

C. S. O.

MIN/KEL/1#6

0004/e

(Formerly)

SUBJECT :

BRITISH AMERICAN KELP COMPANY

Labour

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER AND YEAR.

478/28

Exploitation of Kelp.

17/46

seaweed Required by the Colonial Office.

52/46

Forestral Land Timber Co - Kelp Industry in the F. Is.

0004/A

British American Kelp Co - Power Supply

0004/B.

Housing

0004/C
DEV

3. LABOUR. It seems unlikely that British American Kelp Company will be able to complete their working requirements from local sources; there are in fact only 2 - Executive Engineer's fluid reserve (a high percentage of whom would be regarded as unemployable by any commercial standards?), and Jama labour which is out of the question - they have quite enough problems to contend with without British American Kelp Company adding to them. It looks therefore as though they may have to import. Meanwhile I want

(a).. an analysis from Executive Engineer of available labour

(b). a precise requirement from British American Kelp Company.

We must then reconcile (a) and (b) as far as we can, the irreconcilable balance representing the number they will have to import.

(c). We must then consider source of importation and enquire as to possibilities. The importations will create a further housing problem and the old Army Camp should be kept in view in re. Imported labour should be of the best available type and married if possible.

4. There is a misconception in the Colonial Office about the labour question and we must explain.

(Intld.) M. C.

(b) see 2.
They are kept
in London for this.
Add

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

From The Executive Engineer.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The "onourable,
The Colonial Secretary

ANALYSIS OF PWD LABOUR FORCE JANUARY 1947.

1. I append for the information of His Excellency the analysis of the Department's present labour force. The grades may be roughly defined as Grade I - fit and healthy men of working age, Grade II - elderly men or suffering from physical disability and Grade III - really unfit for any work on account of age or physical disability.

| 2. OCCUPATION | GRADE I | GRADE II | GRADE III | |
|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| Carpenters | 3 | . | . | |
| Handymen | . | 1 | . | |
| Plumbers | 2 | . | . | |
| Masons | 3 | . | . | |
| Lorry drivers | 4 | . | . | |
| Painters | 1 | 1 | . | |
| Sub-Foremen | 4 | . | . | |
| Labourers | 59 | 8 | 4 | |
| Boys | 7 | 1 | . | |
| Smith's Mate | . | 1 | . | |
| Pumpman | 1 | . | . | |
| Roller Drivers | 2 | . | . | |
| Storeman | . | 1 | . | |
| Total | 86 | 12 | 4 | <u>TOTAL 102</u> |

3. As I believe the above figures are needed in connection with the labour requirements of BAKC, I would point out that in grouping the men into grades a lenient view has been taken of a man's abilities and that as far as the BAKC is concerned there would be some further six or eight men that they as a business concern would possibly put into Grade II rather than Grade I. For normal times I do not consider that the work of the department could be carried on with less than 70 Grade I men with an additional twelve men for peat cutting season.

Arthur Woodgate

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.

Office

The Ag. Dept. is putting up a similar statement to-day. Re see it in the file by 4 p.m.

AK
7.1

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

7th. January 19 47.

To The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

From The Officer-in-Charge.

Agricultural Department.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

STANLEY.

I submit as requested a list of the labourers in the Agricultural Dept. in their various Grades.

Grade 1.

Occupation.

6 men & 4 youths.

- 1 handy-man.
- 1 ganger (vegetable production).
- 1 labourer (G.H. Gardens).
- 1 teamster and labourer.
- 1 tractor and lorry driver.
- 1 labourer.
- 3 youth labourers.
- 1 youth labourer (G.H. Gardens).

Grade 2.

4 men.

- 1 labourer (vegetable production).
- 1 carter and labourer.
- 1 labourer (G.H. Gardens).
- 1 labourer (temporary, while stock are in Qtn. Stn.).

Total 14.

J. P. Browning
Officer-in-Charge.

4

EXTRACT FROM H.E.'s TELEGRAM No. 11 to S. OF S. OF 10. 1. 47.
(original filed in 0004 "6AKC")

4/c
x | 5. Presumption correct but there is also shortage employable unskilled labour and clearly undesirable that British American Kelp Company activities should attract farm labour from Camp where there is already acute shortage. There is, I think, a certain misconception regarding "unemployed problem" on which I am addressing you separately. I should, in circumstances, have no objection to British American Kelp Company suggestion to import Uruguayan labour for erection stage. Anticipate that they will also need to import labour from United Kingdom or other agreed source during operational stage.

ms
x any pp. re?

~~ABC~~
13.1

has an 2 items for BANC
help for ms

all
16.1

1. 1947
1006
11.1

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

5 (16)

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ RECEIVED

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|---------|
| | | | CODED COPY | 14.1.47 |

To

BAK FALKLANDS

INITIAL LABOUR REQUIREMENTS 30 FOR FACTORY 12 FOR CRAFT 6 FOR
 MISCELLANEOUS WORK STOP REPORT NUMBER UNSKILLED LABOUR AVAILABLE
 FOR ABOVE STOP COLONIAL OFFICE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT SURPLUS
 LABOUR REGULARLY KEPT ON RELIEF WORK BY ADMINISTRATION STOP

BRITISH AMERICAN KEMP

M. ABC
16.1

RECEIVED
 16 JAN 1947
 FALKLAND ISLANDS ST

Time

over

5A

Li Jones & Li Bengay brought me
5 & after discussion I authorized

(6)

Li SL
16.1.47

⑦
6

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.
FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES.

SENT.

Labour Office

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|---------|
| | | | | 16.1.47 |

To BRITISH AMERICAN RAIL COMPANY FOUR MOORGATE LONDON

| | | | |
|--------|------------------|-------|----------------------|
| ENTUK | HAVE CONSULTED | KIROV | WE UNDERSTAND |
| ICMAB | GOVERNMENT | POYBU | QUESTION |
| AHXAV | THEY ADVISE | ROJNY | EA IS REFERRED TO IN |
| KUCER | US | ICOLS | GOVERNORS |
| OZETK | TO PROCEED | JYEGX | LAST |
| ATYVE | ON THE ASSUPTION | VOYFD | TELEGRAM |
| MYHPI | NO | WODYI | TO |
| URALO | SKILLED | TOMDO | SECRETARY OF STATE |
| ANCEBU | AND | BAK | B A K |
| ALYHI | ALMKS T | | |
| MYHPI | NO | | |
| JUYUI | UNSKILLED LABOUR | | |
| YJOGF | WORTH | | |
| GAJID | EMPLOYING | | |
| AVYIA | AVAILABLE | | |
| UXTVI | STOP | | |
| VFUHO | SURPLUS | | |
| JUWRU | LABOUR | | |
| JREAY | KEPT | | |
| YEBCA | ON WHAT | | |
| AMTHU | AMOUNTS TO | | |
| KUUEK | RELIEF | | |
| YIYMS | WORK | | |
| XPEOT | UNSUITABLE FOR | | |
| ODYSC | OUR | | |
| PIFDY | PURPOSE | | |
| ANCRU | AND | | |

*MP
use
16/1*



Time

DECODE.

62 DC 224.

TELEGRAM.

From The Secretary of State for the Colonies

To His Excellency the Governor

Despatched: January 16th 19 47 Time: 2105

Received: January 17th 19 47 Time: 0030

IMMEDIATE

Red 9 in file 0004

No. 23. Confidential. Your telegram 11. — ✓ 4

I have had further discussions with British American Kelp Company and will address you separately on conclusion reached and on the points raised in your telegram.

2. Meanwhile I am most anxious to give Company assurance minimum unskilled labour requirement for preliminary stage can be met namely:-

- (a) 30 factory hands
- (b) 6 odd job persons and
- (c) 12 men for marine work.

3. Grateful for early reply.

G.T.C.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

See Page 9

8

Para 5 on p 4 to wh. reverse refers seems to have
been completely ignored. Col. Woodgate should ^{and consider} see ^{him} ~~him~~

in relation to the facts of which he shd. be aware together with
/ ~~and~~ my proposed reply (at once) the correctness of which he
shd. confirm.

Situation shd. also be discussed by him
yourself with Messrs. Jones & Burgoyne before the draft reply
issues.

inc. 21/1/47.

(3)

E.E.

As above, please. Then return forthwith,
✓ I will arrange an app. for Messrs
J. B.

W.B.
21.1

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

9

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES

COPY

~~SECRET~~ RECEIVED.-

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|-------|--------------|-----------|
| 76 | London cde. | 27 | 17.05 | 17.1.47.- |

To BAK FALKLANDISLANDS

*From BAKC London
To - Stanley*

(Sent in code)

IS LABOUR SUITABLE FOR HANDLING CRAFT STOP IF SO HOW MANY STOP SEND
FIRST SAMPLES KELP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE STOP AWAIT REPORT YOUR FIRST
IMPRESSIONS KELP BEDS BAK

Time



*ABC
23/1*

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES

COPY

SENT.

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|--------|------------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| | | N.L.T. | | 19.1.47 |

To BRITISH AMERICAN KELP COMPANY FOUR MOORGATE LONDON

WILL REPLY ABOUT LABOUR FOR CRAFT ON GOVERNORS RETURN FROM TOUR
 SHORTLY BUT WE DO NOT SEE HOW MORE PRESENT INHABITANTS OF FALKLANDS
 CAN BE EMPLOYED IN STANLEY WITHOUT ATTRACTING MEN DIRECTLY OR
 INDIRECTLY AWAY FROM LABOUR SHORT FARMS WHICH WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED
 STOP / / /

abe From BAK Stanley
 To - London

BAK
 COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE
 22 JAN 1947

Time

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor.

To The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Despatched : January 22nd 19 47 Time : 16.15

Received : 19 Time :

URGENT

No. 37. Confidential. Your telegram No. 23 Confidential, paragraph 2. See paragraph 5 my telegram No. 11 to which you refer. Position is that there are in Stanley 116 men available for whole-time unskilled work and maintained on Government pay-roll. Of these some 20 are through age or other infirmity incapable full days work as understood. Government's present minimum requirements are 83 fit workers thus balance available British American Kelp Company is 13 effectives and 20 semi-effectives. While willing do utmost possible assist them during preparatory stage you will appreciate that I am faced with considerable future construction programme which includes inter alia electric power installation and 10 houses for British American Kelp Company and shall myself be compelled import tradesman. I cannot contemplate any further drains on Camp where labour shortage acute and normal maintenance in arrears thereby. Situation has been fully explained by local representatives British American Kelp Company in their telegram of 10th January to Directors.

GOVERNOR.

G.T.C.

The above was agreed to by EE.
Messrs. James Buchanan & Co. S. HE.
sanctioned the omission of the last
sentence in his proposed reply, which is
therein as sent above.

ABL

23.1.47

See Page 12

12
GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES

SENT.

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

22.1.47.-

To

BRITISH AMERICAN KELP COMPANY FOUR MOORGATE LONDON

VAUPY SUGGEST THAT YOU
EHYHS ~~XEN~~ MAKE CONTACT WITH
BAXGU BARTON
RBARO RE
ICOLS GOVERNORS
VOYPD TELEGRAM
JINYA JANUARY 22nd.
TOMOJ SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COLONIES
BAK BAK



AKC

See Page 7.11

Time

13

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES

SENT.

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|-------------|------------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| | | N.I.T. | | 22.1.47 |
| To | | | | |
| RMIP LONDON | | | | |

RE INFOUR INFORMATION SUGGEST YOU CONTACT MAJOR CHARLES THE
 WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION THE DEPOT
 YORK STOP PRACTICABLE TO OPERATE OUR TYPE CRAFT INSIDE RSLP
 BEDS EXCEPT UNDER ABNORMALY BAD CONDITIONS STOP PROTECTION
 FOR PROPELLERS UNNECESSARY BAK



abc

PA abc
22/1

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

No. S1.

From The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched: February 3rd 19 47 Time: 12.30
Received: February 4th 19 47 Time: 09.30

22-0004 "B.A.K.C."

No. 41. Confidential. Your telegram No. 11 and your telegram No. 37. Kelp.

I share your anxiety on the effect the failure of this project would have on the Colony's economy but I fear that unless the initial labour difficulty is overcome we may miss a unique opportunity of promoting a measure of industrialisation at a time when World conditions are most favourable for success of project and that in consequence the Colony may be forced on to little more than the intermittent employment of sheep farming.

Carr of whose advice I know you have a high opinion has been consulted and he suggests that a re-allocation of labour available for Public Works even if it involved temporary abandonment of certain projects of Public Works would provide men required for initial stage. As regards trend of labour in camp apart from the fact that labour is not fully employed in Winter it is of course essential that men concerned should have freedom of choice in their employment.

I am persuaded from (last number) I have had with promoter that in addition to possibilities of altering Islands' economies for the better we are dealing with a management who are prepared fully to co-operate with Government.

I propose that money required to purchase Electric Plant and equipment should be obtained by advance from Joint Colonial Fund secured on Falkland Islands land sale fund, and am asking Crown Agents to place an order for necessary Plant. There will be a sufficient interval between the setting up of Pilot Plant and establishment of Unit Plant during which it will be possible to some extent to assess project venture and, if circumstances so indicate, to cancel remainder Electric equipment ordered. I am considering the possibility of indemnifying for any loss which might fall upon the Colony's Finance through a break

down/

Copy

22-0004

X

Our opinion was to permit...
control labour.

11

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From

To

Despatched: 19 Time:

Received: 19 Time:

-2-

down in the project by an allocation from Colonial Development and Welfare Reserve Fund or even perhaps of advancing necessary capital required to finance Electricity Plant and equipment by the means of an interest free loan from that source.

In regard your enquiry about Financial standing of B.A.K.C., this Firm has backing of certain substantial City interests, and is associated commercially with Courtauld and Albright and Wilson.

I hope shortly to be able to furnish you with some definite information about the purchase of Electricity Plant but as yet the question of acquiring Kendal Plant and Black-stone Generator remains unsettled.

In regard to Royalties, I have negotiated with the Company a more flexible formula than one hitherto proposed in order that the Colony may be tied to an agreement which might not in the long run be as remunerative as it should have been.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

G.T.C.

W.E.

(Pass. as at numbered).
X is the inv. It looks as if B.A.K.C. will play unless in guarantee labour for first stage (48 - see 7).

LJH.

2. 'Kendal Plant' I take to be the plant on St. the C.A.A. hopes to secure an option (x 9 / 1 in 0004).

3. I have not yet informed E.E. in asked for his views. *[Signature]*

2.
16

A

Q

We discussed and E.E. should be understood that
the labour must be produced. Issue begins at case M.
Then proceed for Ex. Co.

see D
below

M.C. 4/2/47

X/

I wish to see Mr. Jones on Thursday at 10.30.

Talk with Mr. Jones
at 10.30
A.B.C.

B

W.E.

Before then is asked, would W.E. con-
sider minor pencilled suggestions?

2. Is the price for Ex. Co. to be one
of the help position generally or of the
labour aspect of it only, please?

A.B.C.
5.2.47

C

1. Yes (I had included unskilled labour in "etc." but have
no objection to being more precise. It is all part of
a general question really and I shall address self
as soon as we get the information I have sought from
Mr. Camp; that immediately should relate to
pamphlet and all relevant requirements.

2. Casually.

M.C. 5/2

D

Ans

Re. issue then to back - G.V.C.
Then when for § 2 of B. [I have let E.E.
see 14, 15, & 16 A: the then] A.B.C.
5.2.47

X Is Mr. Jones back yet?

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor

To Secretary of State for the Colonies

Despatched : February 7th 19 47 Time : 16.30

Received : 19 Time :

~~14~~

No 76 Confidential. Kelp. Your telegram No. 41. In all the circumstances I agree that B.A.K.C. must be given explicit assurance that minimum labour requirements experimental stage will be met even at expense Government's own undertakings and have issued precise instructions this effect.

2. My reference to Camp concerned permanent and not repeat not seasonal labour. Situation there is serious and I cannot contemplate adding to one industry's problem merely to benefit another and must therefore oppose any recruitment for B.A.K.C. in Camp. Have paved way for more cordial and co-operative understanding with Sheep Owner's Association which must not in any circumstances be prejudiced.

3. I feel that I must press for insurance against loss over Colony's participation in this venture and while willing acquiesce in any arrangement regarding provision capital which you may consider practicable you will have appreciated from my development despatch of 22nd January that total resources are insufficient for minimum requirements Colony and I would prefer interest-free loan to cover total electricity commitment vide para 8 that despatch.

4. In view para 1 above and natural disappointment people over long deferred promises trust I may rely on you for help in obtaining skilled artisans and when needed unskilled labour for Government's programme.

GOVERNOR

G.T.C.

VP.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

18.

FALKLAND ISLANDS AND DEPENDENCIES

SENT.

| Number | Office of Origin | Words | Handed in at | Date |
|-------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|--------|
| | | | P L T | 9.1.47 |
| To LIFE LONDON | | | | |

THIS WILL BE THE ARRIVE MONTREAL STOP ROBERTS INVITES
 BENTON TO STAY WITH HIM IN STANLEY STOP GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKES
 TO SEE THAT OUR INITIAL LABOUR REQUIREMENTS ARE MET STOP MUST
 BE FOR COMPETITIVE WAGES STOP WE CONSIDER ARRANGEMENT
 MOST SATISFACTORY STOP SEE SECTION PAGE

Handwritten notes:
 ...
 ...
 ...
 ...
 ...



Handwritten note:
 (Copy of item from Jones -
 Being type to London B.A.L.C.)

Time

JRE.

18 was sent after I had seen
Lynn. Ines Burgoon on 7.2.47. They
expect to be back by next 'letting'
(about end of Feb.).

Albe
10.2.47

Yes, Sir

17. para 3. I hope "unofficial" is a typing error.
2. What does "see Batten" mean?

There is a letter for the...

INC. 10/2.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Confidential.

The British American Nelp Co. 3th. February 1947 194
Port Stanley.

Handwritten initials

With reference to the interview I had to-day with your Messrs. Jones and Burguoyne, the following notes are sent as confirmation of the points that we generally tentatively agreed upon in connection with the secondment of labour from this Department.

2. Your Company have agreed that there shall be no competition for labour in the Colony on the other hand if the labour is to come to you willingly, (and to maintain happy relations this is a very important point), then the terms of employment must be somewhat more attractive than those offered by Government but without altering the basic rates and conditions. We agreed that this could be done by your working a five day week in two daily shifts of twelve hours each, the day and night shifts changing weekly. On this basis the rate of pay to be offered should be a flat rate of \$4.16.8 per week for labourers. This amount was computed as follows:-

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 40 hours at 1/2 plus COLB 3d. = 1/5 | \$2.16. 8. |
| 20 hours at 1/9 i.e. overtime rates | 1.15. 0. |
| 5 days subsistence at 1/. per day | 5. 0 |
| | <u>\$4.16. 8.</u> |

In cases of men who are members of the Government Provident Fund, your Company will pay their contribution on behalf of Government at 2/8 per week, the men paying in their own contribution personally and out of their weekly wage.

3. As regards numbers required, your original item of twelve seamen, six technicians and thirty labourers is now varied as follows. The six technicians we assumed were to be imported, you already have four local men working for you who may be assumed to be continuing and in addition you have voluntary applications for work from some twentynine other men, a number of whom are at present employed by the PWD.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

2.

194

This may reduce your total requirement down to about thirty men only and if as you intend to try to get Ex SS Fitzroy men for the boat work and can do this then the total draft that you will require from this Department will be still further reduced.


4. I understand that the rates of pay for the men doing boatwork will be the same as normally paid in the Mercantile Marine.

5. We agreed that with an idea of getting some idea of the possible response to your appeal for labour an advertisement on the following lines should issue after the terms mentioned in para. 2 have been agreed by your Manager on his arrival.

20.

" The British American Kelp Company will have vacancies for labourers about next October and men resident in Stanley only who wish to be considered for such employment should hand in their names to the offices of the Company. A flat rate of £4.16.8 per week is the proposed wage and members of the Government Provident Fund will be allowed ^{to continue} to pay in their contributions. The hours of work will be a five day week in two shifts of twelve hours each, the shifts changing weekly. A canteen for the use of the men will be opened on the works at the Camber."

6. Your representatives kindly agreed that other things being equal, any foreman or ganger transferred from this Department should continue to be so employed if possible.


ARIBA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.

JE

- 19 YE's enquiries
- §1 Is, Si.
- 2. §2 'See Barton' means an allusion to 17. I HRS then YE. Has just telegraphed to S/S. (cf p. 12 for a similar case).
- 3. 20, 21 This means in notes. I discussed with E.E. before he saw Comm. Tom Burgess.

C.B.L.

Charlton - I shall be interested to know how they make out.

11.2.47

M.G. 11/2/47

M.B.C.
12/2

Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Council held on the 13th of February, 1947.

BRITISH AMERICAN KELP COMPANY.

"His Excellency informed the Council of the position regarding the intentions of this Company generally, and the obligations which Government had agreed to undertake, especially with reference to Labour, Housing and Electric Power: he assured Honourable Members that there would be no competition with, or absorption of, Camp labour".

J. Bouds

Ag. Clerk of the Executive Council.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From The Secretary of State for the Colonies

To The Governor Falkland Islands

Despatched : 4th February 1947 *Time* : 14.22

Received : 6th February 1947 *Time* : 09.30

45. My telegram 41 in second Paragraph fourth line for
quote entire unquote substitute quote certain unquote

SECRETARY OF STATE

What is this?

(Intld) A.B.M.
5.2.47.

P. L.

VP.

EXTRACTED from Personal Letter to His Excellency the Governor from

A. R. Carr, Esq. of 13.2.47.

..... The problem that was giving them the biggest headache was that of establishing the kelp business, and at their request I went down to Morrgate Street and spent a morning with Merton, whom you have probably met by now. The great difficulty, of course, was labour. Information gleaned from official reports and Sir Allan Cardinall's correspondence had been misleading, and I was shewn a memorandum from Mr. Young of the F.I.C. which contained information which was flatly inaccurate. For instance, it was stated in this document that, when the needs of all essential public services and local industries had been met, there remained about 100 workmen available for other purposes. This has never been the case since I arrived in the Colony in 1938.

The kelp company people were really perturbed about the labour question. Merton said that an initial staff of 48 men, locally recruited, was absolutely essential to his company, and quite definitely asserted that if these could not be provided, the establishment of even a pilot concern would be an impossibility. I told him that the labour position was exceedingly tight but said that I was sure that the Government would do everything in its power to help the kelp company to establish itself - for I knew how tremendously important the establishment of such an industry would be to the Colony (although I naturally did not put it that way to him).

I broached the question of the company's taking its own labour to start things off, but on that point he was quite definite. He considered such a scheme impracticable for such reasons as rates of pay, expenses of transporting suitable men, and possible heavy losses should the men taken prove unsuitable, and he refused even to consider it.

So I went to see Mr. Barton again, and put it to him that if the Colonial Government really wanted the kelp industry started up, the men would have to be found locally even if finding them meant the temporary abandonment of other projects of importance.

I am afraid that I found Mr. Barton rather inclined to adopt an impetuous and quixotic attitude. He said that he did not see that there was anything to prevent the kelp company's instructing their local representative to recruit labour by offering wages that would tempt men to leave the farms to come to Stanley to work. Such a course would, of course be possible, but I urged him not to suggest such a thing at this stage, as I felt that to run the risk of losing the substance, as represented by the established wool industry, by grasping at the shadow of a potential kelp industry might, in the end, result in a ghastly disaster. It is true that such a procedure would be in line with normal commercial practice, but I tried to make Mr. Barton see that to convert a small, family - colony (if one can coin the expression) into a battle ground for two warring industries could hardly fail to put back the development of the place by a long period of years.

I did tentatively put forward the suggestion that farm labour might be obtained from Chile or from Uruguay so as to release Falkland Islanders for the kelp industry, but I emphasised the fact that such a move could not be considered until the labour position in those countries had been investigated.

I am afraid that my suggestions may not seem to you to have been very helpful, but I based my whole view of the question on (i) the importance of getting the kelp people there, and (ii) then ascertain that, in no circumstances would they consider importing labour. It may be a rather Macchiavillian way of looking at it, but I feel that once they have sunk a lot of money in the place, they will have to make their own arrangements for protecting their investment. Then they may come to think differently about the question of the importing of labour. And that, I think, is quite enough about the kelp business.....

(Sgd) A. R. Carr.

25

YE.

will wish to see 14 of 2 correct
by 23.

2. The figure of 24 is enclosed
for YE to remove, etc.

ABE
14.3

✓
MC 14/iii

PA OBE
14/3

EXTRACT FROM NOTES TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE SHEEP OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ON THE 9th MARCH, 1947. (Original filed in 267/47 Conference with S.O.A. 1947).

British American Kelp Co., Ltd., - His Excellency stated that he had advised
this Company that he would not agree to one ~~man~~ being recruited from Camp
Labour but he had agreed to release surplus Stanley labour during the
"pilot stage" which required 48 men; when in full production he anticipated
a maximum labour roll of 100 men. These latter, as in the case of labour
for the Camp, would have to be imported.



The Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,
(LOCAL COMMITTEE)
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

..... 3rd April, 1947.

Mr. Abel

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the rates of pay which the British American Kelp Co., Ltd. are paying to the men now employed by them, namely

2/3d per hour for a Leading hand
2/- " " " 3 others.

These men, we believe, are engaged in winning kelp round the shores of Port William.

It has been understood that on no account would they pay more than local rates.

It would appear that the above are casual rates plus 3d per hour for some odd reason.

We cannot agree than continuous work can be classed as casual labour even though there may be some excuse made for "dirt money".

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

My dear Sir
Reply See 31
Secretary.

As a matter of course all letters from the office MUST be signed before the

29

file is put up to me unless there
are valid reasons to the contrary (such
as it being possible to answer them fully at once).

2. Re. 'I.A.' is submitted.

libe
5.4

I.A. 3/4/47

L.E.

26

1. I have seen Mr. Bugoyne of B.A.K.C. He admits that these men are paid as "casual labourers" 1/9 + 3' dit money per day with the leading hand @ 3' p. d. more. Now, I believe, is the rate paid by F.I.C. to casual labour (It does not come in to you takes them free of their engagements) on the ships.

2. I told Mr. B. that if these men were from the Camp the B.A.K.C. would be breaking its agreement not to import Camp labour: but on the other hand the "casual labour" in the sense that they would, they would not be a Govt. liability — under present policy — if the B.A.K.C. stopped employing them. If on the other hand they were from Stanley they would not be "casual labour" in the sense of §1 because they would be a Govt. liability if B.A.K.C. did not employ them. So clearly they shd. get (I thought) was 1/2 + 3' C.O.L. & + 3' "dit money" (= 1/8): unless (as he assured me they were not) they were "Camp" men.

3. Would you please settle the matter & report? As you know, Mr. Bugoyne (of the B.A.K.C.) is generally cooperative but I think his must cease.

ABE
5.4

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

1. The four men referred to in 26 are.

- Leading Hand (a) D. E. Browning Ex. P.W.D. Labourer Quarter of P.F.
- (b) G. Hansen do do do
- (c) Dickson Ex Camp came in some 9-12 months ago - has never applied for or been given work with P.W.D.
- (d) V. E. Browning Ex. P.W.D. Labourer who left voluntarily following suspension for misdemeanour.

2. According to wages charter their pay should be as you say $1/2 + 3 + 3$ i.e. $1/8$ for (b)(c) & (d), & $1/2 + 3 + 3 + 1$ i.e. $1/9$ for (a).

3. I am of the opinion that none of the men can be looked on as "casual" except perhaps Dickson. Should P.A.K.C. close down (a) & (c) definitely & (d) most probably would apply to P.W.D. for work.

4. I look upon the situation created as very serious & constituting the very competition we all so much wanted to avoid (20 & 21 refer) & suggest P.A.K.C. be asked to "come into line" immediately, or if this is not possible, to pay "piece-work" rates which are quite unconnected with normal rates.

W. E.
10. 10. 47.

E. E.

Are they possibly receiving extra pay for carrying food with them?

2. x = \$2 - only 1? ?

A. B. L.
11. 4. 47

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

If these men are carrying their midday meal they would receive 1/2 per day (This would = 1/2 per hour for an 8 hour day)

Under P.W.D. Charter, which still applies when no rate is laid down in the new Charter, a 1st class hour is the acknowledged rate. A foreman in charge of a gang however gets 4d. per hr.

W. E. 12. 10. 47.

Per
D. E.
L. E.

Copy to Executive Engineer for information.

16th April, 47.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Governor to refer to my conversation with Mr. Muggye on the subject of rates of pay for men winning help, ~~and~~ ~~in~~ in the course of which it was agreed that the men whom you have hitherto regarded as casual labour, are now to be regarded as in normal employment.

2. As such they should be paid $1/2$ + 5d. cost of living bonus + 5d. dirt money = $1/3$ per hour; with the leading hand 4d. per hour extra.

3. It was further agreed that the men should as a concession be paid at their present rates till the end of April, 1947, and that thereafter they should be offered the appropriate rates indicated in paragraph 2.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. B. MATHEWS

Colonial Secretary.

4th agrees to ~~by~~ E.E.
because these men are working
independently - without regular
supervision.

British American Tely Company,

SEWAGE.

0004/C.

Copy to Executive Engineer for information.

15th April, 47.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to refer to your letter of the 3rd of April, 1947, and to say that the rates quoted in your letter were in fact paid as if the men were "casual labour". With effect from the 1st of May, 1947, the men will be offered $1/2 + 3d.$ cost of living bonus + 3d. dirt money = $1/8$ per hour, with an extra 4d. per hour for the leading hand.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) A. B. MATHEWS

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Sheep Owners' Association,
STANLEY.

WH.

PA ASE
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3
CS.

BAKC have accepted the arrangement

MC 27

THE

In Sci. 30 records the agreement
made with Li Bourgois (Li Trillet) in
Li Weston's absence.

CBL
2.4

✓ (PA) MC

PA CBL
2.4