

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No.

425775

Date of Receipt.

Governor's Office.



From

SUBJECT.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enquiring as to when Whaling Statistics for season 1914-15 may be received. *South**Georgia, Hollands, Orkneys*

No.

Date

119

27th October, 1915.

Colonial Secretary's Record No.

MINUTES.

821/15

Hon Col Sec.

Registered Number of last Despatch.

362/15.

In my despatch n^o 130 of 12 Oct 1915, I have forwarded to S/S report on South Georgia Whaling for last season [CS.O. 821/15]

Is it usual for similar reports to be furnished for other dependencies.

For the present season I have asked Mr J. J. Wilson, Magistrate, who has accompanied the Whaling fleet to South Shetland & Graham Land to make a report, on the lines of the S. Georgia report, at the end of the season.

No. next Despatch.

22/16

3.12.15

J. J. Wilson
for

H. E. / I send up herewith C.S. 88/15 Report 1914-15 season
for South Shetlands and Graham's Land, and C.S. 133/13 Report
1914-15 Season, for South Orkneys. Please see my minute on
C.S. 821/15.

C. J. Condeley
C.S.

Hon Col Secy.

21.12.15.

Further information asked for on
133/13 and 88/15 as the reports for
Season 1914-15 are not complete.

21.12.15 AJ.
GN

H. E. / Instructions carried out. Please see
C.S. 133/13, 88/15 and 821/15.

C. J. Condeley
C.S.
24.12.15.

Despatch to Secy State No 178 of
28th Dec 1915.

AJ.
29.12.15

Secretary of State to Governor.

Dated 16th February Received 16th February, 1916.

ESTOPPING WHALING STATISTICS COMPLETE TO SAINTISM LAST NUTSFELLS
BARRELS OIL OBTAINED SOUTH SHETLAND ROSULATH BONARLAW.

When may I expect whaling statistics complete to September 30th
last telegraph numbers of barrels oil obtained South Shetland
last season.

Bonar Law.

Governor to Secretary of State.

Sent 17th February, 1916.

UNBASHFUL SABRANT WHALING STATISTICS GEORGIA AMOBEAN SAUNTISM
WITHAL 185 BARRELS EXPORTED SILVERGRAY SHETLANDS WELTERING THOUSANI
WHEYISH BARRELS ROSULATE UNPORTABLE 178 YOUNG.

With reference to your telegram of the 16th February am sending
by this mail whaling statistics Georgia 1st April 30th
September 56183 barrels exported. Shetlands 190455 barrels
last season See my despatch 28th December 178

Young

S/S

In Reply to your
telegram 16th Feb }

Whaling
statistics

South

Georgia
1st April
30th September

(am sending by the)
mail

1st April

30 Sept

56000

180 1873

3

Barrels

value of

#60 170

thousand

162

2

0

South

Shetlands

190

thousand

430

6 barrels

Unbashful

Whaling
Statistics

South

Georgia
Amo bean
Santism

Sabrant

Amo bean

Santism

Withal

wellwater 1873

three

barrels Imported
thrusters

~~Pearson~~ Pearson

Thousand

Pearson

Two.

Silver ray

South

Shetlands

Weltering

thousand

Whetted Whapich

Six barrels

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

NO. 119.

Downing Street,

th
27th October, 1915.



Sir,

I have the honour to enquire when I may expect to receive the statistics relating to the whaling operations in South Georgia and the other Dependencies of the Falkland Islands during the 1914-15 season.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

A. Bonar Law

GOVERNOR

W. D. YOUNG, ESQ., C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 178.

Government House, Stanley.

26th December, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 119 of the 27th October, I have the honour to transmit herewith the reports on the Whaling operations in South Shetlands and Grahams Land, and in South Orkneys for the season 1914-15.

ENCLOSURE NO. I

ENCLOSURE NO. II

2. The report on the Whaling operations in South Georgia, for the season 1914-15, I had the honour to transmit to you under cover of my despatch No. 130 of the 12th October, 1915.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Douglas Young

Governor.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

REPORT ON WHALING SEASON 1914-15 SOUTH SHETLANDS.

The Whaling Season of 1914-15 in the South Shetlands has possibly, been the most remarkable of all.

The prospects of a successful season were not very bright at first as pack ice was encountered as far north as the 58^o, and it was not until the middle of December that the majority of the Factories succeeded in reaching Deception Island. The pack ice extended from the eastern entrance to the Bransfield Strait to Smith Island, the entrance on the west. This was a very serious set-back as the months of November and December are considered the best months. Blue whales are usually very numerous in these months.

The weather during the stay in the ice was very foggy and snow fell frequently, but the wind was usually very light. The Factories "Benguela" and "Hektor" after being in the ice for about a fortnight, proceeded to Staten Island to obtain fresh water and to coal the Catchers. On the return south whale catching was engaged in on several days. The "Benguela's" catchers killed fifteen whales and the "Hektor's" catchers eight whales. The whales caught were chiefly Fin whales.

On the 14th December the "Benguela" and "Hektor" arrived at Deception Island and at once began work. Whales, in the early part of the season at Deception were fairly numerous and were chiefly Blue whales. In January and February whales were not quite so numerous. In March whales were very numerous blue whales especially.

In

In former years February has always been a very bad month for whales but this year, except in the Belgica Strait, it was fairly good. In March the Fin whale is usually most numerous but this year Fin whales were very seldom caught until the latter part of March, and even then there were numbers of Blue whales caught.

In the Belgica Strait the Factories had a very successful time during December and January. Blue whales were very numerous. In February the Blue whales departed and practically from the beginning of February to the 20th of March there were almost no whales caught in the Strait. A number of the Factories left the Strait and returned to Deception Island because of the scarcity.

The season has also been remarkable for the accidents which occurred. The first and most serious was the loss, by fire, of the Factory "Guvernoren" on the 27th January. On the 31st January the "Benguela" struck a rock but fortunately was not seriously damaged. She was patched up and made seaworthy in Belgica Strait. Then in February the S.W. "Harpun" of the Laboremus Co. struck a rock in one of the harbours and sank in deepwater, but with no loss of life.

I visited Belgica Strait on two occasions but was unable to get to all the harbours. I visited five factories namely "Bombay", "Orn II", "Benguela", "Hvalen" and "Svend Foyn I". The season at the time was very bad scarcely any whales were caught.

It is impossible to get ashore anywhere in Belgica Strait as the land and islands are covered with snow and ice right to the water's edge. The ice rises perpendicularly

to

to heights ranging from fifty to two hundred feet. This year there were very few icebergs in the Strait. There has never been a season when icebergs were so few.

I informed the Captains of the Factories of the Regulation regarding the harpoons on the beach but strange to say none were ever brought to me. I asked a few of the Captains if they could account for the reason why none had been found and I was told that they would not buy the Harpoons and had stopped doing so for some years. Their reason for not buying them was. In former years when they did buy them, the Flensers, who are supposed to remove all the harpoons from the carcass began to forget to take many of them out and when the carcass went ashore the man who took the harpoon out and sold it to the Captain, gave the Flenser half the proceeds of the sale. I also went round the beach on several occasions but failed to see any harpoons among the bones.

The weather in Deception, though very mild, was bad. There were frequent storms and blizzards and many very foggy days. This was also a great disadvantage as the whale catchers were unable to leave Port on many occasions. Towards the end of March there were many heavy snow-falls and high winds but the snow did not lie very long on the ground. The weather was very mild all through the season. but in March the nights were usually frosty. The mild weather was a great advantage as there was plenty of fresh water to be had up till the last week in March when we had a spell of very hard frost.

Although all the Factories have had very good catches very few have had a full cargo. If they had got in at the usual time there is no-doubt that they all would have had full cargoes, excepting perhaps the "Normanna" which arrived very late in the season.

Stanley,

22nd December, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a statement of the whale oil produced and the number of whales caught by each Company operating in the South Shetlands and Graham's Land during the Whaling Season 1914-15.

I have, etc.,

(SGD.) W. Barlas,

Late Ag. Stip. Magistrate.

The Hon.

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

WHALING SEASON, 1914-15.

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND GRAHAM'S LAND.

Statement of Declared Oil Production and Whales caught.

Company	Factory	Oil Produced Barrels	Whales Caught				Totals	Average No of Barrels per Whale.
			Blue	Fin	Hump- Back	Right &c.,		
Eoc. Ball. de Magall- anes.	Normanna	11,000	59	136	67	----	262	42
Hektor Co.	Hektorja) &) Benguela)	39,001	343	326	32	----	701	53.3
Norge Co.	Solstreif	21,735	161	191	114	----	466	46.4
Nor Co.	Bombay	15,500	124	130	58	----	312	49.6
Ornen Co.	Orn II	23,000	221	187	32	----	440	56.1
Hvalen Co.	Hvalen	16,000	173	123	42	----	338	47.3
Salvesen & Co.	Heko &) Horatio)	22,200	146	236	115	1 Bottle nose	498	44.7
Southern Co.	Svend Foyr I	22,000	238	151	51	1 Right	441	49.8
Laboremus Co.	Roald Amundsen	20,000	170	164	71	----	425	47.
Odd Co.	Gubernor- en.	16,500	161	45	44	----	250	36.
<p>The Oil produced by this Company was not exported as the Factory "Gubernoren" was lost by fire in Belgica Strait on the 27.1.15.</p>								
T O T A L S		206,936	1796	1679	356	2	4133	50

(SGD). W. Barlas,
22.12.15.

Port Stanley,

April 5th 1915.

The Hon. Col. Sec.

I have the honour to report that the whaling season at South Orkneys during 1914-15 has proved the best to the one ship there, this in spite of the unprecedented conditions prevailing, was due to the very fine way this factory s.s. "Falkland" was fitted up, and although this boat has 14 pressure boilers aft there is still room for more.

Ice in one solid sheet surrounded the Islands quite 100 miles to the North with the result that the anchorage could not be reached until January 19th.

Owing to the lateness of the season at South Orkneys even under better ice conditions, as former years the catch or catches can never equal those at South Shetlands, for it is during November and early December that the fattest Blue Whales are procured.

With the exception of one harbour "too small for large ships", there is a total absence of harbours, one extremely rough bay is now considered the best this is exposed to heavy swells.

On Signey Island ("the anchorage") large numbers of Sea Elephants come up to sleep. One seasons thinning of the Males would not in my opinion be hurtful to the existence of this animal.

Acting on instructions I visited the Argentine Meteorological Station on Laurie Island, and in reply

to

to my questions was told that the ice on the South side broke up on January 20th 1915, and on the North mid October, 1914, but was full of pack until January. The sea froze up in June, 1914. Whales were seen at times but a long way off, species unknown.

A species of seal, probably the Sea Leopard, appear to be in large numbers round these Islands enormous quantities of Penguins are killed by them, and the remains of the latter litter the sea in places.

I beg to suggest the necessity that to still further reduce the waste of whales, pressure boilers and crew sufficient to work them should be installed in every floating factory to the utmost capacity, there is no question of financial loss but one of 50% gain.

I have, etc.,

(SGD). A. G. Bennett,

D.O.

RETURN OF WHALES & OIL PRODUCED ON BOARD
 S.S. "FALKLAND" AT S. ORKNEYS, SEASON
 1914-15.

Blue whale.	Fin whale.	Hump back whale.	Bottle nosed whale.	Total.
94	275	10	2	379 whales & 2 Bottle N. whales.

Oil produced 14,000 Barrels.

The Bottle nosed whale is quite a small animal and apart from these the average per whale is 36.94 Brls.

While fishing on the ice edge until January 19th the average was then down to 28 owing to the impossibility of properly working the bodies in mid ocean and lack of water.

(SGD.) A. C. Bennett,

23.12.15.