

C.S.

MISCELLANEOUS

(General)

NAT/FLO/2#5

19 43.

No. 143/43.

Director of Agriculture.

SUBJECT.

19 43.

28th September.

Previous Paper.

OUTBREAK OF FIRE IN GORSE BUSHES  
IN THE VICINITY OF "LITTLE ITALY".

MINUTES.

1. Minute from Director of Agriculture of 28. 9. 43.
2. Minute to Chief Constable 29. 9. 43.
3. *Letter from Sec., I. I. Labour Federation of 18. 2. 46*
4. *" to " " " " " 19. 2. 46*

Subsequent Paper.

No.

MINUTE.

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

28th September 1943.

From Director of Agriculture.

To The Honourable,  
The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

There have been two fires in the gorse bushes near the Bungalows during the past 12 days. It seems unlikely that cigarette butts would have set fire to the gorse at this time of the year, especially as we have had no fires due to this or other causes on the Common. A party of boys appeared on each of these occasions (the first about 6 p.m. on the 17th and the 2nd. at 2.15 p.m. on 25th September) immediately the fires started. At each fire I observed R.Hansen, E.Nicholsen, V.Anderson, T.Sullivan and R.Smith. At the second there were R.Hansen E.Nicholsen, B.Wallin and (L.Porter?) and about six other boys. I have no proof but it seems likely that these boys know something of the origin of the fires. They were proceeding to the pictures on Saturday afternoon and past the scene of the fire, and proceeded along the sea front below the Monument. One of the boys, (Nicholsen) has told me that he first saw the fire just after he got passed the Monument enclosure. This does not seem possible, and I recall being at my telephone when a party came down the road (from the West) crying, "Its going". The wind was in the N.N.W. at the time, and under these conditions there was only a short stretch of road from which smoke could be seen. To reach this spot from the sea wall. W. of the Monument enclosure the boys would have to proceed E. along the road. There may be some explanation each of the boys could give. At present it seems to me that if they did not light the fire they should have seen the person who did.

*J. H. A.*

P.T.O

Since writing the above I have heard that Ronnie Hansen  
has described to someone how the boys lit the fuse with  
match boxes & then got down over the sea wall & waited  
until it got going

RH.

No. ~~957~~.....

MINUTE.

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

29th September, 19 43.

*From* The Colonial Secretary,

*To* The Chief Constable,

STANLEY.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I presume investigations are being made into recent gorse fires. It is most important that the culprits should be identified and prosecuted. I enclose a copy of a minute from the Director of Agriculture which should facilitate your enquiries. Please report progress to me tomorrow.

K. G. BRADLEY  
Colonial Secretary.



Falkland Islands Labour Federation

STANLEY,  
18th February, 1946.

Sir,

I am instructed by the General Committee of the Labour Federation, to forward the following recommendation, to His Excellency the Governor, for the destruction of the gorse bushes at Italy, for the following reasons:-

1. These have been a source of annoyance to the Public in so far that they are continually being set on fire.
2. The bushes are a danger to the bungalows immediately above.
3. It is felt that continual alarms for these bushes may break the moral of the Fire Brigade, and in the case of a serious fire, in which life may be involved, the members may not answer the call.
4. We consider that the average workingman has quite sufficient to do, and is tired enough after his day's toil, than to be called out to fires of this nature.

Yours faithfully,

The  
Hon. Colonial Secretary,

STANLEY.

143/43.

Copy to Supt. S. V. Fire Brigade for inf.

19th February, 46.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th of February, 1946, regarding the gorse bushes at "Itair", and to inform you that His Excellency has issued instructions for the destruction of the bushes in question. The Superintendent of the Stanley Volunteer Fire Brigade has undertaken to carry out such destruction by fire the date of which will be made public by him in the very near future.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) D. W. ALLEN  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
F. I. Labour Federation,  
STANLEY