

With regard to the necessity that occasionally

arises

arises of sending an escort to convey refractory sailors on board their vessels I may mention a case that has occurred since my arrival. Last January fourteen sailors belonging to the British Ship "Eastern Empire" were lodged in Gaol for refusal of duty and when the vessel was about to sail, the Master demanded them. I directed the Police Magistrate to swear in Special Constables, who together with the Gaoler and Chief Constable safely escorted the sailors to their ship, which was lying outside in Port William. It may be said that the sailors knew that the Marines were there, and of course this fact must not be overlooked in considering the question.

By a Local Ordinance all Licensed Victuallers, who in Stanley number about nine, are liable to be called upon to act as Special Constables when required. There has of late years been a decided falling off in the number of vessels calling here. No whaler and very few sealers have visited the Port for a very long time. Owing to the smallness of the place and the paucity of vessels, the Local Government by using its influence with masters can prevent any large number of sailors from getting leave, and a Circular is handed to each Shipmaster

on his arrival cautioning him on this point. This has generally been acted upon and by this means the chance of any disturbance arising amongst sailors on shore has been a good deal diminished.

From this retrospect giving an account of the various experiments tried and their failure, you will perceive the difficulty in finding a substitute for the Marines which would be at the same time comparatively cheap and sufficient for the preservation of order in the Colony. Of course the present small detachment of Marines cannot be considered as an efficient defensive force against the attack of an enemy or scarcely against that of a well equipped wandering privateer in time of war.

Leaving these contingencies out of the question and in consideration of the necessity for retrenchment I venture to submit for your consideration whether it might not be worth trying to establish a Police Force composed of a few well paid men brought out from England. I quite agree with Governor Robinson that it would not be possible to raise such a Force in the Colony, but I should suppose that suitable able bodied men might be procured from amongst the class of Military Pensioners at home, who, in the present days of short service, are not such a worn out feeble body as those formerly sent ~~out~~ here. It seems to me, considering the smallness of the

the place and population. that if four such men could be procured with an efficient Sergeant or Chief Constable, they would be found to answer the present requirements of the Colony, if supplemented by two Assistant Constables who could be obtained here from the retired Marines residing in Stanley.

I should propose to give the men brought out from England £60 a year with quarters and a garden and permission to supply themselves with food gratuitously. This in addition to their pensions would I think enable them to live comfortably here, and if they were also artisans which I by no means consider a sine qua non permission might be given to them, under certain restrictions, to work at their trades for Government ^{and} for private persons. The services of the entire number would not be constantly required for Police duty, but they might act as a guard over prisoners on the public works and take it in turns to act as night watchmen. Their spare time they might be allowed to turn to the most profitable account by working for the Government or others at the current rate of wages in the Colony. Two assistant Constables of the class I have described, who would be liable to be called out whenever required, could be procured in the Colony for £30 a year each. As the efficiency of the force would so much depend on the character of the Chief Constable, I should propose in order to

increase the chance of getting a really good man to pay him a £100 a year, with quarters and garden, and it might be arranged that the men should be allowed time to cut sufficient fuel for him.

I think it desirable that they should all be engaged for say a period of six years and placed under as stringent an agreement by the authorities at home, as it may be possible to impose upon them. This of course would be necessary to prevent them leaving Government in the lurch by going away from the Colony before their period of service was expired or setting up for themselves here, which latter event in the case of artisans might too probably happen.

It would be desirable that the men should be acquainted with gunnery drill to enable them to fire a salute when required. Probably men who have served in the Royal Artillery or Marines could be procured for the service. The whole success of the experiment depends on the care taken in the selection of suitable men. I have no means of knowing what opportunity there may be for procuring such men, but of course in a matter of this kind the Military Authorities would be the best judges.

I cannot disguise from you, Gentlemen, that such an experiment may easily be shipwrecked owing to the many temptations to intemperance to which the men would be exposed here and ^{to} the difficulty of preserving order and discipline amongst them under such circumstances. It
 being

being only a Civil Force all that the Local Government could do in case of confirmed misconduct would be to dismiss a man from the Police Force and the difficulty of replacing him on the spot would I fear be great. Everything would turn on the fact whether it would be possible to bind these men by such an agreement and under such penalties as would operate as a salutary and sufficient check against misconduct. I can scarcely believe that the difficulty of procuring the very few men required of the right sort, would be found insurmountable.

The proposed experiment differs from that tried in the case of the Pensioners sent out in 1849, who in the first place were inadequately paid and many of them were I understand worn out and disabled men. ^{to all intents and purposes.} They were a Military Force and it is no wonder that, when left without a commissioned officer to command them, they should have become so lax as regards discipline. Another cause of the failure of the experiment regarding these Pensioners was that apparently before leaving England they had conceived very exaggerated notions as to the value of land here and consequently as to their position and prospects in the Falklands. Care of course should be taken to prevent this, in carrying out the scheme now proposed. I may mention that if ever it should be thought desirable to organize a Volunteer Force

in the Colony the Sergeant could give the necessary instruction in drill.

I do not at all pledge myself to these details in connexion with this scheme but merely submit them and the entire question for discussion, and I feel assured that your knowledge and local experience will afford valuable assistance in coming to a conclusion regarding it. One thing I may say is, that it is no pet project of mine and that before I assume the responsibility of recommending it to the Secretary of State, I should wish that any objections to which it may seem to you to be open should be fully considered. The primary question to determine is whether such a project can be carried out without prejudice to the authority of the Government in preserving law and order and unless I am thoroughly assured of this, I certainly shall not feel justified in recommending it. However in the present disturbed state of Europe, circumstances may at any moment occur which would render it necessary for Her Majesty's Government to withdraw even the present small handful of Marines from the Colony in order to employ them in their more "legitimate duties" by which they would render more useful service to the country and it would be well to be prepared beforehand as to the best course to be adopted in the event of such a contingency.

contingency arising.

Mr Bailey and other members said that they endorsed the Governor's remarks respecting the inefficiency of the labour performed by the Marines and Mr. Bailey said that during his term of office for twenty five years as Superintendent of the Public Works, the labour performed by the Marines and other Military workmen was very unsatisfactory and that the same amount of money expended would have been far more advantageously spent in the employment of local labourers and artisans at contract work.

Mr Bailey also said that the inspection of the Sergeant as overseer of Works has always been inefficient and unsatisfactory.

Several members of the Council stated that the different Officers of Marines had a great objection to the practice occasionally resorted to here of sending an armed party of their men under a Sergeant in boats to escort refractory sailors to their ships, fearing that any mistaken or rash act might lead to bloodshed for which they might be held to be culpable. The case was also discussed of the difficulties and serious complications which might arise in sending such a force to quell a mutiny on board a ship lying in the harbour or outside in Port William some three miles distant from Stanley.

The Governor asked the Council how they thought the public would regard the removal of the Marines?

The members stated that as far as they knew the public feeling of the Colony was not favourable to the retention of the Marines provided a suitable force, civil or otherwise, can be substituted which would be sufficient for maintaining the authority of the Government and of law and order in the Colony.

The Colonial Treasurer stated that an influential resident (Mr George Dean) was in favour of a gunboat being stationed here instead of the Marines. And another gentleman of influence (Mr. J. B. Cobb) the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company had stated that if proper provision were made for carrying out the authority of the law he would not disapprove of the Marines being withdrawn, provided that any saving arising therefrom should be expended in public works and other objects of utility for the benefit of the Colony.

The unanimous opinion of the Council was that a Police Force consisting of a Sergeant and four men carefully selected from Pensioners who have served in the Royal Artillery or Marines would be sufficient for the requirements of this Colony if supplemented by two Assistant Constables chosen from the ex-Marines resident in Stanley.

Mr. Travis stated that an ex-marine named Sparks who lives here, who he believed was a man of excellent character and sober habits and had previously

previously acted as Chief Constable for a short time would be glad to take an appointment as a regular Constable (not as Assistant) in the proposed Police force.

In case the proposal of the removal of the Marines is carried out, the Council were of opinion that it would be desirable that they should leave behind their arms and ammunition in order to furnish arms for the Police and a small number of Volunteers and to enable others to be drilled.

If it were possible to get a shoemaker and a tailor amongst the Policemen selected in England, they would be a great advantage to the Colony and also be useful in keeping the men's uniforms and boots in repair. They would find profitable employment for their spare time. With a view to getting up a Volunteer Force it would be a great advantage if one of the Policemen sent out was a bugler.

The Council were also of opinion that it would be desirable to have half a dozen revolvers sent out from England for the use of the Police Force in case of emergency or in escorting refractory sailors to their ships.

The Governor was of opinion in which the Council concurred that the Policemen should not be allowed to carry these weapons unless they received a written permission from the Police Magistrate to do so.

In the course of the proceedings W. Watts read the following statement of his views on the

subject of the removal of the Marines.

"Now that the settlement is supplied with mechanics and labourers sufficient for the requirements of the place, the detachment of Marines is no longer necessary for the supply of working parties to the Government, the local labour being sufficient."

"As a force for defensive purposes the Marines are useless, their number being so small and ineffective. As police it is doubtful whether they are of any service to the Colony, being under Military Law it is a question whether they can at any time render any service as a body of Police."

"There is no doubt that their place could be filled by a small body of Police without any detriment to the Colony, and the change would be accompanied by a large saving in expense."

The Governor then addressed the Council with reference to an application received from the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company on the 17th August last to make certain alterations in the present Mail Contract. In this application Mr. Cobb states:—

"I am instructed to ask that all restrictions as to the conveyance and charge
for

"for passengers and goods may be done away
"with, it being the Custom now with Mail
"Contracts to pay so much for work done and
"allow the Contractor to make usual
"mercantile charges for passengers and freight.
The Governor also read the following extract from
the same letter:—

"The Company are anxious to carry
"out the service which they believe they have
"performed on the whole creditably but I must
"ask on their behalf that the restrictions may
"be removed, and point out that higher charges
"must be made for passengers and freight or
"an increased subsidy asked for, if the service
"is to be kept up as well as it has been
"hitherto."

The Governor laid before the Council certain
accounts Nos 1 and 2 received from Mr. Cobb on the
subject which he pronounced meagre and unsatisfactory
and expressed his regret that more detailed and
satisfactory accounts were not supplied in order
that data might be afforded for modifying the Contract
in such a way, as, while preserving the interests of
the public—might at the same time diminish the
loss alleged to have been sustained by the Company
in performing the service.

The Governor stated to the Council that he
would be extremely sorry to have the performance of

this service placed in other hands, which had been on the whole satisfactorily performed more especially as regards the punctual conveyance of the mails. He detailed to the Council that a complaint had been made to him by Charles Williams a publican and small storekeeper in Stanley, that his goods had on several occasions been left behind at Montevideo when there was room for them, and when he was entitled to have them conveyed under clause 9 of the Contract.

The Governor also referred to the fact that he had been informed that a notice had been placed in the Public Gazette Board of Stanley signed by Mr. Cobb in which it was stated that a petition was being taken round Stanley for signature and actively promoted by a gentleman in the Government Office and requesting that the public should not sign it until they saw him and heard the other side. The Governor stated that if it were meant to convey that he had used any influence whatever to induce persons to sign that petition, that such a statement was entirely erroneous, and that as soon as he heard of the notice in question he sent for Charles Williams, who he was told had charge of the petition and informed him in the presence of the Colonial Treasurer, that although he would be glad to forward any petition on the subject to the Secretary of State, that he did not think it right to ask or recommend people to sign such

a petition and requested him not to suppose for a moment that he cared whether the people signed the petition or not.

The Governor expressed his regret that considering the friendly relations which had always existed between himself and Mr. Cobb that that gentleman had not communicated with him before putting up the notice on the Gazette Board to ascertain from him whether his information was correct, when he could have assured him it was not. The Governor however said that he hoped that this circumstance would not disturb his friendly relations with Mr. Cobb, and that as far as he was concerned, he would not allow it to do so.

After some further remarks the Governor moved,

"That in the opinion of this Council it would be highly prejudicial to the interests of these settlements to alter the present Mail Contract with the Falkland Islands Company, by removing the obligations imposed upon the Contractors by clause 9 of the said Contract with regard to the conveyance and charge for passengers and goods."

W. Watts seconded this motion which was carried unanimously.

By desire of the Governor Mr. Travis read the petition and the members ^{that on the whole} thought it was a moderate

and correct statement of the facts.

The Governor said he noticed that amongst others the petition was signed by the Rev^d Mr Brandon, the Colonial Chaplain and the Rev^d Mr Toran, Roman Catholic Priest

The Governor also read a Memorandum from Governor Robinson with regard to the conveyance of boxes and parcels for Government Officers, which was permitted in the "Joan" and asked the Council whether it was not true that parcels and cargo were brought down for Charles Williams and other traders and the general public in the "Joan" by permission of the Governor? The Council stated that such was the fact.

The members of the Council stated in reply to the Governor that they were aware that Charles Williams had been refused space in the Mail Schooner to bring down cargo as complained of by him.

The Governor also asked whether it was not true that the "Joan" could carry at least 10 tons of cargo, although she had no regular hold, by stowing it away in the cabin and other places? The members stated that such was the fact.

The Council were also of opinion that charging £6 per First Class and £3-10/- for Second Class Passengers was already rather high and that to increase it would be most injurious to the Colony, by checking the influx of useful settlers and their families

families and that doing away all restrictions with regard to the conveyance of passengers would place a power in the hands of the Contractors that might be attended with most serious abuse.

A conversation arose as to the cargo accommodation of the Mail Schooner Black Hawk, and it was stated that she could carry 40 tons measurement and over 60 tons dead weight. The Council examined the accounts furnished by W Cobb and detected some inaccuracies in them.

W. Watts read the following statement.

"The Mail Contract as at present arranged gives the inhabitants the privilege of obtaining goods from other places beside Stanley: if this concession of 10 tons be withdrawn this would be prevented and only allowed by consent of the F. D. Coy. whose interest would lead them to prevent the carriage of goods and small parcels for the inhabitants generally. The result would be a greater monopoly than now exists and knowing as we do how indifferently the two stores are supplied, this would be a great hardship to the local residents. At the present time I know that the inhabitants are suffering ^{in health} from the use of unwholesome flour and should the concession be withdrawn the baker would have no means of supplying himself ^{with flour} from Montevideo as has been repeatedly done.

"before under the present Mail Contract. I believe
 "if the ten tons concession is withdrawn it
 "would be detrimental to the welfare of the
 "Colony."

The subject then dropped.

Mr. Travis read an application from
 Mr. Cobl the Manager of the Falkland Islands
 Company of the 8th August 1877 applying for
 a renewal of the lease of Section No 38 for a
 term of twenty one years under the Land
 Ordinance No 4 of 1871.

The Governor in submitting the application
 to the Council said that the Land Ordinance
 required six months notice to be given before the
 expiry of the lease, which had not been done in
 the present case, as the lease had expired before
 the application was sent in. This irregularity
 was probably owing to inadvertence and he
 moved notwithstanding that the application should
 be granted for the renewal in question.

Mr. Travis then read an application
 from Mr. A. Pitaluga of the 19th October 1877 applying
 for the renewal of the lease of Section No 37. under the
 term of the Land Ordinance No 4 of 1871. for the term
 of twenty one years. This application was also
 sent in after the expiry of the lease and without
 the

the usual notice.

The Governor stated that this was probably owing to the illness of the applicant and moved that the application for the renewal be granted. The renewal was granted accordingly.

The Council then adjourned sine die

L. J. Callaghan
Governor