

C.S.

INDUSTRIES

PEAT

193

No. 194/33

C.S.O.

SUBJECT.

1933

4th August.

Previous Paper.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEAT INDUSTRY IN THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS.SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES REQUESTED
TO FURNISH PARTICULARS REGARDING PLANT ETC
REQUIRED FOR THE PREPARATION OF PEAT PRODUCTS

197/35 289/32

MINUTES.

- ① Letter from Hon. R. W. H. Young, of 20/7/33.
 ② Minutes from H.C. The Ag. Governor, of 2/8/33.
 3-4. Despatch to S. of S. no. 116 of 4/8/33.

Yt.

Despatch submitted for favour of
Your Excellency's signature.C. J. P.
for
4/8/33.
Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you - signed.

Mr. C. J. P.
Ap. Govt.
4. 8. 33

Subsequent Paper.

P.A.
8/8/33.

Y.E.
Submitted.

C.J.G.
20/1/34.

Hon. Col. Sec.

The report is not very encouraging and it is a matter for regret that there appears little prospect of a Pear industry being successful in this Colony. I see that preparations of pears are sold in London at 4²/₂/- to 4⁵/₂/- per ton. I fear cost of manufacture locally and freight from Colony would far exceed those figures. Even if a market could be found in S. America it is extremely doubtful whether the manufacture of pears could be made a paying proposition owing to high cost of labour and freight. Bring up on return of Hon. J. M. Ellis O.B.E.

M.C.H.
23. 1. 34

Y.E.
Submitted for information.

M.C.H.
24. 2. 34.

Y.E. 20/2/34.
C.J.G. 23/1/34.

See
despatch 14. 3. 34

P.A.
15/3/34.

H.C.S.

This question sh^d now I think be pursued to the limit

There is only the one single obstacle to marketing Peat for there is ^{nothing} outstanding ~~recorded~~ in the correspondence and that is freight charges. I agree with you

that we are trying wind surmount & suppose difficulty of air drying here.

One would imagine that however broad steamers from this part of the world ~~passing~~ or passing through these waters must have cargo space available at a cheap rate out of the wool shipping run.

Will you please address letter to all the firms mentioned (6) stating that there are v. large supplies of excellent quality and asking for details and prices of their machinery

[Signature] 12/5/35-

- (12) Care. letters to firms manufacturing Peat & machinery - 17/5/35
 (13) — do — do — manufacturing Peat & machinery 17/5/35.

This cannot be determined without scientific research.

mc. 12/1

Letter from Sutcliffe, Speelman & Co., Ltd., of 21/6/35. 14-15.

Letter from the Riverside Engineering Co., Ltd., of 21/6/35. 16-17.

" " Richard Simon and Sons. 4/7/35 (18)

y/r. The three replies received
are not helpful as the firms
in question do do manufacturing
machinery for dealing with
peat.

mch
cl.
6.8.35

Not at all promising but pl. let

D.P.W. see.

7/8

Director Public Works.

To see.

mch
cl.
7.8.35

Hon. Col. Sec.

Seen, it is very disappointing.

G. Roberts.

5/8/35.

~~Letter returned this dead letter~~ (18) (19)
~~Office CRO authorities mark "GONE"~~

~~not~~

See note on
red 11.

See
P.A.

C.S.O. No. 194/33

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 2

19-20 Letter from Marshall, Sons & Co., Ltd., of 26/7/35.

Yr. Submitted. Messrs Marshall
Sons and Co. have kindly given
the names of certain foreign
firms who specialize in machinery
for treating peat.

2. I will acknowledge and
thank them for their letter.
Does Yr. desire any other action
taken?

MCH
CS.

17.9.35

Nothing more. We seem to
have exhausted this vein

P.A.
MCH

MCH 17/9

No.

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

MINUTE.

2nd August 19 33

From
To

To From the Acting Governor

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Hon. Col. Sec.

I saw Mr. Young relative to the attached letter. I exclaimed that Falkland Islands Peat had already been analysed and was found to be of good quality and that an attempt was made nearly 30 years ago to establish a Peat industry. I believe at that time the cost of plant was found to be prohibitive. Other and cheaper methods may be in use today.

2. The matter can be referred to the Sec. of State for information relative to the preparation of peat in the U.K.

M.C.H.

Act. Gov^r

2. 8. 33.

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENT FOR LLOYDS.

AGENTS FOR

THE PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Stanley.

20th July, 1933.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

Dear Governor,

The following is an extract from The Times
being taken from certain recommendations of the Import Duty
Advisory Committee -

"There is an increasing demand for preparations of peat in
"horticulture, agriculture and poultry breeding, and for
"general use in gardens and racecourses and sports tracks.
"Peat is available in large quantities in the United Kingdom,
" and the Committee hope that a higher duty will enable
"British manufacturers of the various peat products to
"obtain a larger share of the expanding market. The trade
"absorbs unskilled rural labour, and is of great importance
"in the peat districts".

It is possible that peat could be prepared here
and if you think it of interest the Imperial Institute
could probably give further information re method of
preparing etc.

If there is anything in it I would make enquiries
as to outlets in South American markets and assist in any
way possible.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Stanley

Excellency

The Acting Governor,

Stanley.

Mr. Fleuret.

I think there are
some previous papers re
Peace in the colony.

M.C.H.

22.7.55.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

4th August, 1933.

ALKLAND ISLANDS.

p. 118.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that from certain recommendations of the Import Duty Advisory Committee of the United Kingdom, which were recently published in the 'Times' newspaper, it would appear that there is an increasing demand for preparations of peat in horticulture and agriculture and for other purposes.

2. The foregoing information is of very great interest inasmuch as you are aware this Colony is covered with extensive peat deposits, samples of which on analysis have proved to be of excellent quality. I may add that the question of utilising the peat deposits of the Colony was taken up many years ago but at that time the cost of plant necessary was found to be prohibitive.

3. It is hardly necessary to point out the immense advantages which would accrue to this Colony if a peat industry was to be established. Such an industry would help the community and at the same time put the large areas of peat to some useful economic purpose.

4. I should therefore be grateful if you would cause me to be furnished with information relative to the preparation of peat in the United Kingdom, together with any particulars it may be possible to obtain concerning

the/

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

the plant required for compressing peat and making peat
briquettes, or for preparing peat for other commercial
purposes.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

M. CRAIGIE-HALKETT.

Imperial Institute,

London S.W.7.

1st November, 1933.

Sir,

In reply to your letter 19263/33 of 6th October, I have the honour to send you the following comments in regard to the possibility of establishing a peat products industry in the Falkland Islands.

The peat products included in the Recommendations of the Import Duties Advisory Committee, Additional Import Duties (No.5) Order, 1933, which was referred to in the dispatch from the Officer Administering the Falkland Islands are:- peat moss, peat moss litter, dust or mould, granulated peat and peat fuel or tailings, which, so far as can be ascertained, are the only peat products which are produced commercially at the present time. Under the above Order an import duty of 20 per cent is imposed on all these products if not of Empire origin.

The manufacture of peat products depends largely upon the successful drying of the raw peat, which may contain up to 60 per cent of water. Drying is usually carried out in the open air, but could, no doubt, be effected in shelters if desired. A number of attempts have been made to dry peat by artificial means, but these do not appear to have been commercially successful. The climate of the country in which the peat is obtained is thus of great importance, and that of the Falkland Islands does not appear to be very favourable for open-air drying, since the rainfall, although not excessive, is distributed over a large number of days and the average humidity is high.

I do not agree the humidity in the summer is exceptionally high.

The

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
LONDON S.W.1

9 2

The use of air-dried peat blocks as a local fuel in the neighbourhood of deposits is a common practice, but crude material from the Falkland Islands could not be marketed for export in this form.

Commercial peat fuel. This is now prepared by machine-pulping peat, moulding the pulp and air-drying, a uniform and dense product being thus obtained. Falkland Islands peat is stated to be of good quality and would no doubt be amenable to this treatment, but the possibility of production on a commercial scale will depend mainly upon the existence of a convenient market, since freight charges on a bulky and low-priced product of this nature must be reduced to a minimum. Cheap labour is also essential. A number of machines for the winning and pulping of raw peat are on the market, and addresses of manufacturers, from whom further information could be obtained, are appended.

Peat moss. In this and its associated products a light, mossy, fibrous peat is required, of a different type from that which is most suitable for fuel. Samples of Falkland Islands peat examined at the Imperial Institute in 1906 showed that the top layer of the deposit was mossy and fibrous and suitable for the manufacture of peat moss. To prepare peat for this purpose, it is air-dried to a moisture content of about 25 per cent, protected, if necessary, from rain, as the mossy form absorbs moisture much more rapidly than do the denser varieties. The dry peat is then disintegrated and sifted into fractions which are pressed and packed into bales. The class of machine used for disintegration varies with the type of peat treated. Peat moss litter, the coarse fibrous material obtained in this process, is used

Of course the capital cost of the plant is extremely high; further the industry would be at the mercy of F.I.C. as regards carriage. Their freight are prohibitive.

used to a considerable extent in Europe as stable litter and bedding for horses and cattle and other purposes, on account of its absorbent and deodorant qualities. It is also used as a packing material.

Peat mull or dust. The finer portion remaining from the preparation of peat moss litter is also used to a considerable extent as a packing material, especially for perishable fruit and vegetables, but it has many other uses. A considerable amount is used as the basis for stock foods, which are produced by mixing it with refuse molasses or with cotton-seed meal. It is a very poor conductor of heat and is therefore used as a heat insulating material. In the United States a large amount of peat dust is consumed as a filler for chemical fertilizers, but the nitrogen content of the dust will, to some extent, govern the price realized by the peat for this purpose.

No figures are available for the imports of peat into the United Kingdom. At the present time, peat moss litter for bedding for horses is being offered at 42s. per ton in London, and a finer grade called "granulated peat", suitable for poultry and agricultural purposes, is offered at 47s. per ton.

A number of other products have at various times been obtained from peat, but only those mentioned above have been marketed. Efforts have been made to distil peat on a commercial scale, the products being charcoal, light and heavy oils, tar, crude alcohol and ammonia, but these products, although of good quality, cannot be produced to compete economically with similar products obtained from other sources.

Fuel briquettes can also be successfully made from peat, the incorporation of a suitable binder

apparently

apparently being considered desirable.

Peat from different sources contains a varying amount of waxy material, resembling montan wax. The average content of wax in peat is low, but a sample from the Chatham Islands examined at the Imperial Institute was found to contain about 25 per cent of good-quality wax, which could be extracted by solvents. The amount of waxy material obtainable from Falkland Islands peat has not been determined, and it might be of interest to have this ascertained, although it is unlikely that the wax could be economically extracted unless a market was also available for the residual peat.

A report by the Imperial Institute to the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, on the possibility of utilizing Falkland Islands peat (Imperial Institute Report No.305 of January 28rd, 1922) pointed out that some demand might be created for peat as a fuel in South America, but freightage costs would be so high that it was doubtful whether any firm could be interested in the matter, and the prospect of establishing a peat briquette industry was not promising.

The possibility of marketing peat products, other than fuel, was not considered, but all commercial forms of peat are necessarily bulky, and even if a market were developed in South America or elsewhere, freightage costs would be a serious problem. There seems little reason to doubt that peat products of good quality could be prepared from the Falkland Islands peat deposits, but unless the cost of freightage has considerably decreased and the demand for peat and peat products in South America has increased, there seems to be no reason to modify the statements in the previous report.

In view of the situation of the Falkland Islands, the abundance of peat closer to industrial centres in Europe

Europe and elsewhere, and the low value of most of the products obtainable, it appears very doubtful if a peat product industry could be successfully established in these islands. If, however, it is desired to pursue the matter further, the following firms are makers of machinery for dealing with peat, and details of cost could be obtained from them.

Firms manufacturing machinery for treating peat.

Messrs. W.M. Nicholson & Sons, Ltd.,
Newark,
Notts.

Messrs. Marshall, Sons & Co., Ltd.,
Brittania Ironworks,
Gainsborough,
Lincs.

Messrs. Webster & Bickerton,
Albert Street,
Goole,
Yorks.

Messrs. Brinjes & Goodwin Ltd.,
Wallwood Street,
London E.14.

Messrs. W.J. Frazer & Co.,
Dagenham,
Essex.

Messrs. Richard Simon & Sons,
Phoenix Works,
Basford,
Notts.

Firms manufacturing briquetting machinery suitable for peat etc.

Messrs. Sutcliffe, Speakman & Co., Ltd.,
Leigh,
Lancs.

Messrs. Yeadon, Sons & Co.,
Albion Place,
Leeds.

The Uskside Engineering Co.,
Newport,
Mon.

It seems hardly necessary to go into further detail at this stage, as the facts here enumerated will probably enable the Officer Administering the Falkland Islands

Islands to reach a definite conclusion on the matter.

I shall, of course, be happy to supply any further information or carry out further inquiries that may be necessary.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd.) W. FURSE

Director
(Lt.-Gen. Sir Wm. Furse).

250

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO. 131.



Downing Street,

15 December, 1933.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 116 of the 4th of August, regarding the post deposits in the Colony, and to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a report by the Director of the Imperial Institute.

Reds
4-3.
1st November '33

2. A copy of the earlier Report referred to was forwarded in Mr. Churchill's despatch No. 14 of the 8th of February, 1922.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

(Sgd.) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

194/35.

17th May,

35.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Governor to request that you will be so good as to forward to this Government details and prices of your machinery for treating peat.

2. I am to state for your information that there are very large deposits of peat of excellent quality in this Colony which it is desired to put to some useful economic purpose.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

mch

Colonial Secretary.

Messrs W.N.Nicholson & Sons, Ltd., Newark, Notts.
" Marshall, Sons & Co. Ltd., Gainsborough. Lincs.
" Webster & Bickerton. Goole, Yorks.
" Brinjes & Goodwin, Ltd., London. E.14. X
" W. J. Frazer & Co. Dagenham, Essex.
" Richard Simon & Sons, Basford. Notts. ✓

X. Letter returned
undeliverable by R.L.O. London.
mch
8.8.15

194/33.

17th May,

35.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Governor to request that you will be so good as to forward to this Government details and prices of your machinery for manufacturing peat briquettes.

2. I am to state for your information that there are very large deposits of peat of excellent quality in this Colony which it is desired to put to some useful economic purpose.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MCH

Colonial Secretary.

Messrs Sutcliffe, Speakman & Co.Ltd., Leigh. Lancs. ✓
" Yeadon, Sons & Co. Leeds. ✓
" The Uskside Engineering Co. Newport. Mon. ✓

ON ADMIRALTY AND WAR OFFICE LISTS

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Managing Director:
E.R. SUTCLIFFE.

W^H E^X A. M. I. M. E.

ENGINEERS,

OUR REF. ERS/AG LEIGH, 21st June 19 35

YOUR REF. No. 194/33. Lancashire, England.

To

The Colonial Secretary's Office,
STANLEY. FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Specialities

BRICK, TILE, PIPE,
AND GENERAL CLAY-WORKING
MACHINERY.

Patent Stiff-Plastic
Brick Making Machine.

PATENT CONCRETE FLAG
AND BRICK MAKING MACHINERY,
AND HARDENING PROCESSES
FOR THE SAME.

Grinding and Crushing
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for Coal, Ores, and Cement
Mixtures.

SPECIAL PROCESSES
FOR THE UTILIZATION OF
BLAST FURNACE SLAGS
AND WASTE MATERIALS.

Colliery Plant.

MILL GEARING, PULLEYS,
SHAFTING, AND PEDESTALS.

MORTAR MILLS.

ELEVATING AND CONVEYING
MACHINERY.

Dear Sir,

Red 12

We are in receipt of yours of the 17th inst.

We are sorry to say that we are not able to offer you anything very satisfactory so far as peat briquettes are concerned. The briquetting of peat presents very great difficulties, and we have not so far been able to put anything on the market that we considered was of any material advantage over the old system of cutting out the peat blocks by hand and drying them.

From time to time one reads of work that has been done in Holland and Germany, but we are very



SUTCLIFFE, SPEAKMAN & CO., LTD.

The Colonial Secretary's Office,
Falkland Islands.

No.2.

sceptical as to whether there is any great advantage to be secured by the use of expensive machinery for the purpose.

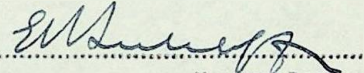
We are, however, enclosing you our "Briquetting" List, which we hope will be of interest to you.

Regretting not being able to offer you anything suitable for your present enquiry,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

SUTCLIFFE SPEAKMAN & Coy. LTD.


.....
MANAGING DIRECTOR

ENCLOS.

"Briquetting" List.

THE USKSID ENGINEERING CO LTD

MINING PLANT.

WINDING & HAULING ENGINES.

ELECTRIC HAULING & PUMPING.

SINKING CAPSTANS.

BRIQUETTE MACHINERY.

PUMPING MACHINERY.

COAL CUTTERS.

COAL FACE CONVEYORS.

WINCHES.

FORGINGS.



Booklet.

Uskside Iron Works.

NEWPORT, MON.

YOUR REFERENCE 194/33 17th May 1935. 21st June 1935.
OUR REFERENCE D.100/F/35.

Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.



Dear Sir,

PEAT BRIQUETTING PLANT.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th ult. under the above, and regret to advise you that our briquetting machines are not suitable for briquetting peat. Enormous pressure is required to briquette peat, and even then a successful briquette cannot be guaranteed. We have not developed this type of machine, but we have pleasure in enclosing herewith our pamphlet illustrating and describing our Coal Briquetting Machine which may be of interest to you.

Yours faithfully,

THE USKSID ENGINEERING Co. Ltd.

Manager Sales Dept.

TELEGRAMS:
"BALANCE · NOTTINGHAM"

18
TELEPHONE: 75136.
CODES: A.B.C. 5TH E9 BENTLEY'S.



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RICHARD SIMON & SONS, LTD.,

SPECIALIST MANUFACTURERS FOR OVER 50 YEARS

OF DRYING MACHINES & AUTOMATIC WEIGHING MACHINES

PHOENIX WORKS, BASFORD,

NOTTINGHAM.

4th July 1935.

The Colonial Secretary's Office,
STANLEY,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your favour of the 17th May we regret that we are not able to submit a general scheme for the treatment of peat.

We, however, enclose circular No. 603 describing our Patent Tubular Drying machine which we trust you will find of interest, also leaflet No. 601 and booklet No. 592 showing other specialities.

We shall be pleased to give any information as regards Drying Machinery and Automatic Weighing Machinery on hearing from you.

Yours truly,

RICHARD SIMON & SONS LTD.

Director.

Encls. Leaflets 603 & 601.
Booklet No. 592.

TELEGRAMS: "MARSHALLS. GAINSBOROUGH"
CABLES: MARSHALLS. GAINSBOROUGH, LINGS
PHONE: NO. 280 GAINSBOROUGH (4 LINES)

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20
CODES: OUR OWN, A.B.C. (4TH, 5TH & 6TH) A.I. (1888)
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MARSHALL, SONS & CO. LTD.

Sir W. H. PEAT, K.B.E.—Receiver and Manager.

ENGINEERS



N.B.—ALL DATES FOR DELIVERY ARE GIVEN SUBJECT TO A REASONABLE EXTENSION OF TIME TO BE ALLOWED IN CASES OF STRIKES, LOCK-OUTS OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY AND NOT TO INDIVIDUALS



BRITANNIA IRON WORKS

GAINSBOROUGH

ENGLAND



TO ASSIST OFFICE ROUTINE PLEASE
QUOTE OUR REFERENCE FULLY IN YOUR
REPLY

OUR REF. SA/MB/FVM

YOUR REF. 194/33

26th July, 1935

The Colonial Secretary,
The Colonial Secretary's Office,
STANLEY,
Falkland Islands.

Sir,

Red 12.
We duly received your letter of the 17th May referring to the treatment of peat, and we note that you have large deposits in the Colony which it is now proposed to exploit.

We have been anxious to be of service to you, if possible, although we ourselves have never actually manufactured peat making machinery, but we have had a good deal of experience in this business as we have supplied very large quantities of our Steam Portable Engines to provide the power for this peat working machinery. We do not know of any manufacturers of this type of machinery in Great Britain, but we think that you would find the best source of supply either Sweden or Germany.

As you are probably aware, there are firms, as follows, who specialize in this machinery :-

Orenstein & Koppel, A.G.,
BERLIN.

Aleph Aurep,
EMMELJUNGA,
Sweden.

FROM MARSHALL'S, GAINSBOROUGH, To The Colonial Secretary, Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Munktell's Mek. Verkstads Aktiebolag,
ESKILSTUNA.

Aktiebolag Akermann's Gjuterie & Mek. Verkstads,
ESLOF.

Abjorn Anderson's Mek. Verkstads Aktiebolag,
SVEDALA.

Should you decide to proceed with the scheme after obtaining the information desired and require power to drive the machinery, we can confidently recommend to you our Portable Engines, of which, as before said, we have supplied very large numbers both to Russia, where, as you probably know, they have large deposits, and also to Ireland. We are sure that our machinery would give you excellent service.

We regret the delay in answering your letter, but this has been caused through our making a few enquiries on this side, as we were anxious to place all the information possible at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of -
MARSHALL, SONS & COMPANY, LIMITED.

W. A. Peat
Receiver and Manager