

C.S.

LIVE STOCK.

NAT/FAU/2 # 17

MISCELLANEOUS.

193

No. 47/32.

C.S.O.

SUBJECT.

193 2.

9th February.

INTRODUCTION OF RED DEER, AND GAMES BIRDS, INTO
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Previous Paper.

343/31, 37/38

MINUTES.

1. Despatch to S. of S. no. 33 of 16/2/32.

The Treas. ^{in CH} 17.2.32.

The P.O. J.E.M. A.L. 3-2

Vet. Off. J. 19.2.32.

Hq. Govt. Nat. 19.2.32.

Please see

[Signature]

17. 2. 32.

Subsequent Paper.

~~20/6/32~~
~~22/6/32~~

~~13/7/32~~
~~20/6/32~~

30/9/32.
13/7/32

92. No. 65. 27. 25.10.32.

G. E. Schubert.
This is a view of
to be included
with it might be
confine to the first place to
ground our further enquiry to
Just

How C.S.
16.7.32.
I do not agree with the
observations of C. Gate Deegan in the
matter of Red Deer or the Ptarmigan
The Red Deer was introduced in
Yasmanui and in ^{no} sense affected the
land suitable for sheep. In our case
if that trouble did develop Red Deer
could be confined to tussocks and if it
didn't turn out a success they could
easily be shot off. I am of opinion
the experiment is worth a trial
17.7.32

y.p. Draft despatch submitted.

ms

20. 7. 32,

Hon C.S.

The case is well stated
Approved
J.G.
20. 7. 32

5. Despatch to S of S. No. 149 of 26/11/32

G.f. 3.3.33.

ms 28. 7. 32.

5A, 6-7 S. of S. Despatch No 138. of 19/10/32.

y.p. Submitted. to be circled
nil further here at present

Hon C.S.
I Agree: J.G.
15-12-32 14. 12. 32.

Jm. Toas. McH
16.12.32.

Jm. P.D. J.M. 20.12.32.

Vet. off. Jm. 14.1.33.
Please note.

By post-hat. of B. 14.1.33

[Faint handwritten notes and signature]
16.12.32.

Hon. Col. Secy.

I note we are not informed what untoward circumstances might arise if red deer were imported.

J. James Mont.
20.12.32.

Hon Col Secy:

A good case has been stated against the grouse family, still, it is just possible they may take to diddle-de = Empetrum. I fail to see how any of the suggested birds or animals could, by any chance, become a pest in this open treeless moorland.

of Bennett
as Met. 14.1.33

G.P. Submitted.

Jm

16.1.33.

G.P. 17.3.33.

Hon C.S.

Keep the matter in review
for the moment it can
rest as it is

J.P.G.
16.1.33

G.P. 20.4.33

Jm 20.3.33

~~6.7. 22.2.33.~~

~~22.9.33.~~

~~23.12/33.~~

~~28.2/33.~~

~~21/34.~~

~~1.12/34.~~

11.30/6/34.

11.31/3/34

JL. It does not seem necessary to pursue this matter. I should have thought that parliament would have done well here as the country is exposed and bleak. I should think it is far too wet for grouse.

MCH
24.6.34
So. 6. 34

Am. C.S.

No immediate action is called for hereon.

P.A.

JMS

So. 6. 34

(i)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

16th February, 1932.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 35.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, with the object of making use of waste lands in the Colony and of providing an attraction which may encourage the development of a tourist industry, I have had in mind proposals for the introduction into the Colony of red deer and of a game bird such as grouse or ptarmigan.

2. I shall be grateful to be furnished with advice as to the ways and means of giving effect to these proposals, if they commend themselves to you.

3. In this connection I would refer to the correspondence terminated in my despatch No. 222 of the 14th of November, 1931, and would say that although I am told that red deer rather than reindeer would appear likely to thrive in the Falkland Islands I am not on that account neglecting to explore the practicability of introducing the latter animals.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

JAMES O'GRADY.

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

5

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

26th July, 1932.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.
No. 149.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 65 of the 25th of May, 1932, regarding the possibility of introducing into the Falkland Islands red deer and game birds such as grouse and ptarmigan, I have the honour to say that I do not agree with the observations of the Director of the British Museum (Natural History) as to the unsuitability of red deer and ptarmigan to local conditions.

2. So far as concerns ptarmigan I am not convinced that the climate of the Falkland Islands is not sufficiently severe, and red deer I know to have been introduced into Tasmania where they in no sense affected the land suitable for sheep. Locally if trouble did develop from the introduction of red deer they could be confined to tussock areas and if this did not turn out a success they could be easily shot off.

3. I am of the opinion, therefore, that the experiment is worth a trial both in regard to red deer and ptarmigan and to grouse.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

JAMES O'GRADY.

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

FALKLAND ISLANDS

No. 65



DOWLING STREET,

25 May, 1932.

Sir,

Red. 1.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 33 of the 16th of February, and to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter from the British Museum, (Natural History) regarding the possibility of introducing into the Falkland Islands red deer and game birds such as grouse and ptarmigan.

I shall be glad to learn whether, in the light of the comments made by the Director you are disposed to proceed further with your proposals.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sgd.) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

GOVERNOR

SIR JAMES O'GRADY, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

Fr. B. Museum
9.6.32.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Cromwell Road,

London, S.W.7.

9th May, 1932.

Sir,

I am directed by the Trustees of the British Museum to state, for the information of Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, that they have had before them Mr Darnley's letter, No. 96148/32 of the 4th April, transmitting a copy of a despatch from the Governor of the Falkland Islands relative to the possibility of introducing into the Colony Red Deer and game birds, such as Grouse and Ptarmigan.

The Trustees adhere to the view that they have expressed before, that the introduction of exotic species is generally undesirable, and if successful, may have unexpected consequences. The possible development of a tourist industry in the Falkland Islands does not appear to the Trustees to justify the proposed introductions.

With regard to the species mentioned in the Governor's despatch, the Trustees wish me to make the following observations:-

The Red Deer was introduced into New Zealand, and now causes grave trouble to farmers. In the Falklands the deer could not be restricted to land

unsuitable

The Under Secretary of State,

Colonial Office,

S.W.1.

unsuitable for sheep, and would no doubt increase the difficulties of the sheep industry.

The Ptarmigan and Reindeer are accustomed to, and probably prefer, a climate more severe than that of the Falklands. Whether the Grouse would flourish in the absence of heather is doubtful.

I am &c.,

(Signed) C. Tate Regan.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

NO: 138



DOWNING STREET,

19 October, 1932.

41/32

Sir,

Red 5.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 149 of the 26th of July on the subject of the possibility of introducing into the Falkland Islands red deer and game birds such as grouse and ptarmigan.

2. I note that, having considered the views of the Director of the British Museum (Natural History) that the introduction of exotic species is generally undesirable, and if successful, may have unexpected consequences, you are still of the opinion that the experiment is worth a trial, both in regard to red deer and ptarmigan and grouse. ✓

3. I am advised that it is impossible to foreshadow what the effects of such an experiment may be; but previous experience in such matters shows that the result might be either a failure, in which event, financial loss would be entailed, or that the experiment might also be so successful as to cause undue interference with the existing balance of life. Such interference might take forms at present wholly unforeseen, and there is a definite possibility that any introduced species may become a pest and that eventually large expenditure may be necessary for its eradication.

4.

GOVERNOR,

SIR JAMES O'GRADY, K.C.M.G.

etc., etc., etc.

4. Examples of introduced mammals that have become pests are, of course, rather numerous. Apart from rabbits and red deer, there are the African monkeys and mongooses brought to certain West Indian Islands and, quite lately, the musk-rat in the British Isles. Among birds may be reckoned the house sparrow and starling introduced into America and the skylark in New Zealand, (where it does much damage to young wheat). Indian mynas have been introduced into a number of countries, in some of which they have become a nuisance, while in a few they have been beneficial. European birds introduced into Australia and New Zealand have generally flourished and have almost always proved disadvantageous to the existing species. An analogous case in this country is the grey (American) squirrel versus the indigenous red.

5. You will appreciate, therefore, that the main objection to your proposal is, as has been stated, that it is impossible to anticipate the result of introducing wild stocks into a new country. I am advised that in any case, the most likely result of introducing ptarmigan and grouse would be complete failure. It is practically certain that the climate of the Falkland Islands is not sufficiently cold for ptarmigan; and grouse are known to be very difficult birds to introduce. Attempts to establish them in Norfolk and Suffolk in localities that appeared quite suitable have failed altogether. They have also been introduced into Southern Sweden, Belgium, Holland and Western Germany. In Holland none now exist, the stock in Germany has
suffered

suffered serious reduction, and it is thought (though exact information is not at hand) that failure has also occurred in Sweden and Belgium.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant.

(Sgd.) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.