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Reference to previous correspondence:—

~~Secretary of State's~~
Governor's

Despatch No. 58 of 27th of
May 1914.

Falkland Islands.

No 54.

Downing Street,

30th April 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you

for your consideration,

the papers noted below on the subject of the proposed lease to the
Colonial Government of Admiralty land at
Navy Point.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

L. HARCOURT.

The Officer Administering

the Government of

The Falkland Islands

Date.	Description.
16 th April	Copy of letter from the Admiralty.

CRW

ENCLOSURE TO DESPATCH

No. 54 OF 30/4/15 ADMIRALTY.



Copy.

16th April, 1915.

D.W. 21619/14.

Sir,

With reference to your letters of the 25th July 1914, No. 24336/1914 and 30th March 1915, No. 24336/1914, relative to the application by the Colonial Government to lease the Admiralty land at Navy Point, Falkland Islands, for the grazing of horses, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies that they will be pleased to grant a 10 years lease of the area in question at a rental of \$15 per annum subject to the right being reserved to the Admiralty to determine the tenancy at any time by 6 months notice if required for Naval purposes.

2. The lease would include conditions providing that the lessees make good any damage done by horses to the buildings etc., forming the Naval Depot, (which, with the Quarantine Station, would be excluded from the lease), that the land is only to be used for grazing purposes and that all necessary rights of access are reserved to the Admiralty.

3. My Lords also propose that an inventory be taken of any portable Admiralty property which remains at the Depot.

4. On hearing that the Colonial Government are agreeable to these conditions, steps will be taken to prepare the draft lease.

5.

5. In regard to the necessary right of way over the Admiralty land now leased by the Falkland Islands Company Limited, no action on this point appears necessary in view of the concluding paragraph of the Company's letter of the 21st January 1914 (copy enclosed with Admiralty letter 28th March 1914, D.W. 19447/3366) and the letter from the Company's local Manager, a copy of which was enclosed with your letter of the 25th July 1914.

6. When the Colonial Government's consent to the terms of the lease is received, it is proposed to inform the Company that it has been arranged to lease the land to the Colonial Government,

I am, etc.,

(SD) W. GRAHAM GREENE.

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

COLONIAL OFFICE, LONDON, S.W.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 151.

Government House, Stanley.

22nd November, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 54 of the 30th April last, I have the honour to submit that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty might, on further consideration, be willing to allow the Colonial Government to assume charge, and free of rent have the use of Navy Point lands for grazing purposes when required. At present the Colonial Government hire from the Admiralty at a somewhat high yearly rental of £45, the small quarantine station on the lands. The £45 might, I submit be considered sufficient to cover both.

2. For grazing purposes the lands are not of much value, and as far as I can see they would be seldom used by the Government for this purpose. If rented at current local rates, the yearly rental would be about £1.4.2. The suggested figure of £15 per annum appears to me therefore somewhat high.

3. I consider it would not be in public interests to lease the land to any person or Company.

4. If the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty see their way to allow the Colonial Government to assume charge of the lands in trust for them, I suggest that the following conditions might attach:-

a. That

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

- a. That the Colonial Government shall be viewed as the "Owner" for the purposes of section 22 of The Land Ordinance, 1903, in maintaining the boundary fence with the owner of the adjoining land.
- b. That the Colonial Government shall not rent or lease the land to any person,
- c. That the Colonial Government shall at any time, when required by the Admiralty do so, give up charge of the land, and
- d. That no buildings or works of construction on the land shall be undertaken without the sanction of the Admiralty.

5. In connexion with these lands I may mention that following local custom of annually burning the dry grass of pasture lands to encourage new growth, the lessee of the land adjoining Navy Point recently set fire to the grass on his land. The fire spread, and the grass on the Navy Point land caught fire. Fanned by strong winds the fire ran rapidly to within a few yards of the Admiralty buildings in which quantities of Admiralty stores of several descriptions are at present housed.

6. Had it not been for Lieut. J. R. Crawford, R.N.V.R. who was at work for several hours during the night beating back and keeping the fire under control, the fire would in all probability have reached the Admiralty buildings, and of account of the nature of the stores housed therein caused an explosion of some magnitude.

7. The offender has been charged before the Magistrate and dealt with for not taking proper precautions to confine the fire within the boundary of his own land.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

W. J. G. G. G.

S/S.

G.H. Stanley.

22nd November, 1915.

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- b. That the Colonial Government shall not rent or lease the land to any person, ~~and~~
- c. That the Colonial Government shall at any time, when required by the Admiralty to do so, give up charge of the land. *and*
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within a few yards of the ^{Admiralty} buildings in the Navy Dockyard in which ^{quantities of} Admiralty stores of ^{several} ~~all~~ descriptions are at present housed.

6. Had it not been for the ~~timely~~ personal services of Lieut. J.R. Crawford, R.N.V.R. ^{who was} in the ~~at work~~ ^{at work for several hours during} matter, Lieut. Crawford was up throughout the night

~~is~~ ^{and keeping} beating back the fire, ^{under control,} the fire would undoubtedly ^{in all probability} have ^{Admiralty} reached the buildings, and on account of the nature of the stores housed therein, would in all probability ~~have~~ caused an explosion of some magnitude.

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the boundary of his own land.

Sharon do
D.

Falkland Islands

No. 58

Government House, Stanley.

27th May, 1914.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 31 of 1st April and previous correspondence on the subject of the proposed leasing of the Admiralty land at Navy Point I have, since my return to the Colony, given careful consideration to the whole question, and also to the scheme for the reorganization of the Volunteer Corps; and seeing that a lease to Mr. McGill might adversely affect the latter, I do not desire to press the proposal contained in my despatch No. 99 of the 5th July, 1913.

2. The proposal made by Administrator Dickson in his despatch No. 173 of the 17th December that the land should be used for the winter grazing of horses in connection with the Volunteer movement, and inter alia Government horses, is one which I have now much pleasure in supporting. It is considered by the Chief Constable and others who understand the grazing capacity of the land better than I do, that there is winter feed on the ground for about fifteen horses.

3 The accompanying letter from Mr. Harding to Capt. Dickson shews that no objection will be raised by the Falkland Islands Company to the carrying out of this proposal. The only point on which I would suggest a slight

The Right Honourable

Lewis Harcourt, P. C.

&C., &C., &c.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies

London, S. W.

slight modification is that the lease from the Admiralty should be made to the Government and not to the Volunteers. The rent would be £15 per annum, as already arranged, and the period of lease ten years.

4. I have spoken to Mr. Harding on the general question and have agreed with him that we should jointly undertake to erect a dividing fence at an early date, in accordance with the terms of the Land Ordinance.

5. In these circumstances it will be impossible to do anything for Mr. McGill at present, and I am informing him that his application cannot be entertained, but hereafter when the lessees of the following suburban leases die,

Mr. James Smith Peninsular Farm

Mr Christopher Bender Moody Valley Farm

Mr B Browning Mullet Creek Farm

it would be well to enlarge the Public Common and provide at the same time for additional grazing ground for all the prospective as well as present requirements of the Government, and in addition for the local butchers.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

W.L.A.

Governor.

Falkland Islands

Enclosure to Despatch No.58 of 27th May 1915.

Hon. W. A. Harding M. L. C. to Administrator Dickson.

Stanley, December 15th 1913.

Dear Captain Dickson,

With reference to our conversation on Saturday I enclose herewith a copy of what I wrote last mail on the question of the lease of Navy Point.

None of the objections which I urged there would apply at all to your proposition that the Point should be reserved for wintering horses in connection with your Volunteer scheme and I feel sure my Company would not place the slightest obstacle in the way. We should probably suggest that you put another gate in our fence, keeping it locked, so as to be quite independent and to avoid borrowing the key of our gate ; in fact I expect that this is what you would yourself wish.

I think that the fence of Navy Point itself will require complete renewal.

I have spoken to Dettleff as to the number of horse that the Point would maintain in the winter; he puts the number at about 15; you might have some difficulty as regards water in the spring, but this could be easily remedied by a little digging. I cannot speak for certain about this ; you will doubtless go over the ground yourself later.

(signed) W. A. Harding.