

1923

C.S.

*Confidential  
Police*No. *11/23.**Acting Governor*

SUBJECT.

1923.

*30 July.*

Previous Paper.

*alleged Defective Police work.*

MINUTES.

*Minutes from Act Governor 30 July 1923**Letter from Manager of H.L.O. 30 July 1923**Police Magistrate.**For necessary action.**G.P.H. 17**Di G Sec**30 July 1923*

Hon. Ccl. Sec:

Under section 27 of Ord. No. 3 of 1900 the Governor may appoint a Commission of Inquiry. I do not consider, however, that the statements made by Mr. Gresham are sufficiently supported to warrant enquiry by a Commission.

With regard to -

- (1) Mr. Gresham might be asked to ascertain from the witnesses he mentions the source from which they got their information. I do not consider Thomas Mills to be a very reliable witness.
- (2) Would hardly warrant enquiry by a Commission. Miss A. Sullivan who is a Public servant might be asked whether she made the statement alleged. Her reply would govern any further action that might be considered advisable.
- (3) It was the duty of the person waiting to give information on the 25th July last to have informed the Constable on duty when he failed to find the Chief Constable. I understand that the Chief Constable was at the Guard room at about 7 p.m. that evening.

2. With regard to the charge of drunkenness I would point

Subsequent Paper.

point out that the Chief Constable informed me on the morning of the 26th inst (the day after the occurrence) as follows:-

"On the afternoon of the 25th July I went with Mr. Noye to the Sports Cottage. On our way back we called at the Defence Force canteen which was being moved that day and we had two drinks together. This was about 4 p.m. Mr. Noye then left and I had two more drinks. I left about 4.30 p.m. and after proceeding a short distance I came over queer and seemed to loose the use of my legs. I got into the dockyard, after getting home home I got alright again and after tea I went over to the guard room"

In answer to my question the Chief Constable stated he was not under the influence of liquor. I pointed out to him that it was unfortunate that he had been seen in such a condition in daylight whether he was ill or otherwise as the public would naturally think by his actions that he was under the influence of liquor. He then stated that he was going to report the matter to H.E. the Ag. Governor but I advised him not to do so unless he had committed himself by getting under the influence of liquor - he again strongly denied that such was the case.

Mr. Noye informed me that when he left the Canteen the Chief Constable was perfectly sober - he admitted having had two drinks with him. The only other person in the Canteen was Mr. D. Lehen, the bar-keeper, and he could no doubt say actually happened there.

If the Chief Constable was able to go to the guard room and issue patrol orders to the Constable on duty he could easily have taken information from any person wishing to give same.

As all the participants in this matter were Govt. servants ordinary disciplinary enquiry into the conduct of the officer concerned should bring out the true facts.

3. I consider that failure to find any of the stolen goods was partly due to delay on the part of the F. I. Co. Ltd in supplying the Police with a description of the stolen articles to enable warrants to be issued. The theft was reported to the Police in the morning of the 9th July but the required description of the stolen articles was not supplied until the night of the 11th inst two days afterwards. I am personally aware that the Chief Constable did his utmost to obtain the particulars from the F. I. Co. without delay as besides seeing the Chief Storekeeper himself on two or three occasions he also asked the Manager in my hearing on two occasions to hasten the completion of the list required.

4. I fear I have transgressed in giving my opinion on certain points.

I consider that as a preliminary it would be better to appoint some officer to enquire into and report on the allegations made.

*M. G. Raji Harkara*  
S. I.

Aug 1st 1923

*V. G.*  
*Submitted*  
*W. H. B.*  
*D. J. S.*  
*2 Aug 1923*

Will you please write to Mr. Gresham, and inform him in <sup>confidentially</sup> acknowledging his letter that I ~~propose to cause~~ <sup>propose to cause</sup> a strict inquiry ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> be made into the allegation against the Police, and that it is necessary for the purpose of dealing with the first charge that his witnesses should state the source from <sup>which</sup> they allege that they heard that certain houses were going to be searched by the police at least a day before the search was made. He may be assured that the information of these witnesses will be treated confidentially.

H.H.H. 3 August 1923

Letter to Mr. Gresham, G.S.O. 3 Aug 1923 (2)

I am obliged to the Police Magistrate for his report.

The Chief Constable was on the 31<sup>st</sup> instant attacked by thieves in the Treasury while signing pay vouchers. There was no suggestion whatever that he was in any way

under the influence of liquor  
and the Colonial Surgeon who saw  
him immediately afterwards and  
examined him certified that  
he was suffering from tachycardia  
and put him on the sick list.

I now appoint ~~Mr. [Name]~~<sup>the Police</sup>  
Inspector ~~[Name]~~ to enquire closely into  
the charges made against the  
Police by Mr. Gorman.

The present enquiry will be  
strictly confidential and the officers  
to be examined are :- Mr. Lehen,  
Mr. B. Ratcliffe, Miss Alma  
O'Sullivan and the Police Constable  
or Constables who were on duty  
at the guard room on the afternoon  
of the 25<sup>th</sup> of July between 6 and 7 p.m.  
as well as the Chief Constable.

Miss Alma Sullivan's evidence  
should be taken first and if necessary  
without notice to the Chief Constable.

I wish all the persons giving  
evidence to be formally warned that  
it is my specific orders that they  
are not to divulge the matter of the  
enquiry to any person ~~and whatsoever~~  
and that strict disciplinary action  
will be taken if this order is not obeyed.

Encl 3 A further letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of August has now been received from Mr. Gresham which retracts me of the charges made. I then observe that Mr. Gresham stated verbally to me at his interview that he could produce eight or ten witnesses who knew that the houses would be searched. He has clearly been grossly misled.

The evidence of the constable or constables on duty at the guardroom is required because Mr. Gresham's informant waited for some time at the guardroom to see the Chief Constable - according to Mr. Gresham's information.

7 Aug. 1923

~~Police Constable~~ Magistrate.

Referred to you.

G.R.B.

Clk Sec

8 Aug 1923

Hon. Sec.

Encl 5 Enquiry has been held and the following persons examined: - Messrs A. Sullivan, Mr. D. Lehen, Mr. A. Ratcliffe and Constables Headford and Mc Mahon. I did not examine the Chief Constable as he had

already given the voluntary  
statements contained in my minute  
of 1<sup>st</sup> August last.

2. It does not appear that  
Miss Sullivan divulged any  
information. It would however  
have been more satisfactory if the  
person or persons who informed the  
Manager F. S. Co. could have been  
examined also.

3. The charge of drunkenness  
against the Chief Constable has  
not been substantiated. In this  
instance also I think the  
informers or informers should  
have been brought forward to  
support the statements made  
by them. I consider that  
the information given to the  
Manager F. S. Co. has been  
exaggerated.

4. During the time I have  
been Magistrate in this Colony  
I have always found Chief  
Constable Sullivan ready and  
capable of performing his Police  
duties when required. I have  
never had any report that he  
has been incapable through  
drunkenness of performing his  
work. I have not known him  
to be a man of intemperate habits,  
and so far as I personally know  
he did everything possible to train  
the delinquents in the "Lafonia"  
robbery and <sup>he</sup> was in no way  
incapacitated through drink.

M. Brian Hallett

28.9.23 S.H.

Confidential

U.S.O. No. 11/23

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 4

I have spoken to the Chief Constable and told him that I have been personally satisfied that he was not under the influence of liquor on the 25. of July. He says that he staggered and that he felt certain at the time that any one seeing him could have come to no other conclusion than that he was drunk. It was for this reason that he reported the matter to the Magistrate on the following morning

Letter to Mr. Graham as in the enclosure please

11/11/23 2 Oct.

Letter to Manager of L.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1923

Letter from Manager of L.S. 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 1923 (6)

W.E. Submitted 17<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1923

Satisfactory.  
I should have mentioned in my minute that I told the Chief Constable that I did not approve of his being

takes several drinks in the  
~~afternoon~~ & irrespective of whether  
they could have affected him or not

~~Walt~~ 12 Oct. 23

Confidential

From His Excellency the Acting Governor

to The Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat.

The Manager F.I.C. asked to see me on Saturday with reference to alleged defective police work.

He related several incidents and I asked him to formulate them in writing.

This morning he has brought up the attached letter.

Of the charges

- (1) It seems to me necessary that the source from which the reliable witnesses obtained their information should be traced. I ascertained that the witnesses were (1) Mr. Kells (2) Mr. Brown. Of the latter I know nothing, of the former who is caretaker for the F.I.C. I know that the police reported him recently for refugee. Mr. Gresham knows said that he could bring other witnesses who knew the premises of the suspected men were to be searched.
- (2) is quite definite and an explanation is required

(3) is a very serious charge. <sup>It was not mentioned on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup></sup> What it amounts to is that the Chief Constable was drunk on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> instant and

unable to walk home alone.

I shall be glad of the advice of the Police Magistrate as to the action to clear this matter up. I do not think that any of the charges can bear on any case which may come before the Magistrate in Court; it is not an examination of the charges in detail that is required but advice as to the form the enquiry should take. (3) ~~amounts~~ only to "it is reported about the town" although the penultimate paragraph assumes the report as a definite statement of what actually happened.

Attest

30 July 1923

STANLEY. FALKLAND ISLANDS.

30th July, 1923.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Mr. Heaton,

After further consideration following on our conversation I think it more advisable only to refer to facts which are absolutely capable of proof and this being so I shall confine myself to the robbery onboard the "Lafonia" alone.

It is not my wish and I am not in a position to criticize the work of the Police as a force; this must necessarily depend upon the information and instructions they receive and any remarks I might make as to the leakage of information, unless I could prove the actual source, might reflect on members of the Force who are entirely innocent.

Confining myself therefore entirely to the "Lafonia" case I will set forth my reasons for thinking the thieves would have been caught by now if information had not leaked out.

(1). The robbery took place on the 7th July and the Police were informed immediately after it was discovered on the 9th at about 11.am. I can bring forward two reliable witnesses to prove that they knew the suspected houses were going to be searched at least one day before this was done. Nothing was found as the thieves had warning.

(2) On Friday 13th July it was a dark night and the occasion of the Fancy Dress Ball. Alma

Alma/  
Sullivan informed Mrs Biggs and Miss McAtasney, Millinery Store Assistants, that the suspected houses were to be watched that night as the thieves would try to get some of the stuff away if any remained on the premises.

(3) On Wednesday the 25th instant a certain person waited about the Gaol for Sullivan to inform him that he had just seen two men with a light (probably an electric torch) proceeding up the Magazine Valley and that they were seen to enter Mr. Bonner's shed on the West side of the Company's Dairy paddock. It is reported about the Town that on that afternoon Sullivan obtained liquor from the Volunteer Canteen, whilst liquor was being removed from one place to another, and that he was seen back to the Gaol by B. Ratcliffe. Later he was at the Stanley Arms, Rose Hotel and finished up at the Falkland Club.

It is practically certain that had Sullivan been in a fit condition and had he interviewed the informant between 6 and 7 pm that evening and constables been despatched quickly to Bonner's shed they would have caught two of the thieves redhanded. A bag was discovered the next morning in the shed with remnants of the stolen goods inside or lying about.

I do not think it is surprizing that no arrests have been made owing to the proposed search being known, Alma Sullivan's remark in the Millinery Store and the episode on Wednesday last.

Yours faithfully,

His Excellency  
The Acting Governor.

*W. R. Beahm*

2

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

Conf. 11/23.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Stanley,

3rd August, 1923.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter of the 30th of July and to inform you that His Excellency proposes to cause a strict enquiry to be made into the allegations made against the Police.

2. I am to say that, for the purpose of dealing with the first charge contained in your letter, your witnesses should state the source from which they allege that they heard that certain houses were going to be searched by the Police at least a day before the search was made. I am to assure you that the information of these witnesses will be treated confidentially.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown.

for Colonial Secretary.

H. H. R. Gresham, Esq.,

Manager,

The Falkland Islands Company, Ltd.,

Stanley.

STANKEEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,

6th August, 1923.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

CONF. 11/23.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd ins, and, in reply to say that I regret that in my letter of the 30th ultimat I stated that it was known in the Town that certain houses were going to be searched by the Police at least one day before the actual search took place.

I have gone very closely into the matter and find that my informant, who has hitherto proved most reliable, has undoubtedly misled me on this occasion, as I am unable to find anyone to support his contention. I feel convinced that he is entirely mistaken. I certainly consider that he was acting in all good faith but had become, owing to lapse of time and various conversations which had taken place, confused in his dates.

Needless to say I very much regret having repeated the statement, the responsibility for which remains with myself as I should have made further enquiries before bringing the point forward at all and I shall therefore be obliged if you will convey my regrets to His Exoellency the Acting Governor for so doing.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*W. B. Stephenson*  
Messrs. F. I. Co. L.

The Honourable  
The Colonial Secretary.

Confidential

(4)

From His Excellency the Acting Governor

to The Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat.

When may the report from the  
Police Magistrate be expected as the  
charges made by the manager of the F.I.C.  
against the Chief Constable? It should  
not be delayed

W.H.H. 12 Sept. 23

Police Magistrate  
Referred.  
G.M.H.  
Di'c/Sec  
12 Sept 1923

The Honble the Colonial Secretary,

I regret the delay in dealing with the matter. Owing to pressure of work occasioned by the last mail together with legal work recently occasioned by the case Rex v. Hardy I could not proceed with the matter until last week. On requiring the attendance of Miss Alma Sullivan I was informed that she was ill with quinsy and could not go out. As soon as I can secure Miss Sullivan's attendance I will at once proceed with the matter.

M. Brainerd Hulbert  
Magistrate.  
12.9.23

Submitted.  
G.M.H.  
Di'c/Sec  
13 Sept 1923

It is now a fortnight since the above  
was written but I have not yet received the  
report.

~~11/11/23~~ 26 Sept. 23

Police Magistrate

Referred

G.R.B.

Dickson

26 Sept 1923

Hon. Col. Sec.

Report herewith.

M. Frank Harker

28.9.23

Confidential Enquiry made before the undersigned Police Magistrate at Stanley, Falkland Islands, this twentieth day of September 1923, into charges contained in a Private and Confidential letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 1923 addressed by the Manager of the Falkland Islands Co. Ltd (Mr. H. H. R. Gresham) to His Excellency the Acting Governor (enclosure 1<sup>a</sup> in Confidential paper 11/23)

M. George Harkitt  
Police Magistrate

(2) of  
Enclosure 1 A  
in Conf: 11/23

Alma Maria Sullivan examined on oath - sworn. I am telephone operator. In the early part of July I heard that there had been a robbery on the schooner "Lafonia", and also that certain houses in Stanley had been searched. This was public talk - everyone knew and talked about it. About the 13<sup>th</sup> July last I was in the Millinery Store one afternoon talking to Mr. George Beys about different things (the other Assistant Miss McAtasney was also in Store) when the subject of the robbery on the Lafonia was mentioned. During the conversation I did mention to Mr. Beys the words "probably they will be watched tonight." I did not mention the word "houses" or any person

person or persons name. I had no information from my father who is Chief Constable that any houses were to be watched on that night or on any other night. I am certain I made no use of the word "houses" when speaking to Mrs Beags and I feel sure that if the matter is referred to her she will verify this. It was generally known that certain people were suspected of the robbery and that their houses had been searched the day before, the 12<sup>th</sup> July last. Everyone knew who the people were. The words used by me "probably they will be watched tonight" were purely out of my own mind as I naturally thought that suspected persons would be watched. I swear that the remark made by me was not on any information I had got direct or overheard either in my own home or outside. I did not know any houses were to be searched until after the search was completed.

xx<sup>d</sup> I did not go to the Millinery Store on the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup> July or the 13<sup>th</sup> to give out information.

My father did not discuss or mention to me any measures the Police were going to take.

I heard nothing about houses being watched during the time I was

performing my telephone duty.  
I never made use of the word  
"thieves" or the words "they would  
try and get the stuff away" in  
conversation with M<sup>r</sup> G. Biygs or  
anyone else.

Alma O' Sullivan.

(3) of enclosure  
1<sup>a</sup> Conf. 11/23.

Daniel Lehen, sworn. I am Head  
Govt. Carter. On the 25<sup>th</sup> July last I  
was busy at the Defence Force Club  
moving the contents of the canteen  
into another room. Towards 4 p.m.  
M<sup>r</sup> Noye and the Chief Constable came  
in. We all had two drinks each.  
After this M<sup>r</sup> Noye left leaving M<sup>r</sup>  
Sullivan in the canteen. After M<sup>r</sup>  
Noye left I went on with my work of  
moving things. I did not actually give  
more than the two drinks and I  
did not see M<sup>r</sup> Sullivan leave anymore.  
After we had each had two drinks  
there was a part-bottle of gin left  
on the counter. I cannot say whether  
M<sup>r</sup> Sullivan helped himself or not  
while I was away in the other part  
of the building. I took no particular  
notice of how much was left in the  
bottle after we had each had two  
drinks. During this time two  
carpenters were working in the place,  
Owen and Fred King, and I understood  
them to say that they had had  
one drink with M<sup>r</sup> Sullivan. During  
the

time I saw Mr Sullivan at the Canteen he appeared to be perfectly sober. He was only in the place a short time as he left before bell ring (4.30 p.m). From my own personal knowledge I would not think that the two or three drinks he had could possibly have put him under the influence of liquor to such an extent as to make him appear to be drunk, it was as if drinking had been going on for some time. So far as I am aware Mr Sullivan was quite alright when he left the Canteen. The first drink he had there that afternoon was when he came in with Mr Noye.

D. Fisher.

Albert Ratchiff, sworn. I am deck hand on Govt. Launch "Penguin". About 25 past 4 p.m on the 25<sup>th</sup> July last I was in the Govt. Blacksmith's Shop when Chief Constable Sullivan came in with a Key which he asked Cole, the Blacksmith to attend or fix for him. When he came in Mr Sullivan appeared to me to be quite alright both in his work and in his speech - he certainly did not strike me as being under the influence of liquor. Just after this the bell rang (4.30) and I, Sullivan and Cole came out of the Blacksmith's Shop when Sullivan

called me back - he said "I do not feel alright" and asked if I would stop with him a minute. He appeared to be queer as he was leaning against bench outside the Smithy with his hand catching hold of it. I remained there with him about a minute when he left to go home. He still seemed queer until we reached the Carpenter's Shop in Dockyard after which he appeared to get alright and walked along home himself. He remarked that he had felt queer. I in no way had to keep him beyond standing him at the Smithy bench when he first remarked to me "I do not feel alright" I did not have to see him home - I was going home the same way and accompanied him along the road and when he reached his gate he said good night to me. Going along the road he was talking to me and seemed alright he remarked that he had felt very queer. During the few minutes I was with him he did not appear to me to be drunk or under the influence of liquor and his actions did not indicate that he was intoxicated. I recollect that on another occasion when Mr Sulwari was in the dockyard I heard him remark that he was going home as he felt queer.

A. E. Ratcliffe

Edward Headford sworn. I am a  
Police constable. On the 25<sup>th</sup> July  
last I was on duty from 5 p.m. to  
10 p.m. Between 7 and 7.30 p.m.  
I was in the Police Station with  
Constable Mc Mahon who came on  
duty at 7 p.m. when the Chief  
Constable came in and made his  
order book out. This was the first  
time I saw the Chief Constable  
that day. Soon after making  
out his order book the Chief Constable  
left the Police Station. He was  
perfectly alright and I noticed  
nothing unusual about him. Between  
5 and 6 p.m. that evening I was  
doing patrol in the town. At 10  
past 6 I went home for my supper  
and returned to the Police Station  
at 20 minutes to 7. I saw no one  
waiting about the jail that  
day. When I saw the Chief Constable  
he did not appear to me to have  
been recently intoxicated - he seemed  
to be his usual self.

Constable Edward Headford

Michael Joseph Mc Mahon, sworn  
I am a Police constable. On the  
25<sup>th</sup> July last I was on duty from  
7 p.m. to midnight. Shortly after  
7 that night the Chief Constable  
came over to the Police Station,  
I and Constable Headford were

there. The Chief Constable remained at the Police Station a short time. I and Constable Headford left on patrol - the Chief Constable left about the same time. I noticed nothing unusual about him - he seemed the same as ever. He was certainly not intoxicated neither did he seem to be under the influence of liquor. I did not see him any more that night.

Michael J. McMahon.

Before taking evidence each witness was formally warned in accordance with the Ag. Governors Minute of the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1923. (Confid. 11/23)

(2) of enclosure 1<sup>a</sup> in Confid. 11/23. In her evidence Miss Alma Maria Sullivan admits having used in conversation with Mr G.P. Biggs at the F. Is. Co's Mellin's Store the words "probably they will be watched tonight" but states that she made no use of the words "house", "thieves" or the words "they would buy and get the stuff away". Verification of Miss Sullivan's evidence could only be carried out by examination of Mr G.P. Biggs and Miss McAtamney who were apparently Mr Gresham's informants. There is no evidence to show that Miss Sullivan divulged any information. She has stated that she received no information from

her father the Chief Constable that any houses were to be watched neither did she get any such information in the course of her duties as a Telephone Operator. I see no reason to disbelieve Miss Sullivan's statement especially as she makes reference to Mr G. P. Biggs of what she said. The fact that Miss Sullivan mentioned anything at all with reference to the "Lafone" robbery has no doubt led Mr Gresham to believe that such remarks as were made were the outcome of information she had got from the Chief Constable. The informer has apparently given Mr Gresham an incorrect or exaggerated version of the actual words used by Miss Sullivan.

(3) of enclosure 1<sup>a</sup> Confid: 11/23. Four witnesses have been examined namely, Daniel Lehen, Albert Ratcliffe and Constables Headford and McMahon. Other persons who have knowledge of the Chief Constable's actions at the Defence Force Canteen on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1923 and later the same day were Messrs Owen and Fred King and W. Cole. These persons have not been examined.

Witness Daniel Lehen would only testify to having seen the Chief Constable have two drinks in the Defence Force Canteen  
on

the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1923, but stated that he was told by the Kings that they also had had one drink with the Chief Constable. Witness further testifies that the Chief Constable appeared to be perfectly sober and that so far as he was aware the Chief Constable was quite alright when he left the Lantein shortly before 4.30 p.m. It should be noted that in his own statement the Chief Constable stated that he had four drinks. The evidence of Witness Lehen shows that there was no excessive drinking going on in the Lantein on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1923.

The evidence of witness Albert Ratcliffe confirms that of the previous witness as regards the time the Chief Constable left the Lantein. Witness states that the Chief Constable went to the Blacksmiths Shop at about 25 minutes past 4 on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> July, and that he then appeared to be quite alright and did not strike him as being under the influence of liquor. It is further stated that the Chief Constable went to the Smithy to get a key mended. Witness noticed nothing unusual until leaving the Smithy at 4.30 p.m. in company with Wm. Cole and the Chief Constable when the Chief Constable called him back and asked him to stay with him a minute as he did not

feel alright. The Chief Constable remarked that he felt queer. Witness states that during the few minutes he was with him the Chief Constable did not appear to him to be either drunk or under the influence of liquor. Witness further stated that he did not take the Chief Constable home, but as he himself was going home in the same direction as the Chief Constable he accompanied him. Witness also stated that on a previous occasion he heard the Chief Constable remark that he felt queer and would have to go home.

Constable Edward Headford was on duty from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1923. He states that he first saw the Chief Constable at the Police Station between 7 and 7.30 p.m., and noticed nothing unusual about him. Witness states that between 5 and 6 p.m. he was on patrol. At 10 minutes past 6 he left the Police Station for his supper and returned again at 20 minutes to 7. He noticed no person waiting about the Gaol.

The evidence of Constable Mc Mahon who was on duty from 7 p.m. to midnight on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1923, merely confirms the evidence of Constable Headford that the

Chief Constable visited the Police Station shortly after 7 p.m. and that he then appeared to be alright.

It has not been possible to ascertain whether the Chief Constable visited certain Public houses and the Falkland Club on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1923. To obtain evidence as to this it would be necessary to examine certain members of the Public. Assuming that the Chief Constable did visit certain public houses on the evening in question, he was entitled to do so in carrying out usual Police Supervision.

The evidence taken fails to show: -

- (1) That Miss Sullivan divulged any information and
- (2) That the Chief Constable was drunk or under the influence of drink on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1923.

The Chief Constable in the statement he made to me (vide my minute of 1.8.23) said that he felt "queer" on leaving the Canteen on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> July - he also strongly denied that he was under the influence of liquor. Witness A. Ratchiff has also stated that the Chief Constable complained of feeling queer while at the Smithy, witness

further stated that on a previous occasion he had heard the Chief Constable complain of feeling queer. I am of opinion that the charge of drunkenness has not been sustained, but that the Chief Constable who has been subject (to use his own words) to "queer turns" had such an attack after leaving the canteen on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> July last. The Chief Constable suffered a similar attack while in the Treasury Office on the 31<sup>st</sup> August last - a short time afterwards he came to my office when I noticed that he appeared to be partly dazed.

M. Harpi Halbet  
Magistrate.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Conf. 11/23.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

STANLEY,

4th October, 1923.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 3rd of August, 1923, I am directed by the Acting Governor to express regret that so much delay should have occurred in sending a reply to your private and confidential letter of the 30th of July on the subject of "facts" adverse to the police, which were in your opinion "absolutely capable of proof" in connection with the "Lafonia" case. By correspondence terminating with your letter of the 6th of August you generously withdrew certain allegations but there remained the charges (a) that information had been given by a daughter of the Chief Constable on the 13th of July that the suspected houses were to be watched and (b) that the Chief Constable was unfit for duty on the 25th of July or the thieves would have been caught redhanded.

2. Miss Alma Sullivan has been examined and is positive that she said no more to Mrs Biggs than could be conveyed by the words "they will probably be watched tonight." She was referring to the suspected persons whose houses had been searched on the previous night. She had no knowledge of the matter/

H. H. R. Gresham, Esq.,

Manager, Falkland Islands Company, Ltd.,

Stanley.

matter beyond the common knowledge that the houses of these persons had been searched and she was giving expression from her own mind to the logical sequence of events. She had heard nothing directly or indirectly from the Chief Constable or in his house, in the matter.

5. I am to say that His Excellency has not been able to obtain any confirmation of the suggestion that the Chief Constable was in any way under the influence of liquor on Wednesday the 25th. It is true that he did have something to drink at the Volunteer Canteen; subsequently he proceeded to the blacksmith's shop in the Dockyard on duty. He left there at 4.50 p.m., and was attacked with what was apparently a kind of fainting fit outside the door. Albert Ratcliffe was going the same way home and accompanied him past his gate. The Chief Constable was then feeling better and he walked without assistance. He had been subject to similar fainting attacks before and on the morning of the 31st of July a further attack while he was signing vouchers in the Treasury caused him to be put on the sick list, the doctor diagnosing tachycardia. There is ample evidence that he was quite sober on the 25th of July between 6 and 7 p.m., and your informant would have so found him had he gone to see him; he had performed all his ordinary police duties during that evening. There is no doubt that he was subjected to a great strain under severe conditions at the time and that this brought on the attacks.

4. I am to assure you that the Government has no desire to mitigate or palliate any indications of slackness or inefficiency on the part of any member of the police force and that every endeavour is being made to improve the police methods for the prevention of crime.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown.

For Colonial Secretary.

Stanley, Falkland Islands. (7)

8th October, 1923.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 11/23.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th ins, and will be obliged if you will convey to His Excellency the Acting Governor my thanks for having gone so thoroughly into the matters reported to me in connection with the persons referred to.

I am glad to learn that the suggestion that the Chief Constable was under the influence of liquor on the 25th July has no foundation and regret that this impression should have been created in some minds owing to his being subjected to an attack of tachycardia.

In conclusion I may say that the necessity for making a confidential complaint about anybody is most distasteful to me but seeing that the circumstances to which I referred were the subject of considerable comment in Stanley there was really no other course open to me.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary.

Stanley.