

1 4 1 5

5 1 4 1

PROPOSED FORMATION OF NATURAL HISTORY CENTRE.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE
26 MAY 1951
FALKLAND ISLANDS

NHC/1.

1415

MEMORANDUM

Education

Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.
26.5.51.

Natural History Centre

1. Attached are details of a proposed Natural History Centre - the establishment of which I mentioned to H.E. on May 24th.
2. Dr. Hamilton who has helped me in the drawing up of the paper is willing to serve on the Committee. None of the others - except Mrs. Cawkell - have been approached.

S. of E.

S. of E.

Reply at 5.

4/2.

fi. The idea seems sound, as long as it does not get further elaborated. It looks thin-~~er~~^{er} of the wedge. Like to me. Next demand/request would be for premises, then Containes etc. etc etc.

Cannot be considered; see below re Museum.

CS.

I am very much in favour of this project but still think that it should be based on the Museum, which is a permanent institution, and that the Chairman of the NHC might well be the Hon. Curator of the Museum

H. O.
29 MAY 1951

W.
28 MAY 1951

Any activity of this nature needs to be linked to smaller

with permanent roots in the City, otherwise its chances of

survival, and the moving spirit has moved elsewhere, are

slight. If on some you will agree with this.

2 Subject to marginal queries of approval all the

objects outlined.

3 As to the Committee I suppose that Mr. Elliot's name

is included to ensure co-operation with FIDS? Mr. Bennett

is a good choice. Mr. Owen should certainly be included

for not only does he get around more than most of us

but is himself very well informed in regard to the

form and frame of these objects; I appreciate the

reason for ~~not~~ including Mr. Tebbey but would not

Mr. F. Brunning, the Secretary, do so well? We need

to keep local people and explanations on evenly balanced

as possible. What about Camp Members?

Mr. Napier for the West & Mr. Connors for the East?

Both are keenly interested in the work side of the objects.

4. We must be careful not to cut across FIDS and the Scientific

Bureau.

MC. 28/V.

PROPOSAL FOR THE FORMATION OF A NATURAL HISTORY CENTRE

Why?

The Falkland Islands and their Dependencies are of considerable zoological and botanical importance and are likely to attract much attention in the future. It is therefore desirable that some organisation should exist in Stanley which can be a centre for ecological, botanical and zoological research.

I have discussed this matter with Drs. Hamilton and Sladen and we suggest the formation of a Natural History Centre.

Its functions would be:

- ✓ a. To carry out enquiries with the help of voluntary workers into the status of mammals, birds and plants in the islands and the Dependencies. The mapping of sea-bird colonies and so forth. Collecting. There would be close co-operation with F.I.D.S.
- ✓ b. To carry out scientific enquiries into the activities of allegedly harmful animals.
- ✓ c. The ringing of birds.
- ✓ d. To make suggestions for the preservation of certain species in danger of extermination and recommending of certain areas as sanctuaries.
- ✓ e. To help in the establishment of a museum in Stanley and the identification of specimens. This would entail close co-operation with the British Museum.
- ✓ f. To act as a liaison with other scientific bodies and museums.
- ✓ g. To act as a centre to which visiting scientists could turn for information.
- ✓ h. To act as a centre for the reception and distribution of information on local animals and plants.
- ✓ i. To act as a receiving centre for documents, books, reports - as those of the Discovery - notes, photographs, etc., which could be made available to genuine workers.
- ✓ j. To act as a centre through which papers could, very occasionally, be published. E.g. a simple local guide to plants or a guide book to local birds.
- ✓ k. To encourage by every possible means local interest in Natural History.

We hope.

What is to carry these out? A scientific enquiry requires a scientist; only B.H. qualifies in this regard.

I just have suggested that the majority of the Discovery Reports are on the hands of most readers; who is to pay for it?

The name suggested for the centre is ~~is~~ shosen to show that the main interest is in living things. Too close connection in the name with the Museum suggests corpses.

It

The N.H.C. would have to receive Government support as does the Broadcasting Committee. It would require no paid clerical assistance, nor would any of its members receive remuneration. It would, however, require a certain amount of stationery and a few periodicals - "Nature", "Discovery". It might be possible to purchase these through Education Funds.

I don't like this suggestion. Govt. (with FC approval) might make a small sub. version. We should avoid "hidden subsidies".

Storage space for documents could, for the time being, be found in my house if a few more shelves were erected in the spare room.

The following Committee is suggested:

- Chairman: ✓ Mr. E.M. Cawkell
- ✓ Dr. Hamilton
- Mr. K. Lellman } (*M. O'Brien would be an asset*)
- ✓ Mr. H. Bennett } (
- Mr. F. Elliot } (
- Mr. Tilbury
- Ex officio - any visiting scientists attached to FIDS.
- Hon. Sec. Mrs. E.M. Cawkell.

ACS
Pl draft reply to Mr. Cawkell in the sense of H.E.'s minute.

11 JUN 1951

5
15th June, 1951.

From: The Colonial Secretary,

To: Superintendent of Education,
STANLEY.Natural History Centre.

With reference to your Memorandum NHC/1 of the 26th of May, 1951, regarding the proposed establishment of a Natural History Centre, I am directed to inform you that the Governor is very much in favour of such a project, but feels that it should be based on the Museum, which is a permanent institution and that the Chairman of the Natural History Centre might well be the Honorary Curator of the Museum. His Excellency feels that any activity of this nature needs to be linked to something with permanent roots in the Colony otherwise its chances of survival, once the moving spirit has moved elsewhere, are slight. In regard to the composition of the Committee His Excellency appreciates your reason for including Mr. Tilbury but suggests that Mr. J. Browning, Sealing Officer, might be just as suitable and would keep local people and expatriates evenly balanced. His Excellency also feels that the inclusion on the Committee of Camp Members such as Mr. Napier for the West Falklands and Mr. Cameron for the East might be very helpful, as both these gentlemen are keenly interested in the wild life of the islands. You might also care to consider the inclusion of Mr. J.P. Oliver the Agricultural Officer. Finally the Governor states that care must be taken not to trespass on the preserves of F.I.D.S. and the Scientific Bureau.

2. I am to inform you that subject to the following queries His Excellency approves of the proposed functions of the Committee:-

- b. Who is to carry out the scientific enquiries?
1. Who is to pay for the various documents, reports etc.

Your suggestion that stationery and publications might be purchased from Education funds will not be practicable, but Government, with the approval of the Finance Committee, might be able to make a small sub-vention.

Reply at 6.

(Sgd) Michael R. Raymer

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

BW 25/6/51

MEMORANDUM

Education

 Colonial Secretary,
 Stanley.
 19.vi.51.
Natural History Centre

- 5
1. Reference your memo. 1415 of 15th June on the a/m subject.
 2. Whilst I agree that the N.H.C. should, for the sake of permanence, be based on the Museum I feel that if we wait until the Museum gets going we shall never get anywhere.
 3. From what I can see there is a reluctance on the part of the Town Council to proceed with the Museum project. I offered assistance several weeks ago but have heard no more about it.
 4. I would, therefore, suggest that the N.H.C. be formed at first apart from the Museum but with every intention that it should eventually become part of the Museum, which should certainly be its H.Q. I am quite prepared to act as Hon. Curator of the Museum but feel that I could do this only if I knew that the Town Council was willing to co-operate. Surely, if we get the N.H.C. running, with a good number of local people helping, then the value of having a museum both for the display of specimens, Falkland crafts, relics and so forth and as a focal point for all work in connection with the Natural History of the Falklands, will follow.
 5. As regards the constitution of the Committee I admit that the omission of Camp members was a blunder and agree entirely with H.E. that Messers. Cameron and Napier should be members. I would, too, suggest the inclusion of Mrs. Hansen from Carcass who is a first-rate ornithologist and no mean botanist. I do not know Mr. Browning, but as someone from the Sealing Station is obviously desirable, he could well take the place of Mr. Tilbury. The A.O. should, of course, be a member.
 6. There would be no poaching on the preserves of FIDS or the Scientific Bureau as we are not concerned with the Dependencies, but I feel - as I suggested many months ago - that copies of FIDS photographs should go in the local Museum.
 7. With reference to H.E's. queries, it is quite possible to carry out enquiries on scientific lines without everyone taking part being a trained scientist. In England we have had the Red Squirrel Enquiry, the Wood Ant Enquiry, the Heron and Fulmar Censuses, the Enquiry into the Little Owl, the Rook Enquiry, the Lapwing Enquiry, all carried out on a

*No need to wait.**We hope.*

national scale with practically no aid from scientists, and all producing information of the greatest economic importance; especially in the case of the rook and little owl. I understand that enquiries are now on foot into the activities of the grey squirrel and the edible dormouse (introduced by Lord Rothschild at Tring). The British Trust for Ornithology relies on amateurs for all its work. Certain aspects of the work need assistance from biologists, but we, as bodies at home, can call on the services of the British Museum. Although Sir Norman Kinnear has now left the B.M. he told me that if ever I wanted any assistance from it to get into touch with him.

Less important, perhaps, now that we have called on great differences with Argentina!!

8. What I have in mind for the Falklands are:

- a. The mapping of all Penguin and Albatross breeding areas. Some of these might be photographed from the air. The penguin, especially the Gentoo, has economic value.
- b. The mapping of all seal-breeding areas.
- c. A collection of Falkland plants. Sladen has found some new species - and there is a great deal to be done with the orchids and ferns.
- d. An enquiry into the status of the Night Heron (the Quarck), the Grey Duck and one or two other species the numbers of which are said to be declining.
- e. An enquiry into the "blue butterfly". This has been seen but never been taken.
- f. An enquiry into the spread of the house-mouse in the Camp. This little mammal is known to feed on the young and eggs of small birds - indeed it has become a carnivore. In the British Isles, from whence it was introduced - presumably accidentally - it cannot exist without the presence of humans (e.g. it has disappeared from St. Kilda now that the people have left) but in the Falklands it has adapted itself to a new way of life.
- g. The status of the fox and 'wild' ponies on Weddell.
- h. An enquiry into the Upland Goose. It should be possible to settle once and for all if the bird is harmful. On one farm last year one person killed 1700 geese.

In what way? Eggs?

9. These items show the lines we can follow. It might be slow going at first but enthusiasm is invariably catching.

10. As regards the reports, I was under the impression that these were already taken by the Agricultural Dept. But I find that 'Nature' was stopped last year. It does not really matter - we can do without them.

11. A certain number of roneo-ed forms for census and enquiry work would be necessary. We have a large number of waxes left here by the Army and some 300,000 sheets of duplicating paper.

E. H. Cawthra
S. of E.

ppos

3

J.E.
H 6-7. Certainly the T.C., in spite of a good deal of prodding by Gov., seem very slow over the Museum, and there may well be truth in the suggestion made by Mr. Carshell in his page 4.

ll
21/6/51

Let them go ahead; I shall be pleased to give my package to the N.H.C. Perhaps the T.C. will react more favorably ll once the N.H.C. is established.

21/6/51

S of G.

To note accordingly, pl

H.C.S.
25/6/51

H.C.S.

Sam. Committee being formed.

E.H.C. 26.6.51. ll

Pa
27/6.

Gen. The 29/ VIII

29/8/51

28. VIII. 51.

The

The attached
may interest H.E.
I will, in due
course, let him
know the outcome of
this Enquiry.

H.C.S.



9

NATURAL HISTORY CENTRE

The Natural History Centre was founded in July with the aim of finding out as much as we can about the wild-life and plants of the Falklands and recording it. We hope, too, to do ringing of birds and collecting of specimens of plants and animals.

It is realised that in asking you to help in our enquiries and collecting we are putting a burden on you - but we feel sure that you will approve of the aim of the Centre.

The Committee at present consists of:

- Mr. Harold Bennett
- Mr. N. K. Cameron
- Mr. E. M. Cawkell (Chairman)
- Dr. J. E. Hamilton
- Mr. K. Lellman

Mrs. M. B. R. Cawkell is Hon. Secretary.

The address to which all letters, specimens, etc. should be sent is: The Education Department, Stanley.

NATURAL HISTORY CENTRE

Education Department,
Stanley.

August, 1951.

Black-necked Swan Enquiry

This Centre, the purpose of which was explained on the wireless recently, has decided to commence its activities with an enquiry into the status of the Black-necked Swan and two hawks. It would be much appreciated if you would complete this form, returning it at your convenience. Nil returns are just as important as positive records.

It is especially requested that the records should be as accurate as possible.

1. Does the Black-necked Swan occur in your Camp as:
 - a. A breeding bird?.....
 - b. A winter visitor?.....
2. If it is breeding in what months of the year are the birds present and when do they breed?

.....

.....

 - b. How many nests are there?.....
 - c. How many eggs do the birds usually lay?.....
 - d. In what places do they breed (names of lakes, estuaries, ponds, etc.).....

.....
3.
 - a. If the birds come in winter how many come?.....

.....

 - b. In what months are they present, and are there more in some months than others?.....

.....
4. Are any birds shot or are any eggs taken?.....

.....

5. Have you seen any bird or other creature taking their eggs or attacking the young?.....

.....

Black-necked Swan Enquiry - Sheet 2.

6. Have the birds increased or decreased in numbers in the Camp since you have known it? (Any information given by others should be put down only if you can rely on it):

.....
.....
.....

7. Any other information you care to give should be entered here:

.....
.....
.....

NATURAL HISTORY CENTRE

Hawk Enquiry

Can you please say:

1. How many pairs of Blue Hawks (Red-backed Buzzards) were breeding in your Camp last year?.....

2. Where were the nests?.....
.....
.....

3. How many pairs of Sparrow or Black Hawks (Cassin's Falcon) were breeding in your Camp last year?.....
.....

4. Where were the nests?.....
.....
.....

If none of these birds were breeding in your Camp, or only those of one species, please say so above.

Handwritten signature and date
1975

I.

No.

19

SUBJECT.

19

Previous Paper.

MINUTES

Subsequent Paper.