

C. S.

INDUSTRIES.  
(Misc.)

1946

No. 52/46.

SUBJECT.

The Secretary of State

1946

21st April

Previous Paper.

FORESTAL LAND TIMBER & RAILWAYS COMPANY LTD.,

KELP INDUSTRY IN THE FALKLAND IS.

478/28.

MINUTES.

1. Telegram No 68 from S of S. of 21.4.46
2. " " No. 128 to S of S. of 30.4.46

3. Extract from letter from Dr. J. E. Hamer of 3.8.46.

~~4. Letter to Sir Frank Stokess, C.O. of 26.9.46~~

~~5. Memo on papers of Wess Supply Bureau to  
D.S. by Captain S. L. of 23.9.46~~

*Handwritten initials and date:*  
M. Kelly  
25.4

Subsequent Paper. -

DECODE.

No. 74/DG7.

TELEGRAM.

M.P. 17/46

(1)  
44

From The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched: April 21st 19 46 Time: 11.30.

Received: April 22nd 19 46 Time: 09.30.

Reel in 17/46

No. 68. My telegram No. 21. Forestal Land Timber and Railways Company Limited is interested in process for extraction of algin from certain kinds of seaweed particularly *Macrocystis Pyrifera* and has obtained option to manufacture and sell this product in South America bulk of seaweed lies around Cape Horn and Falkland Islands and to exercise option Company would have to purchase fleet of ships to reap seaweed and chop it into small pieces these would require supplies for maintenance and Company would like to know whether Falklands could supply food ships stores and fuel (either coal or oil) and whether ship repairs could be carried out locally.

2. Chopped seaweed would have to be conveyed to factory ship or factory ashore in latter case following would be required

- (a) building materials such as bricks timber slates and cement
- (b) furniture for houses and offices
- (c) fuel
- (d) labour (about 50 to 100 workers to begin with)
- (e) food for this number of persons presumably (a) (b) and (c) would have to be imported.

3. Company is contemplating sending representative to Falklands to examine position but would be grateful first of all for information on points mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 they have also enquired whether ships could operate on seaweed beds throughout the year or only in certain seasons.

4. Grateful for early reply by telegram Company is substantial one with interests in tanning materials in Kenya South Africa and South America.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

En clair.

# GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

(2)

## FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

### SENT.

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
				30. 4. 45.

To

CHAPELRIE LONDON.

No. 128. <sup>Recd 17</sup> YOUR TELEGRAM 68 FORESTAL COMPANY STOP YOUR DESPATCH 41

OF JULY 3rd 1945 IS PERTINENT STOP FULL AND AS DETAILED AS POSSIBLE  
INFORMATION WAS SENT MESSRS COOPER, FRIED AND COMPANY UNDER COVER OF  
LETTER DATED 24th OCTOBER STOP ARE THE LATTER CONCERN CONNECTED WITH  
FORESTAL ? <sup>(24) = 478/38</sup>

2 THE SUGGESTION THAT A REPRESENTATIVE BE SENT SEEMS EXCELLENT FOR  
HERE ANSWERS TO STRAIGHT QUESTIONS ARE LIABLE TO MISUNDERSTANDING AS  
CONDITIONS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ARE QUITE INCOMPARABLE TO ELSEWHERE STOP

3 I THINK AT THE ONSET SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO  
TWO ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED INDUSTRY, ONE FAVOURABLE AND THE OTHER ADVERSE  
STOP THE FIRST IS THE PROBABILITY THAT THE RESIDUE OF THE WEED AFTER  
THE EXTRACTION OF ALGIN WOULD IF PROPERLY TREATED BE OF UTMOST LOCAL  
VALUE AS FERTILISER WHICH , THOUGH ESSENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOIL,  
IS AT PRESENT ALMOST PROHIBITIVE IN COST STOP

4 THE SECOND AND ADVERSE ASPECT IS BEYOND MY POWER TO REPORT UPON  
AS THERE IS NO ONE HERE WITH SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE TO ADVISE ME STOP

Time

(29)

**GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.**  
**FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.**  
**SENT.**

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Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
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To

-2-

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IT IS THE SERIOUS QUESTION AS TO WHAT EFFECT THE REMOVAL OF A PROTECTIVE BARRIER EITHER WHOLLY OR IN PART WOULD HAVE ON COASTAL EROSION STOP KELP WILL GROW AGAIN PRESUMABLY BUT THAT MAY BE A LONG PROCESS AND AFTER REPEATED CUTTING MAY WELL DIE OFF COMPLETELY STOP

5 THE PRESENCE OF KELP HAS THREE IMPORTANT NATURAL ASSETS :- (a) IT BREAKS THE TREMENDOUS SURFS SO FREQUENT HERE AND SO FORMS A NATURAL BARRIER TO TIDAL AND MARINE EROSION; (b) IT PROVIDES A CALM HELP FOR SMALL BOATS AND FOR LANDING PURPOSES AND CAN BE COMPARED WITH THE SIMILAR RESULT OF THE PRESENCE OF CORAL REEFS; (c) MANY OF THE KELP BEDS ARE AT A DISTANCE OFF SHORE AS WELL AS AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE NUMEROUS FJORDS AND THEY MARK BETTER THAN A BUCY SHOALS AND SUBMERGED ROCKS STOP

6 THERE IS NO CHART SHOWING ACCURATELY THE POSITION OF THESE KELP BEDS AS THEY ARE TO-DAY BUT I WOULD REFER TO ADMIRALTY CHARTS WHICH GIVE A GOOD PICTURE OF THE QUANTITY AVAILABLE AND HELP TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINTS RAISED IN MY PRECEDING PARAGRAPH STOP

Time

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GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.  
FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

26

SENT.

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Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
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To

-3-

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7 I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE CANADIAN (FEDERAL) AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BE CONSULTED AS THEY MUST POSSESS A LARGE AND VALUABLE LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT OF KELP AND I SHOULD IMAGINE HAVE DEALT WITH THE PROBLEMS OUTLINED ABOVE STOP ONE SHOULD IN PARTICULAR SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT THE KELP BEDS OFF THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS ; AND IT IS ALSO VERY CERTAIN THAT THE JAPANESE MUST HAVE VERY FULL REPORTS ON KELP (INCLUDING ITS PROTECTIVE QUALITIES) IN AND AROUND THE KURILES STOP

8 IT IS CONSIDERED HERE THAT OPERATIONS COULD BE CARRIED ON THROUGHOUT THE YEAR SUBJECT TO AN ESTIMATED LOSS OF ONE-THIRD THROUGH BAD WEATHER STOP

9 THE FLOATING DOCK HAVING BEEN REMOVED THERE ARE NO FACILITIES AT PRESENT FOR MAJOR REPAIRS BUT MINOR ONES CAN BE EFFECTED STOP

10 SHIPS-STORIES AND FUEL HAD BETTER BE IMPORTED AS LOCAL SUPPLIES UNCERTAIN AND VERY EXPENSIVE STOP

Time

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# GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

2c

## FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

### SENT.

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Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
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To

-4-

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11 FOOD IS OBTAINABLE LOCALLY BUT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ADVISE  
REQUIRED :  
VERY EARLY QUANTITIES ^ BEARING IN MIND BUTTON IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO ANY  
AMOUNT STOP

12 YOUR PARAGRAPH 2 (a) (b) (c) AND (d) WOULD ALL HAVE TO BE  
IMPORTED STOP

13 THE QUESTION OF FOOD IN YOUR PARAGRAPH 2 IS ANSWERED ABOVE STOP

14 STRONGLY ADVISE DOCTOR J. E. HAMILTON GOVERNMENT NATURALIST WHO IS  
WELL INFORMED ON THIS SUBJECT INCLUDING KELP BEDS THEMSELVES BE CONSULTED  
STOP HE IS DUE IN UNITED KINGDOM SHORTLY ON LEAVE AND IS AT PRESENT  
AWAITING PASSAGE IN MONTVIDEO.

GOVERNOR.

Time

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EXTRACT FROM PRIVATE LETTER RECEIVED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE AG. GOVERNOR  
FROM DR. J.E. HAMILTON, D.Sc. &c. OF 3rd AUGUST, 1946.

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There is a firm which appears to be very wealthy called ALGINATES Ltd. who are much interested in developing a kelp industry in a possible very large way. It is quite likely they will send two or three people out next southern summer to have a look-see for themselves. I have had one talk with their man MERTON who was panting for local knowledge but did not touch on conditions of licence or anything like that. The firm has had some contact with the F.I.C. but how much I did not find out. This may be the place to mention that the C.O. seems alive to the dangers of monopoly.

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*copy filed in 478/28 "Exploitation of Kelp"*

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