

C.S.

Statistical.
Miscellaneous.

193 o.

No. 341/30.

C. S. O.

SUBJECT.

193 o.

15th August.

RECORDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IN
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON

Previous Paper.

(Embodying 72/1910).

MINUTES.

See Inside

Subsequent Paper.

0748

D. of D. Miscellaneous despatch of 10th January, 1910.	1-2.
Despatch to D. of D. No. 16 of 14th February, 1910.	3.
D. of D. Circular despatch of 19th June, 1925.	4
D. of D. Miscellaneous despatch of 15th April, 1929.	5
D. of D. Miscellaneous despatch of 21st March, 1930.	6-7
D. of D. Circular despatch of 17th June, 1930.	8-9
Despatch to D. of D. No. 181 of 12th August, 1930.	10.
Front Page of M.P. 72/10. of 10th January, 1910.	11.

PA. carefully.
 20. 12. 1930
 A

S. of S. Circ. despatch of 16/1/36.

(12)

1. Submitted. In this colony one might say records are comparatively limited. Prior to the year 1888 all correspondence was recorded in books - such books together with books recording despatches have been carefully preserved.

Records of value such as land with land and registration are kept in safes.

2. The question of destroying old records has never arisen here. This is due to the fact that there has been no difficulty regarding storage.

The only authorised destruction that I am aware of concerns Treasury vouchers. It does not appear, however, that this is the type of record referred to in the despatch.

3. I am of opinion that records of value are preserved in a satisfactory manner, but the fact must not be overlooked that such records are housed in wooden buildings. As previously stated, however, records of value are kept in safes. Climatic conditions in this colony do not affect records. There are no insect pests.

4. What is really required is a record room where old records of all Depts. can be stored. Old Treasury Cash books are at present stored in the Customs room, Town Hall. Likewise the old shipping register commencing 1837 - this is a very interesting record since it shows when Lapone first brought sheep to the colony.

M. CH.
C.S.

20. 11. 36

I agree
The new Secretariat building will contain a room for the storage of records. If not large enough more space can be found. Beyond Secretariat legal and shipping records there can be little of any value.

M. CH. 21/11/36

Hon. Treas. ^{14/1/37}

~~Hon. D.P. W.~~ ^{14/1/37}

Hon. A.R. Kouram.

To see. ^{6 Jan 37}

mem
cl

21. 2. 56.

Despatch to S of S. no. 12 of 11/1/37 (13)

^{1/2}
Despatch Submitted.

mem
cl
11. 1. 37.

11/1/37

11/1/37

C
✓
O
S
E
D
See 0748.

Downing Street,

10th January, 1910.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Lyttelton's Circular despatch of 21st September, 1905, I have the honour to inform you that the regulations in regard to access to Colonial Office records in the Public Record Office have recently been revised.

2. *I have now decided that the public may have unfettered access to such records, with the exception of certain special records, down to the year 1837 instead of the year 1802 as heretofore; and that records of a date subsequent to 1837 may be made accessible to individuals who have obtained the special permission of the Secretary of State, on condition that no minutes or official memoranda are to be copied, and that copies of all documents which it is desired to retain are to be submitted for examination before removal. The permission of the Secretary of State will not be given by any means as a matter of course, but will depend on the standing of the applicant and the subject matter of the enquiry.*

3. *I have not thought it necessary to fix a definite date beyond which permits should not be granted to search records subsequent to 1837. In ordinary cases such permits would not be granted for correspondence later than 1860, but in very special cases this limit might be slightly extended.*

4. *I shall be glad if you will arrange that all applications for the search of Colonial Records are treated in general accordance with the above rules.*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

CREWE.

*The Officer Administering
the Government of*

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DOWNING STREET.

10th January, 1910

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Lyttelton's Circular despatch of the 21st of September, 1905, I have the honour to transmit, for your information and for record in the Colony under your Government, copies of a Circular which I have addressed to the Officers administering the Governments of other Colonies respecting the recent revision of the regulations relating to access to Colonial Office records in the Public Record Office.

2. In allowing the public unfettered access to the Colonial records generally down to the year 1837, I have, however, thought it well to arrange with the Record Office that all records relating to the Falkland Islands shall be withheld from public scrutiny.

3. I shall be glad if any applications for permission to consult the records in the Colony can be dealt with in accordance with this decision.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

CREWE.

GOVERNOR.

W. L. ALLARDYCE, ESQ., C.M.G.,

&c. &c. &c.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 16.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

14th February, 1910.

My Lord,

In reply to your despatch Miscellaneous of the 10th January, 1910 enclosing copies of a Circular of the same date relating to the access to Colonial Office records, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I have taken steps to ensure that all such records in this Colony shall be withheld from public scrutiny.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most,
obedient humble servant,

T.A.V.B.

Administrator.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Crewe, P.C.,

&c. &c. &c.

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Downing Street.

CIRCULAR.

4

Downing Street,

19th June, 1925.

Sir,

With reference to Lord Milner's Circular despatch of the 1st of July, 1919, I have the honour to inform you that, after consultation with the Dominion Governments and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have decided that the period of public access to the Colonial Office Records at the Public Record Office should, with certain special exceptions, be extended to the end of the year 1878. This extension will have effect forthwith, and any applications for permission to search the Colonial records should be treated accordingly.

As you are aware, this decision will not preclude the grant of access in exceptional circumstances, by special permission of the Secretary of State, to records of a later date than 1878.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

L. S. AMERY.

The Officer Administering

the Government of

(2) (5)

DUPLICATE

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

DOWNING STREET,

Miscellaneous.

15 April, 1929.

Red 1

Sir,

With reference to Lord Crewe's despatch Miscellaneous of the 10th January 1910, I have the honour to inform you that I have recently had under consideration the question of withdrawing the restrictions upon access to the records of the Falkland Islands now in the custody of the Public Record Office, and have decided that, with certain reservations, they may be treated in the same way as other Colonial Records, which are now open to public inspection to the end of 1876.

I should be glad if you would be good enough to have the local records examined, as opportunity serves, and if you see no objection the existing restrictions upon access to those prior to 1876 may similarly be removed.

I take this opportunity of enclosing for your information a copy of my Circular despatch of the 19th June 1928 notifying the general extension of the period of public access, in the case of the Colonies generally, to the end of 1876.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,

(Signed) L. S. AMERY

RICK
NCLB IN DEOR, EDQ., C.M.G.
etc., etc., etc.

COPY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Downing Street,

21st March, 1950.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Lord Crewe's despatch Miscellaneous of the 10th of January, 1910, in which your predecessor was informed that arrangements had been made for withholding from public scrutiny all records relating to the Falkland Islands in the custody of the Public Record Office, while public access to other Colonial records in that Office was to be allowed down to the year 1837.

That arrangement was not interfered with when, in 1919, it was decided to throw open to public inspection the records of other Colonies down to 1860, nor in 1925 on the period being extended to the end of the year 1878. In May, 1926, however, my predecessor decided to open the records relating to the Falkland Islands to public inspection down to the latter date, after removing certain documents which it was arranged to treat as confidential and not available for public inspection.

I now enclose for your information a copy of a Circular despatch which I have addressed to other Colonies regarding the extension to the end of the year 1835 of the period of public access to the records in the Public Record Office.

Circular.
1.3.50.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant
Passfield.

Governor,
Arnold Hodson, Esq. C. M. G.,
&c., &c., &c.

COPY.

CIRCULAR.

Downing Street,
1st March, 1950.

Sir,

With reference to my predecessor's Circular despatch of the 19th of June, 1925, I have the honour to inform you that, after consultation with the Dominions Governments and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have decided that the period of public access to the ~~Colonial~~ Colonial Office Records at the Public Record Office should be extended to the end of the year 1885. This extension will have effect forthwith, and any applications for permission to search the Colonial records should be treated accordingly.

2. As you are aware, this decision will not preclude the grant of access in exceptional circumstances by special permission of the Secretary of State to records of a later date than 1885.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble
servant,

PASSFIELD.

CIRCULAR.

99a

Downing Street,

2nd January, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the late Lord Harcourt's Circular despatch of the 9th of March, 1914, relating to the preservation of official documents in the Colonies and Protectorates, and to state that I shall be glad if you will furnish me with detailed information, under the following heads, in regard to the whole of the records of the Government under your administration :—

1. General condition.
2. Whether bound or unbound.
3. Whether registers or other summaries have been kept.
4. Whether the records are housed collectively or otherwise and in what type of building.
5. Whether the Record Offices are
 - (a) fireproof,
 - (b) weather-proof, and
 - (c) insect-proof.

2. It has recently been represented to me that Colonial official records of historical value are in some instances in a bad state of preservation and that, owing to climatic and other causes, their disintegration would appear to be simply a matter of time and preventable only by removal to a temperate climate.

3. I consider that the proper depository for all such records is normally the territory to which they appertain, but at the same time I regard it as most desirable that where their retention locally involves an unavoidable risk of serious deterioration they should be removed to this country with a view to their preservation.

4. The Master of the Rolls, who concurs in this view, will endeavour to find accommodation for such records, if complementary to those at present in his custody. The space available, however, is very limited, and it will only be possible for documents of a comparatively early date to be accepted.

The Officer Administering
the Government of

5. *If there are any early official records in your custody, which it is considered essential to remove in order to ensure their preservation, I shall be glad if you will furnish me with detailed particulars, including the lineal space which they would occupy. In the case of the older Colonies, documents of a date anterior to that of the early part of the 19th century might be considered in the first instance, but in the case of territories more recently acquired, the end of 1878 might form a convenient division, as records up to that date are generally open to public inspection.*

6. *It must be clearly understood that in no circumstances will the Public Record Office undertake the custody of records which are not in a good state of preservation unless the local Government concerned is prepared to pay the entire cost of their restoration in such manner as will ensure their being available for consultation as required.*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

L. S. AMERY.

72/10

FALKLAND ISLANDS.
MISCELLANEOUS. (2)



DORNING STREET.

17 June, 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a Circular despatch dated the 2nd of January, 1929, which was addressed by my predecessor to certain Colonies and Protectorates regarding the condition and preservation of official documents.

2nd Jan. 1929.

2. I should be glad if you would furnish me with the detailed particulars requested in paragraph D of the Circular, in regard to the records in the Falkland Islands.

3. I take this opportunity to enquire when a reply may be expected to Mr. Amery's Miscellaneous despatch of the 15th of April, 1929, regarding the proposed withdrawal of the restrictions upon access to the records of the Colony. From my despatch Miscellaneous of the 21st of March 1930 you will have learnt that the period of public access to the records in the Public Record Office has been extended to the end of 1935.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

GOVERNOR,

ARNOLD HOBSON, ESQ., C.B.E.,

Ac.,

Ac.,

Ac.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

12th August, 1930.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 181.

My Lord,

In reply to Your Lordship's Circular despatches of the 2nd of January, 1929, and of the 17th of June, 1930, I have the honour to state that climatic conditions in this Colony are not such as to require the removal of any official records to the United Kingdom for the purpose of ensuring their preservation.

2. I have to add that I have caused the records in the Colony to be examined in accordance with the instructions conveyed by Mr. Amery's Miscellaneous despatch of the 15th of April, 1929, as modified by Your Lordship's Miscellaneous despatch of the 21st of March, 1930, and to be opened for public inspection up to the end of the year 1885.

3. I have to express regret that it was not fully appreciated that Mr. Amery's Miscellaneous despatch above quoted specifically required an answer.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most
obedient humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD PASSFIELD OF PASSFIELD CORNER, P.C.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Miscellaneous.

1910.

No.

72.

Miscellaneous Cir.

(SUBJECT.)

19010.

Access to Colonial Office records in the Public Record Office.-

10th January.

Refers to Mr. Lytelton's Circular despatch of 21st September, 1905, and transmits copy of a Circular respecting

Previous Papers.

(MINUTES.)

WR

Despatch Withdrawn.

No access to Public Records in the Falklands can be permitted without special application to the Officer Administering the Government.

T.A.D.

14.2.10

WR

Soft Circular Despatch of 15/4/09

9/6

Submitted. No reply seems necessary.

If any application should be made locally for the examination of records prior to 1879 care will be taken that no documents containing information, better withheld, will be made available for inspection.

Subsequent Papers.

PA. 13/11/09
WR

14th C.S

Approved.

12/29

W.H.

9/13

A.P.S.

12.VI.09

CIRCULAR.



Downing Street,

16th October, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to address you on the question of the preservation of Colonial records of historical interest. In practically all Dependencies, I believe, examination of records with a view to the destruction of out-of-date documents takes place from time to time. The procedure varies with different territories. In Ceylon, for example, it is laid down in some detail in the Government Manual of Procedure, which provides that every head of a Department should prepare and revise from time to time a list of documents which should be periodically destroyed, and that these lists should be submitted through the proper channel for the approval of the Governor before any documents are destroyed in accordance with the lists. The Manual also provides for a list of documents which should not be destroyed, which includes "documents of historical or other interest, including those relating to the history, constitution, administration, etc., of the Department, appointments of officers, etc." In Mauritius there is a Standing Committee for the examination of records to be destroyed, whose decision requires the approval of the Governor. In other territories, however, the procedure does not appear to be so closely defined, and although in the majority of territories the destruction of records requires the authority of the Governor or the Colonial Secretary, it would appear that in some cases only a general approval is required, and that details of the documents to be destroyed are not always submitted to the authority in question. One case has been brought to my notice where someone specially employed by a Colonial Government for the purpose was apparently allowed to undertake the wholesale elimination of old Colonial records without adequate supervision on the part of a responsible authority, with the result, it is feared, that records of considerable historical interest may have been destroyed.

The Officer Administering
the Government of

2. I appreciate that it may be neither desirable nor possible to lay down hard and fast rules as to the procedure which should be followed in all Colonial Dependencies in this matter. I wish, however, to remind Colonial Governments of the importance of taking steps to secure that, when consideration is being given to the elimination of out-of-date records, careful regard should be had not only to their official utility but to their actual or potential historic interest. It appears to me to follow that the destruction of records should require the approval of some responsible authority to which details of the documents to be destroyed should first be submitted, and that in this connection the procedures adopted in Ceylon and Mauritius are to be commended.

Recd 8

3. I take this opportunity of reverting also to the question of protection of records against the ravages of climate, insects, etc., referred to in Mr. Amery's circular despatch of the 2nd January, 1929, and preceding circular despatches. The preservation of its records in a satisfactory state must be regarded as one of the first duties of a Colonial Government, a duty which derives greater urgency from the fact that delay in the institution of suitable protective measures may and does lead to the inevitable loss of documents of value. I consider it important that every Colonial Government should satisfy itself that its arrangements in this respect are adequate, and that, where they are not, immediate steps should be taken to remedy the position, both by way of renovation of records in a bad state of repair and by measures for the suitable housing and preservation of these documents in future. It may be that the best measures that are practicable locally for the preservation of records cannot in some cases, on account of climatic conditions, etc., be otherwise than inadequate; in that case, consideration should be given to the question of transferring some of these records to the Public Record Office in this country so far as this course may be possible in the light of the principles set out in the circular despatch of the 2nd January, 1929. I should be glad if you would give this matter your early attention.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. ORMSBY GORE.

(13)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

11th January, 1957.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 12.

Sir,

Recd 12

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular despatch of the 16th of October, 1956, regarding the condition and preservation of Colonial records of historical interest.

2. I have satisfied myself that the public records in this Colony are preserved in a satisfactory state and that the arrangements in this respect are adequate. Climatic conditions in this Colony do not affect records and there are no insect pests.

3. I have to add that a record room will be provided in the new Secretariat building, where records will be stored which are at present kept in the Departments to which they relate.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

(Sgd.) H. HENNIKER-HEATON

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
W. G. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.