

C.S.

LIVESTOCK (Miscellaneous)
No. 187/27.

1927.

Manager,
Experimental Farm.

SUBJECT.

1927
26th April 1927.

CONTROL OF WILD GESE.

Previous Paper.

653/20

82 15/4/28

MINUTES.

Memo from Manager, Experimental Farm of 26th April 1927.

- 1. Submitted.
- 2. The destruction of geese by poisoning was recommended by Mr. Munn. (See page 43 of his report.)
- 3. The Chief Inspector of Stock to be asked for his observations as this is a matter which affects the farmers generally?

W. H. C. 28 April 1927

Chief Inspector of Stock 29 4 27

For your observations please

W. H. C. 29 April 1927

Subsequent Paper.

374/27

The Hon
Col Sec.

I would like to suggest
that for the purpose of carrying out
the proposed experiments - that
six 5 lb. tins of Stick phosphorus
be ordered from England.

² With a view to ascertaining
whether geese would take oats or
not. I have twice placed oats on
ground upon which geese were
in the habit of feeding. On both
occasions both geese & small
birds? took the oats.

³ On another occasion
when at Fort Howard I shot
geese which had been feeding
on land sown down with oats.
Upon opening up these geese I
found several of them to have
grains of oats & small seeds
(Aizoids are mostly) inside.

⁴ It is quite possible
that a few of the small birds
may take the poisoned grain but
I believe that if the poisoned baits
are laid near the water's edge or
places where the geese gather at
shooting time that very little
damage will be done to the small
bird life

Geo Carter
C. I. S.
12/6/27.

Gr. Jol. Lefurait

I should be glad of
your observation in this connection.

V. Bennett

Gr. Jol. Lef.

14. 6. 27.

Hon Col Secy.

I am adverse to poison being scattered about. The extent to which it might go & the victims it may secure are quite beyond contemplation.

I hold that geese are good food & that they do as much good in scattering fine grass seeds, as damage in other ways.

Geese are found more numerous near the coastal areas than further inland & it is these very areas that carry the finer grasses.

If geese are troublesome to the few acres of oats sown, I would suggest that bird scarers are used, as in other places, or dogs trained for the purpose.

By all means let them be shot. & Stanley could be the market for them.

V. Bennett
15. June 1927 ag Nat.

42.
Schmitt. I am not greatly taken with
the idea of poisoning wild geese - for one thing
it seems wasteful - but there is perhaps no
harm in making an experiment as suggested at
the proposed quantity, 6 tons of 5 lbs, of stick
phosphorus may be ordered?

J. M. D.

16. 6. 27

Hon. C. S.

No. I cannot consent to this, unless it is proved
to my entire satisfaction that it is essential for
the colony's well-being, and that there is no other
method.

I hate the idea of poison being stowed
about, also it may cause the geese a great
deal of suffering. It is contrary to all our ideas.

I have been studying this question. As
you know Paté de Foie Gras is in great
demand in the Argentine. It is fearfully expensive
and the rich people in Buenos Aires like
to have an enormous slab of it, like a
currant cake, on the sideboard (in England
we think ourselves lucky if we can afford
a small tin!). This is made from the
liver of a goose. I made enquiries some
time ago to in a letter I sent to the Crown
if there was a demand for it at home.
Agents? Have we not here a potential
outlet? Large profits and at the same time
the goose problem solved. If it paid very
well we should then probably want to go to the
other extreme and protect them! Of course
we

187/27

No 3.

should have to study the problem from every point of view. I spoke to the Embassy about it and said I would write a despatch. Prepare one for Sir Malcolm Robertsen. Ask if he can let us know what demand there is for it, the approximate price, and what he thinks of the idea. The flesh might be used for bottled meat. It should sell well at home. We could always import truffles to make the Foie Gras look attractive. A truffle is a tasteless thing ^{when} cut up into small pieces, as they use it for Foie Gras, and probably anything of the same colour would do just as well! If we have to go in systematically for destroying geese it would cost the colony thousands. This, if successful, would on the contrary bring in a lot of revenue.

A.H.

16/27.

- 2-3 Despatch to Sir Malcolm Robertsen. 17 June, 1927.
4 Despatch to S. of S. no. 106 of 17 June, 1927.

g.p.

Despatch submitted for signature if approved.

A.H.

J.M.

18. 6. 27

ref. sub 1

Inform Messrs De Firm that the for. is not prepared at any rate at present to approve the proposed poisoning of wild geese by phosphorus.

Copy to C. G. of S. with ref. to his memo of 13.6.27.

J.M. 20/6

5. Memo. to Manager, Ex. Farm, 23/6/27.
6. " " Chief Inspector of Stock, 23/6/27.

y. 8.

Draft Bill to prevent
the poisoning of wild fowl at other
wild birds killed in accordance with
y. 8. 5 direction in Ex. 6.

2. The Society Wild Birds
at Birds Protection (Amendment) Ordinance
in No. 1 of 1913 - Ord. p. 445.

y. 8.
i.

30. 10 27

Ordinance
being printed
S

How C.S.

Thank you. Has Mr. Gresham seen enclosed 9?
It might interest him. I wish the F.I.C. would
put up a freezer.

A.H.

31/10/27

- 11. Minute from H.E. the Govt of 30/10/27.
- 12. Letter to H.H.R. Gresham of 8/11/27
- 13. " from Mr H.H.R. Gresham of 10/Nov 1927

ya. met 13 Sept. 1 with

L. from W. Graham that the draft bill
which has been prepared in this committee
is being printed for circulation to all
owners and managers in the Colony and
will not be introduced into the Legislative
Council until ample time has been allowed
for its consideration.

W.G.

16. 11. 27.

H.M. C.S.

Please. How M.S. Blake does

ask George!

16. 27. A.H.

[Telephoned W. Graham at

W.G.'s direction 16. 11. 27.

W.G.]

Extract from minutes of meeting of the
Executive Council held on the 25th of
October, 1927

It was further agreed that as
grave danger might result from the
use of poison for the destruction of geese
and that the practice was inhumane,
steps should be taken to render illegal
the use of poison for this purpose

G.K. Brown
Clerk Executive Council

14. Letter to manager, F.I.C. of 22nd Nov. 1927.

4/6 30. 11. 27

Lo 22. 11. 27.

15. Telegram to Mr Cobb. of. 21/11/27

16. Telegram from Mr Cobb. of 23/11/27.

y. e. schmal.

jud

2. 12. 27.

Hon C.S

Thank you.

A.H

2/27
12

17. Lr from Hon's Minister, Montevideo, of 5th Dec 1927

18. Telegram to Hon's Minister, of 16th Dec 1927.

19-22 Letter from Mr Robt. Blake, undated,

23. Telegram to Mr. S. Miller, Hill Cove, of 2. 1. 28

24. Telegram from Mr. S. Miller, of 3rd January, 1928

y. e. Draft letter to V. Blake schmal

in reply to sub 22-19.

jud

6. 1. 28.

Hon C.S
Gen Sec
A.H

n. to R. Blake, Corr. of the 7th Jan. 1928. 25-26.

Circular Letter to Managers of Farm Stations.
22nd Jan. 1928 27-29.

4. 24. 3. 28

pe 25. 1. 28.

Letter from Mr A. E. Felton of 25th January. 1928. 30 - 32

Letter to Mr. S. C. Felton of 30th February 1928. 33.

4. 6. 3. 28.

pe 6. 2. 28.

Letter from G. J. Felton, of 8th Feb, 1927. 34

do Secretary. Falk. A. S. B. Ass. Feb 5th 27. 35.

4. 16. 3. 28

pe 11. 2. 28.

Letter from Mr R. H. Borna, Saunders Is. of 21st March, 1928. 36.

" " Mr Jason Hansen, Carcass Is. of 17th Feb. 1928. 37.

" " Hon. G. Bonner of 26. 2. 28. 38

Letter from Mr L. Clement. of 3. 3. 28. 39

" " Mr S. Miller. of 27. 3. 28. 40

~~Letter from Mr A. E. Felton, of 14. 3. 28. 41 - 42~~

4. 20. 6. 28.

pe 20. 4. 28.

Inside Minute Paper.

41-42 Lt Genl W. A. Bonner, of 15th Dec, 1928
 43-44 Lt Genl W. H. Blake, of 22.3.28

G. E. Schmitt. I will take
 up separately the printer's bill in
 paragraphs 4 and 5 of para 43.
 I think that we might help
 by paying as in the past for
 goose "nibs" bought at the rate of
 £1 a hundred. But I am told
 it is necessary to do any real good
 20,000 pens per annum will mean
 to the expenditure £2,000 -
 Yrs
 18.5.28

Hon C. S.

1. Please bring up to Et Co.
2. Will circulate.
3. Opinions on geese very good.
See encs 42!

1928
5
D.H.

Hon. Treasurer
 Hon. Col Surgeon. ^{H.A.R.}
 Hon. H.H.R. Lusham.

Circulated.

A.D. Stewart.
 Clerk, Executive Council.
 21st May 1928.

Hon. Col. Surgeon.

Passed to you, please.

M. Brajic Halhett
 Treasurer
 22-11-28

From Sec. J.I. Sheep Breeders Assⁿ of 18.5.28

45

Extract from minutes of meeting of Executive Council held on the 25th of May, 1928.

It was agreed that the matter of the controlling of the numbers of wild geese was one which concerned the farmers primarily and that no action was called for in this connection on the part of the Government.

A.D. Stewart.
 Clerk of the Executive Council.

or vol 43

Par 4, 7 to be extracted to
 relative D.P. at the

P.H.J.S.

7.6.28.

C.S.O. No. 187/27

Sheet No. 7

Inside Minute Paper.

46

Letter from Mr G. Scott of 14 May 1928.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

C.S. No.....

MEMO.

Departmental Number.

From..... Manager Experimental Farm

Date..... 26th April 1927..

To..... Hon: Colonial Secretary.

Reference
Numbers.

Sir.

During conversation with Mr. Evans of the West Falklands, I discussed what hopes he could hold out as to growing crops here. He assured me unless some means of coping with the Wild Goose Pest that it would be very hard.

Both him and I would like trying what could be done with Phosphorus Poisoning and would like very much if the Stock Dept; would procure some so that we could give it a trial.

Your obedient servant.

H. J. Ashworth

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

17th June, 1927.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 187/27.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the problem of the wild geese in the Falkland Islands from the point of view of the amount of grass consumed by them in a country dependent almost entirely on its sheep pastures has for some years past exercised the attention of this Government and of local farmers.

2. A proposal has been put up to me since my arrival in the Colony that steps should be taken to poison the wild geese by the use of stick phosphorus. To this proposal I am naturally opposed both on general and humanitarian grounds and also on the score of the waste of a potential asset.

3. While in the Argentine on my way to the Falkland Islands I was struck with the great consumption among the wealthy class of *pate de foie gras*, which as is well known is made from the liver of a goose, and during my stay at Bahia Blanca I had occasion to remark the existence in that city of a modern factory for the preserving of meats, pastes, and similar foodstuffs.

4. It has occurred to me therefore that there might be a possible outlet for the

superfluous/

SIR MALCOLM ROBERTSON, K.B.E., C.M.G.,

ETC., ETC., ETC.

superfluous wild geese in the Falkland Islands by their slaughter for the manufacture by some locally established firm of pâté de foie gras and potted wild goose meat.

5. I have to ask you to be so good as to inform me what demand there is in the Argentine for pâté de foie gras from outside sources, at what price approximately it is sold, and whether you consider that there is any possibility of the development of a trade in the commodity between the Colony and the Argentine.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most

obedient, humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

17th June, 1927.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 106.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Buenos Aires relative to the possibility of the development of a trade between the Colony and the Argentine in pate de foie gras to be manufactured locally from the liver of the wild goose common in the Falkland Islands.

In duplicate.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

No. 187/27.

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

MINUTE.

23rd June, 19 27.

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,


Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Manager,

Experimental Farm,

ANSON.

With reference to your memo, of the 22nd of April, 1927, regarding the necessity for the reduction of the number of wild geese in the Colony, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency is not prepared at any rate at present to approve the proposed poisoning of wild geese by phosphorus.


Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 187/27.

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

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

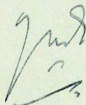
MINUTE.

23rd June, 19 27.

To The Chief Inspector of Stock,

STANLEY.

With reference to your minute of the 13th of June, 1927, in M.P. 187/27, I am directed by the Governor to attach a copy of a memo. which has been addressed to the Manager of the Experimental Farm on the subject of the proposed destruction of wild geese by phosphorus poisoning.



Acting Colonial Secretary.

7

factory in the Falkland Islands, nor did he consider it likely that any other firm would be interested, as it would not be a paying proposition. He thought that the best policy would be for Your Excellency to endeavour to persuade some firm to undertake to shoot the wild geese and then to freeze them and ship them either to Argentina, the United States or Great Britain, preferably the last-named, where there might be a market for frozen wild geese. On this point I am, of course, unable to express an opinion. The undertaking would, in any case, depend upon whether suitable shipping facilities exist with cold storage accommodation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient,

humble servant,

Malcolm A. Robertson

8

BRITISH EMBASSY.

BUENOS AIRES.

July 14th, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No.187/27 of June 17th, enquiring regarding the market for "pate de foie gras" in the Argentine Republic in connection with the possible utilization of the wild geese of the Falkland Islands.

2. I have caused enquiries to be made of one of the leading cold storage firms here, Messrs Swift. They inform me that they manufacture here large quantities of "Pate de foie", which is sold in small tins at the cheap rate of twenty centavos per tin of ninety grammes. I have the honour to enclose a sample. This product is not, of course, manufactured from goose livers but from the livers of the animals slaughtered at the firm's "frigorifico". The genuine "pate de foie gras" is mainly a French product, made in Strasburg and Périgord, and the geese are specially treated, being kept in a dark room which causes their livers to expand. The market for the French product is very limited, owing to its high price which is augmented by high customs duties. Thus the prospects for the sale here of wild goose liver paste from the Falkland Islands are unfavourable.

Sent
Separately.

3. The manager of the "Frigorifico" Swift stated that his Company would not be interested in erecting a factory

His Excellency
Major Arnold Hodson C.M.G.,
Governor of the Falkland Islands,
Government House,
Stanley.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
22nd August, 1927.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 187/27.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 14th of July, 1927, on the subject of the possible utilization of the wild geese of the Falkland Islands for the manufacture of pâte de foie gras and to thank you for the interest which you have been good enough to show in this matter and also for the sample tin of the pâte de foie gras manufactured in the Argentine which you so kindly sent together with your despatch under reply.

2. I am disappointed naturally to learn that there is little or no prospect of any firm in the Argentine considering the proposal of entering this business in the Colony and as you suggest I am turning my attention to the possibility of starting a trade in the wild geese frozen for export.

3. I am sending a copy of your despatch and of this despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most

obedient, humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

SIR MALCOLM ROBERTSON, K.B.E., C.M.G.,

ETC.,

ETC.,

ETC.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
22nd August, 1927.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.
No. 156.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch, No. 106 of the 17th of June, 1927, on the subject of the proposed utilization of the wild geese of the Falkland Islands for the manufacture of pâté de foie gras. I have the honour to transmit, for your information, copies of further correspondence exchanged in this connection between the Ambassador at Buenos Aires and myself.

In duplicate.

2. You will see that Sir Malcolm Robertson considers that it is unlikely that any firm in the Argentine would be interested in the proposal and suggests that alternatively it might be possible to start a trade in the wild geese frozen for export.

3. I shall explore this latter avenue and if it appears to lead to any feasible outlet shall not fail to address you further in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

(11)

From His Excellency the Governor

to The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Please circulate the draft Law re the
poisoning of geese (prevention of) to the
farmers as soon as possible.

A.H.

$\frac{3027}{10}$

187/27

8th November, 27.

Sir,

Red 9

I am directed by the Governor to attach herewith for your information a copy of a despatch addressed by His Excellency to the British Minister at Buenos Aires on the subject of the possible utilization of the wild geese of the Falkland Islands.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. L. Brown
for Colonial Secretary.

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)
REGISTERED 1902.

Stanley

AGENT FOR LLOYDS.

AGENTS FOR
THE PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

TELEGRAMS, FLEETWING PORT STANLEY VIA RADIO.

10th. November, 1927/9

Sir,

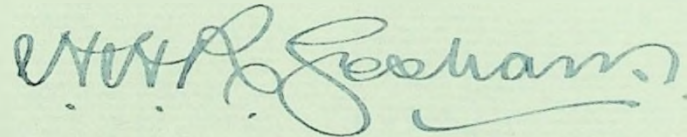
I beg to inform you that I have this day received the following cable from Mr Robert Blake, of Messrs Holmsted, Blake and Co. Ltd, Hill Cove:-

"Beg Governor withhold prohibition phosphorous geese
"poisoning pending receipt my letter to him. Tele-
"graph position. Robert Blake."

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Manager.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.
Stanley.

I87/27.

22nd November, 27.

Sir,

Red 13—

With reference to your letter of the 10th of November, 1927, communicating a telegram received from Mr. Robert Blake of Messrs Holmsted, Blake and Company, Ltd., on the subject of the destruction of wild geese by poison, I am directed by the Governor to inform you, in confirmation of our telephone conversation on the 16th inst., that the bill which has been prepared in this connection is being printed for circulation to all Farm Owners and Managers in the Colony and will not be introduced into the Legislative Council until ample time has been allowed for its consideration.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary.

The Managers

The Falkland Islands Company, Ltd.,

Stanley.

CODE.

15

TELEGRAM.

From The Colonial Secretary,

To Mr. H.W. Cobb, Fox Bay.

Despatched: 21st November, 1927. Time: 18.30.

Received: 192 ... Time: ...

COBB,

FOX BAY.

WEST FALKLAND

His Excellency would be most grateful if you would kindly arrange for three brace of wildgeese to be sent to the British Minister Montevideo by Fleurus leaving you about November 27th. I hate to give you all this trouble.

SECRETARY.

16

187/27

DE CODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Mr. H.W. Cobb, Fox Bay.

To The Colonial Secretary.

Despatched: 23rd November, 1927. Time: 9.00

Received: 23rd November, 1927. Time: 10.40.

COLONIAL SECRETARY,
PORTSTANLEY.

Geese will be put on board as requested.

COBB.

17



BRITISH LEGATION,
MONTEVIDEO,
URUGUAY.

File
Done
16/27
12
All

December 5. 1927.

My dear Hodson,

Many thanks for your letters of Oct. 14 and Nov. 17, received by the "Hewens" on Dec. 3., and for the gift of geese. Unfortunately I was away from home on the 3rd but, warned by last time, I thought it best to pass them on at once for cooking and made a present of them to the Sailors' Home, by whom they were much appreciated although they seemed to me a little strong. The fact is I do not think they really stand a five days' journey very well.

I hear that the Secretary of the Spanish Legation here, a Viscount Brambles is thinking of taking a trip to the Falklands for fishing about January, but he has not applied to me for anything yet.

POSTAGE PAID

RECEIVED



7000000

He is a nice fellow and was for some years at the Embassy in London before coming here and speaks English almost like an Englishman -

I enclose a memo. by Speck regarding this voyage of the "Fleuret". There was some confusion, as you will see, but no great harm anywhere. Best wishes for Christmas - 1928.

Yours ever

Ernest S. Scott.

CODE.

18

TELEGRAM.

From His Excellency the Governor,

To H.B.M.'s Minister, Montevideo.

Despatched: 16th December, 1927. *Time:* 12.00

Received: 192 *Time:*

PRODROME,
MONTEVIDEO.

Red 17 — Your letter December 5th shall be pleased
to put up Marblas at Government House till end of
January when I leave for Antarctic.

GOVERNOR.

(22)

A.H.

Mark's Barn,
Crewkerne.

Sir,

The question of the damage done by wild geese to the pastures of the Falkland Islands has been raised many times during the past 20 or 30 years, and is again to the fore in view of the diminished carrying capacity of land in the Colony.

2. It is universally admitted that wild geese are a "pest" ; various Governors on their arrival in the Colony have demurred to this, but after a year or so of residence, have been forced to admit it.

3. Sheepfarmers have attempted to deal with the matter by shooting geese, and for some years paid their men 10/- per 100. Some thousands have been disposed of in this way, and shooting was inexpensive when effected by means of the .22 rifles, the ammunition for which was cheap. Rifle Clubs had been established on nearly every sheep station, but in 1908 a gun license tax was imposed, and these clubs dropped out of existence. In order to continue keeping geese down as much as possible, sheepfarmers supplied their men with ordinary shot gun cartridges at cost price, but of late years the cost of these per 100, landed in the Colony, has amounted to 10/- and probably more, so that unless the men were sure of killing more than one bird with every cartridge, they were out of pocket, especially as they had to pay their annual gun license.

Representations were made to the Government, and the cost of destroying geese was defrayed from the Stock Fund. This fund was made up by what was then a voluntary tax paid by the farmers - therefore they were paying for geese destruction, but the advantage was that it was equalised. Some farms are

more devastated by geese than others, and some farmers took no steps to keep the geese down, and their neighbours suffered considerably.

4. The condition of the pastures and the diminished carrying capacity of the land was becoming so marked that in 1924 a special investigation was carried out by Mr Munro, Principal District Inspector of Agriculture in New Zealand, whose services were lent by the New Zealand Government.

In his Report (page 43) Mr Munro writes:-

"I am of opinion that a substantial reduction in the number of wild geese is highly desirable and would be very beneficial to the farm industry.

While fully appreciating their value as a supplementary food, as well as from the point of view as a sportsman, I am convinced that when considered in their relationship to the sheepfarming industry of the Colony they constitute, in their present numbers, a pest and they should be treated as such.

I suggest that the money which the Government is at present paying for the destruction of wild geese would be more advantageously expended on experimental work, and that in place of continuing the present system legislation should be enacted providing that farmers must destroy wild geese on their land to the satisfaction of the Chief Inspector of Stock.

Farmers can destroy geese at little cost and without Government assistance, whereas they cannot carry out the experimental work which is necessary in their own interests to any advantage. In any case a large proportion of the geese for which Government pays under the present system would be destroyed

in the ordinary course of events for food and sport. I recommend that experiments be carried out with a view to destroying geese with poisoned grain. I am of opinion that this can be done effectively and with practically no danger to stock, provided reasonable care is taken. I consider phosphorus the most suitable poison for the work. "

5. Acting upon this recommendation, I obtained, from the New Zealand Department of Agriculture's Bulletin No. 111 (February 1924) the directions for using the poison, and sent to the Colony a special boiler and a supply of phosphorus. Recent advices from the Colony state that Your Excellency has forbidden this poisoning - we have not been informed what are the grounds of the prohibition, nor what Ordinance or Regulation it would infringe. It is only reasonable to suppose that had there been any regulation or law prohibiting phosphorus poisoning, Mr Munro's attention would have been drawn to it when drafting his Report. Even if he had not been made aware of such, the then Governor would presumably have either eliminated that part of the Report before publication, or would have repealed any legislation that prohibited poisoning.

6. Assuming that it is admitted that the number of geese must be kept down, the question resolves itself into one of method. Mr Munro must have given this careful consideration, and his reasoned conclusion is quite definitely stated. We therefore hope that before any legislation is introduced, there should be a further reference to Mr Munro.

7. The following passage from the "Pastoral Review" of September 16th last (page 838) tends to show that phosphorus poisoning must be largely practised in New Zealand, and that

there can be no danger to stock, or in fact any other objection to its use.

"The rabbit pest which for many years past has been a serious menace to the dairy farmers and property holders along the West coast of the Wellington province is gradually being eradicated. Departmental Inspectors report that farms which a few years ago carried thousands of rabbits are almost clear of the pest. Improved farming methods, a realisation by the farmer of the quantity of feed rabbits consume, and the more general use of phosphorus poison, are stated to be responsible for the improvement."

8. In the meantime farmers ought to continue thinning out geese, and some help would be afforded by foregoing the gun tax.

9. I would ask your Excellency's attention to the discrepancy between the view taken by the Government of New Zealand on rabbits on the one hand, and that of the Falkland Islands on geese on the other, both being admittedly pests. In New Zealand phosphorus poisoning is advocated by the Government; in the Falkland Islands it is proposed to prohibit it. We must assume that the reason for this can only be the danger to human and animal life, and I beg that your Excellency, before taking a step so prejudicial to the main industry of the Colony, will cause enquiries to be made as to the effect of phosphorus poisoning in New Zealand, when I believe that you will find that it has not even been responsible for the life of a dog, far less for that of a single human being. If there has been any danger surely the New Zealand Government would have prohibited it long ago. The general opinion is that six geese consume as much grass as one sheep, and the former only eat the best of the grass.

I am, Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

Robert Blake.

His Excellency,
The Governor,
Falkland Islands.

28

DE CODE.

TELEGRAM.

From The Colonial Secretary,.....

To Mr. S. Miller, Hill Cove, West Falkland.

Despatched: 2nd January, 192⁶. Time: 13.00.

Received: 192 Time:

MILLER,
HILL COVE, WEST FALKLAND.

His Excellency has no objection to your conducting experiments on limited scale for destruction of wild geese by phosphor poisoning but would be glad if you will furnish me with a full report on the experiments. In particular it is desired to know whether the geese are caused suffering and whether other birds or animals are affected.

SECRETARY.

CODE.

187/27.

24

TELEGRAM.

From Mr. S. Miller, Hill Cove, West Falkland.

To The Colonial Secretary.

Despatched: 3rd January, 1928. Time: 20.30.

Received: 4th January, 1928. Time: 10.30.

COLONIAL SECRETARY,
PORTSTANLEY.

Thank His Excellency for allowing me to experiment on geese will wire fully particulars after trying.

MILLER.

case ample time will be allowed for consideration of any bill which may be introduced into the Legislative Council in this connection.

3. I am to state, however, that considerable diversity of opinion appears to exist as to whether wild geese are a pest or a benefit to the areas which they frequent and as to the extent of their depredations, and that without any desire to cast aspersions on Mr. Munro's knowledge or experience it is open to question whether his conclusions and recommendations on this subject can be unreservedly adopted and followed.

4. I am to add that your suggestion in the matter of the abolition of the charge for annual licences for guns will also receive full consideration.

5. In conclusion I am to assure you of His Excellency's very earnest desire in all ways to further the true interests of the sheep-farming industry in this Colony.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

187/27.

7th January, 28.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the subject of the damage done by wild geese to the pastures in the Colony and to say that the whole subject is continuing to receive His Excellency's close and personal attention. In the meantime your Manager at Hill Cove has been informed by telegram that there is no objection to his conducting experiments in the destruction of wild geese by the use of poisoned grain and has been requested to furnish me in due course for His Excellency's information with a report as to the results of his experiments, attention being given more especially to the two points which follow :-

- (i) Whether the geese are painlessly destroyed by this method :
- (ii) Whether other forms of animal or bird life are endangered by such use of poison.

2. I am to add that no legislation will be introduced prohibiting the use of poison for this purpose except after due consultation with the Owners or Managers of Farms in the Colony and that in any

case /

R. BLAKE, ESQ.,
 MARK'S BARN,
 CREWKERNE.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

A Bill

Further to Declare the Law relating to the Preservation of Wild Animals and Birds. Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the Governor of the Colony of the Falkland Islands, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows :- Enacting Clause.

1. It shall not be lawful for any person to use or to cause or to allow to be used poison in any form whatsoever for the purpose of killing or of attempting to kill any wild animal or bird. Use of poison for the purpose of killing any wild animal or bird unlawful.

2. Any person who shall be convicted of an offence under this Ordinance shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such penalties. Penalties.

This Ordinance may be cited as the "Wild Animals and Birds Preservation Ordinance, 1927." Short title.

Circular letter as in Red 29 addressed to the following:

East Falkland.

The Manager of the Falkland Islands Co. Ltd.	Stanley.
Hon. G. J. Felton,	Teal Inlet.
Hon. G. Bonner,	San Carlos, South.
C. Andreasen, Esq.,	San Carlos, North.
R. Greenshields, Esq.,	Douglas Station.
A. Pitaluga, Esq.,	Salvador.
J. Robson, Esq.,	Port Louis, North.
J. Cletheroe, Esq.,	Bluff Cove.
C. Bender, Esq.,	Moody Valley.
D. R. Smith Esq.,	Johnson's Harbour.
A. Pitaluga, Esq.,	Rincon Grande.
T. G. Slaughter, Esq. J.P.	Darwin.
Hon. Sec. Sheep Breeders' Association.	Stanley.

West Falkland.

S. Miller, Esq. J.P.	Hill Cove.
R.C. Pole-Evans, Esq. J.P.,	Port Howard.
H. V. Cobb, Esq.,	Fox Bay East.
H. Clement, Esq., J.P.	Roy Cove.
S. Shannon, Esq.,	Spring Point.
W.H. Luxton, Esq. J.P.	The Chartres.
J. Robertson, Esq. J.P.	Port Stephens.
M. Robson, Esq., J.P.	Fox Bay West.

Islands

A.M. Bonner, Esq.,	Bleaker Island.
J. Coutts, Esq.,	Lively Island.
J. Hamilton, Esq.,	Weddell Island.
Mrs. F. Scott,	New Island.
C. C. Wessell, Esq.,	Passage & Split Is.
J. Hansen, Esq.,	Carcass Island.
A. E. Felton, Esq., J.P.	West Point Island.
R. N. Bound, Esq.,	Saunders Island.
A. G. Barton, Esq.,	Pebble Island.
Mrs. H. Ricketts,	Sea Lion Islands.

(29)

No. 187/27.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,
24th January, 1928.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to invite your attention to the Bill further to declare the Law relating to the Preservation of wild Animals and Birds, a copy of which is attached, and to request that you will furnish me with such criticism and suggestions as you may have to make on the subject and on the provisions of the Legislation proposed.

I am to add that it is not intended to proceed with the introduction of this Bill before the Legislative Council until sufficient time shall have been allowed for the receipt of replies to this letter, a copy of which is being addressed to all the Farmers in the Colony.

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. ELLIS,

Colonial Secretary.

The Manager,

Addressed as in Red 28

50 years have past since I first
set foot on the West-Falklands

Then hundreds of miles of
land, which is now bare, bleak, and
silent, was covered with grass, more
than a foot in height, and the air
ringing with the song of small birds

AGG

Secretary

The Colonial

Sir, I have the honor

to

acknowledge to you the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the constitution of the Society. I am very pleased to hear of your interest in the subject, and I am sure that your efforts will be successful. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. [Signature]

I should like to call attention to the fact that the proposed amendment is a fallacy as the potatoes that are planted by the birds are those that would be exposed by wind and rain to the sun and spoiled for food.

I have from time to time been engaged in collecting the exposed potatoes

and the robin eaten ones the next, the result was about-equal, and I believe I had more robins visit my gardens than any other place in the Falklands, flocks of hundreds would be seen at alighting. last-season the greatest number I counted in one flock was sixteen.

The annual grass burning besides destroying most of the fattening grasses. has also almost exterminated the small bird life, and the robin which is a tame nature as well as a most-cherful songster and beautifully coloured, will be of the past.

A few years ago permission was given to all owners of gardens to kill twelve robins, and forward the beaks to Fox Bay or Stanley. but some hundreds must have been destroyed and their ~~beaks~~ ^{in their bodies} beaks left within to fudge by the few that are left at the present time

See
M.P.
653/20

I have the honour
to remain
Sir

Your Obedient Servant: Arthur E. Felton

187/27.

3rd February, 28.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th of January, 1928, and to thank you for the expression of your views put forward therein.

2. I am to say with reference to the destruction of the Red Breasted Starling (*Trupialis falklandicus*) that the matter of the repeal of the Order of His Excellency the Administrator in Council, dated the 13th of September, 1920, to which you refer in your letter, will be brought up for consideration at an early date.

*See M.P.
653/20.*

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary.

A. E. FELTON, ESQ., J.P.,
WEST POINT ISLAND,
WEST FALKLAND.

Yule Islet
Falkland Is.

Feb. 3. 28



Sir

In reply to yours No. 187/27.

I am in favour of experiments with poison for the diminution of geese.

This question was discussed with Mr Munro & the farmers, & also with all the farmers at the Sheep Breeders Association & it was agreed that if we ever intend to grow better grasses or any agriculture, the geese must be lessened & the only means of doing so seemed to be by poisoning.

Yours obedient servant

C. H. Jellicoe

The Hon

The Colonial Secretary
Stanley

35

Falkland Islands Sheep Breeders Association.

Telegraphic Address—
"Ornum," Stanley.

Code—Bentleys.



PORT STANLEY,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

February 27th 19 28

Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter No 187/27 of the 24th inst in connection with the Bill to declare the Law relating to the Preservation of wild Animals and Birds.

2. The copy will be laid before the next meeting of the Association.

I am

Sir

Your obedient servant

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. I. Turner".

Secretary



Hon

Colonial Secretary.



(36.)
Saunders Island
Feb 21st 1928

The Colonial Secretary
Pat Stanley
East Falkland



Sir,

I reply
to yours of the 24th inst
ultimo, Re. bill relating to
the preservation of wild animals
& birds, when I first heard
the poison was going to used
for the purpose of killing the
wild birds, I told my em-
ployees that I would not
allow it to be used on
this Station unless I was

forced by law, my reason
is I do not think it safe
to spread poison on this
Station, or any other Station

I am

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

R. H. Board



Percuss Island
Feb 17th 1928

The Hon. J. M. Ellis
Colonial Secretary
Sir,

In reply to your letter

of Jan 24th 1928. to 187/27.

I think it would be a wise step to prevent
indiscriminate poisoning.

I think it would be advisable when the law is
passed to make provision for the granting of
licenses to those who wish to lay poison.

The license should be for a limited period
on a strictly limited area.

Every precaution should be taken to prevent the
distribution of any but the particular kind or
animal aimed at.

Poison should only be spread by the holder of a
license. It should be illegal

for the employees of the holder of a license
to lay poison. I am
Sir

Your obedient servant
Jason Hansen



San Carlos (38)
Falkland Islands
26.th Feb. 1928.

Hon. J. M. Ellis.
Col. Sec.
Stanley.

Rec 27-29
Sir, In reply to your letter of
the 24.th ult. with regard to the Bill
to declare the Law relating to the preservation
of Wild Animals and Birds.

(1) I agree that the use of poison
for the purpose of killing Wild animals
or birds should be prohibited -
except in the case of Rats & Mice.

I am, Sir,

Yours Obedient Servant
Geo. Bowner

Bleaker Island
 Hon Colonial Secretary
 Stanley

Sir

Feb 15 1928

Referring to the ordinance, Wild Animals
 And Birds I quite agree with the preservation of
 animals and birds, as in my opinion it is not
 British to poison either animal or bird, and as
 far as geese being a pest in the Colony in my
 opinion I fail to see it as from experience
 of managers on three farms for 25 years. I find
 that geese are one of the most important birds
 in the Islands, as there are thousands of them
 taken in to Stanley and used for consumption
 and a great many people in the Colony save
 their eggs for the winter when no eggs can be
 obtained. I may add that I have 5 years on
 Bleaker were there 3 thousand sheep, and possible
 as many geese and the sheep are always in good
 condition, and I am quite sure that if the
 geese were all done away with, and run the
 same number of sheep they would be no
 better because when managers on Spedwell Id
 in 1912 I had 1300 sheep on Barron Island

were there was over 3000 geese in my opinion
 and I killed 300 sheep for trailing down and
 when down. I got an average of 35 lb of tallow
 when bailed down, by Clement Harrison that was
 experience that showed me that geese do not
 harm stock, majority of farmers say that if
 geese were all killed off they could carry a third
 more stock but I fail to see it.

On Bleaker I run 3000 sheep and if the geese were
 killed off I could not run a third more sheep,
 as the droppings from the geese is a third of
 the fodder for the 3000 sheep I have now,
 I should like to know what the other third
 would live on if these geese were killed off.
 the sheep eat the droppings from the geese.
 and so if I had any more sheep than I have there
 would be no droppings. therefore I think that
 the geese do no harm to stock, the geese do
 not eat the long grass which is of very
 use for sheep only for few months in the year,
 but burning is the rining of the Islands in
 opinion and there is only one class of grass
 that will stand burning and that is white grass

I trust this suggestion is of use I am
 yours faithfully Wm Boone



39

ROY COVE,
WEST FALKLAND ISLAND,

March 3rd 1928.

No 184/24.

The Hon Colonial Secretary,
Stouley.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter enclosing a Bill. i.e. Further to declare the Law relating to the Preservation of Wild Animals & Birds.

I am in accordance with the proposed Bill, but am of opinion that the Government might entertain some measure to help the Farmers reduce the number of Geese now depasturing on the land, which are detrimental to the sheep industry.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Howard Clement.



44

Mark's Barn,

Crewkerne, Somerset.

March 22nd 1928.

Sir,

Res 25-26
I beg to thank you for your letter of January 7th on the subject of geese, and for the information that Messrs Holmsted Blake & Company's Manager at Hill Cove may carry out experiments in poisoning, also that he has been asked to report the results to His Excellency the Governor.

2. I am aware that opinions do differ amongst farmers as to the need for reducing the number of geese; I have indeed heard it seriously argued that old toothless sheep would die in the winter if it were not for the excreta of geese, but it is needless to point out that such sheep only cumber the ground and are better dead than alive.

3. Those who have carefully watched geese feeding must have noticed that they never touch coarse grasses, but always the finest and most flourishing, which are just the grasses most needed for the welfare of all sheep stock, especially lambs. It is said that six geese consume as much grass as one sheep, and this is probably somewhat near the mark, for allowing 50 lbs as the average weight of a sheep and 5 lbs that of a goose, it follows that ten geese would consume as much as one sheep. Consequently where geese can be killed, not by the hundred but by the thousand, it must be to the benefit of all stock to keep them down.

It is possible that the East Falkland is not so over-run with geese as we are in some parts of the West, which has many small Islands to the westward, habited and uninhabited. Geese breed very freely on these Islands, and in January and February when their wings are strong, fly across to the mainland of the West Falkland. I do not advocate compulsory

poisoning, but only that it should not be prohibited where the number of geese is very excessive. In such districts geese are a pest as they consume much grass that is really wanted for sheep. If at H~~ill~~ Cove we had not to deal with geese which come from neighbouring breeding grounds we should hardly need to use poison, and even when poisoning is used, it is possible to do so only in certain places where geese congregate largely, that is where grass is particularly to their taste.

Excerpted to
M.P. 24/28.

4. It will be a great boon if the tax is taken off miniature rifles; small birds are not shot with these, but for their sake it would not be advisable to discontinue the tax on shot guns.

5. It would be much more equitable if the practice were revived of meeting the cost of reducing the number of geese from the public funds, for at present some farmers do not pay for geese killed, and their beaks are passed over to a neighbour who will pay. The farmers would in the end be really meeting the cost themselves, and the expense would be equitably distributed. I trust that His Excellency will consider this point.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

Port Stanley,

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

40



HOLMES, T. D. BLAKE & CO., LTD.

HILL COVE,

FALKLAND ISLANDS, March 27th 1928

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 24th January relating to the Preservation of wild Animals and Birds.

I have not answered it before, as I am waiting to try the poisoning of Geese with Phosphorized Oats, which His Excellency has been kind enough to let me try. I have the Oats and will make the trail after I have finished my dipping, when all stock will be out of the paddocks, and the geese drawn into the Settlement, when I will be able to give the Government a full report of my experiment.

If the geese do suffer a little by being poisoned, it will not be worse than by them being shot, when hundreds of them get away wounded and die on the beaches.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Sydney Miller,
Manager.

The Hon.

Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

NEW ISLAND
FALKLAND
ISLANDS.

46
May 14th 1928

To The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary
Stanley

Dear Sir

In answer to your letter
of Jan 24th 1928.

as regards the Bill relating
to preservation of Wild animals
and Birds.

I think it quite good
except in the case of Rats
as they are a great pest
on this Island and I sometimes
use Rat-Poison to keep them
down

yours obediently
J Scott

45

Falkland Islands Sheep Breeders Association.

Telegraphic Address—
"Ornum," Stanley.

Code—Bentleys.

PORT STANLEY,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

May 18th 1928.

Sir:-

Recd 27-29 In reply to your circular No 187/27 of the 24th January last in connection with the Bill to declare the Law relating to the Preservation of Wild Animals and Birds, the Falkland Islands Sheep Breeders Association have met and discussed the matter, and they are in agreement with the law to prohibit the use of poison to kill Geese, but are of opinion that Caranchos and other birds of prey should be destroyed in any way possible.

I am, Sir

Your obedient servant

G. J. Lawrence
Secretary.

Hon

Colonial Secretary.

Stanley.