

**CONFIDENTIAL.**  
No. *C/16/32*

*1932.*  
~~1929.~~

C.S.

Colonial Secretary. SUBJECT.

~~192~~ 32.  
11th August.

PROPOSED ABOLITION OF OFFICE OF  
VETERINARY OFFICER.  
-----

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

*G.S. Draft despatch submitted.*

*Jud*

*12. 8. 32.*

Hon C. S.

*Draft despatch approved  
with alterations pencilled. The  
frequent use of Norton name may  
give the impression of personal  
bias*

*J.G.S.  
15. 8. 32*

Subsequent Paper.  
*1-3*

*Conf. despatch to S of S of 16/8/32*

*6.f. 12. 12. 32  
Jud 18. 8. 32*

b.f. 28. 2. 33

ms 13. 12. 32

Hon. C. P.

Noted: I am  
satisfied

ms  
25. 1. 33

15. 3. 33.  
~~15. 3. 33~~

ms 26. 1. 33

Mr Norton transferred to Nigeria

as Veh. Off. See N.P. P/107 - and

70 sh. sh.

P.A.  
ms

8. 3. 33.

S. of S. Confidential despatch of 27/1/33. 4.

P.A.  
ms  
25. 3. 33

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY.

16th August, 1932.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that for some time past I have been giving my careful consideration to the possibility of effecting further economies in the public expenditure of the Colony and that in particular my attention has been drawn to the sum annually required by way of personal emoluments. Measures to reduce this sum are already in operation by the abolition, where possible, of offices as they fall vacant or, alternatively, by filling them at lower scales of salary. The benefit of such measures, however, is necessarily slow to be felt and it seems to me that in one direction at least more expeditious action might be taken. I refer to the office of Veterinary Officer.

2. You will be aware that the Veterinary Officer is among the most highly paid of the civil servants in this Colony, receiving salary at the rate of £700 a year rising by annual increments of £25 to £800 a year or at the same rate as the Colonial Secretary, the increased rate of £750 a year rising by annual increments of £25 to £850 a year being personal to Mr. J. H. Ellis the present holder. It is unnecessary for me to comment on the anomalous nature of the situation which thus arises, except to say that in my view the salary drawn by the Veterinary Officer is out of all proportion in existing/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
SIR PHILIP CONLIFFE-LISTER,  
G.B.E., P.C., M.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

existing circumstances to the financial resources of the Colony.

3. Furthermore I fail to see that there is any strong reason for the retention on the establishment of a Veterinary Officer. Actual importations of live stock into the Colony, even in times of prosperity, are few and far between and for all practical purposes are limited to rams and occasional cattle and dogs from the United Kingdom or New Zealand and to horses from Patagonia. Nor does it appear that there is any scope for research work requiring the services of an officer with special training such as the present Veterinary Officer, Mr. J. Morton, M.R.C.V.S.

4. The farmers are unanimous in their opinion that the Colony's need is not of a Veterinary Officer but of a practical stockman who will advise them not so much on the diseases of animals from which the Colony enjoys complete immunity as on the management of sheep in all its branches. They consider too that a satisfactory person to perform the duties is to be obtained locally at a considerable saving of expense. I cannot but agree with this opinion and I think that a suitable man should be forthcoming for a salary of £400 a year, or an immediate saving of £391 on the salary which it will be necessary to provide for the Veterinary Officer in 1933.

5. I recommend, therefore, that the office of Veterinary Officer should be abolished and should be replaced by that of Stock Inspector. This change represents no innovation of policy; for, as you will recollect, the balance of practice in the past has been to maintain a

Stock/

Stock Inspector in preference to a Veterinary Officer and prior to Mr. Morton's appointment in 1929 Mr. R. W. Carter had held the office of Chief Inspector of Stock since 1924 and on his departure in 1928 Mr. W. Faithful had been actually appointed as Stock Inspector with salary at the rate of £400 a year in accordance with the authority contained in Mr. Amery's telegram of the 3rd of August, 1928.

6. Accordingly I would request that the present Veterinary Officer may be transferred to a post in another Colony (he is worthy of it) or that, if this is not possible in the near future, I may be authorised to inform him that his office has been abolished in which event he will be eligible to receive a gratuity under the provisions of the Pensions Ordinance and Regulations.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

JAMES O'GRADY.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.  
CONFIDENTIAL.

DOWNING STREET,  
27 January, 1933.

Sir,

*Rec. 1-3*

I have the honour to refer to your Confidential despatch of the 16th August, and to inform you that I approve your recommendation that the post of Veterinary Officer should be abolished and replaced by that of Stock Inspector. In arriving at this decision I have been particularly influenced by the consideration that the farmers are said to be unanimous in their opinion that this step should be taken.

2. As there is no immediate prospect of any vacancy in another Colony to which the present Veterinary Officer, Mr. J. Morton, M.R.C.V.S., could be appointed, I approve his retrenchment on the terms laid down in Mr. Thomas' Circular despatch of the 17th September, 1931, and the grant to him of the gratuity for which he is eligible under the provisions of the Pensions Ordinance and Regulations.

3. Mr. Morton may be assured that his name will receive full consideration if any suitable appointment should become available in the Colonial Service, but I regret that I am not in a position to hold out any definite prospect of his being offered another appointment in the Service.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(Sgd.) B. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

GOVERNOR,

SIR JAMES O'GRADY, K.C.M.G.

etc., etc., etc.