

FLKLAND ISLANDS.

Governor's Office.

No.

DEP/WHA/1 # 5

Date of Receipt.



From

SUBJECT.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Market for Whale Bone in South Shetland Islands.

No.

Date

66

22nd May, 1915.

Colonial Secretary's Record No.

MINUTES.

Desp. to Sec of State No 110 of 7th Sept 1915.

WJ.
8.9.15

Registered Number of last Despatch.

No. next Despatch.

157/16

24th Oct 1915
10.6.16

39/114.

A
1

Reference to previous correspondence:—

~~Secretary of State's~~
Governor's

Despatch No. 71 of 15 June

Falkland Islands
No. 116

Downing Street,
11th November, 1914

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you,

for your consideration,
the papers noted below on the subject of the possibility of
finding a market for whale bones.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,



L. HARCOURT.

The Officer Administering

the Government of

The Falkland Islands

Date.	Description.
4 Nov 14	From the Imperial Institute

CRW

ENCLOSURE TO DESPATCH

No. 116. OF 11th Nov 1914

Copy.

No: 3091/1914.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE

of the

United Kingdom, the Colonies and India.

South Kensington,

London, S.W.

4th November, 1914.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No: 28179/14 of the 17th August last, with enclosure, enquiries have been made by the Imperial Institute as to the possibility of finding a market for the whales' bones from the South Shetlands.

The purpose for which the bones would realise the best price would be for the manufacture of buttons, and a large firm of button-makers was accordingly consulted. They reported that it was doubtful whether the bones would be of much value for their purpose, as the pith is so large that there is little sound bone on the outside. It was however not possible for them, from an inspection of the single bone submitted, to express a definite opinion on the point, which they stated could only be decided by technical trials on a small scale. The firm expressed their willingness to carry out such tests if a quantity of 1 or 2 cwt. of the bones could be supplied.

A second firm expressed the opinion that
the

the bones would not be very suitable for button-making, as their extreme hardness would entail extra labour and expense in cutting.

For other manufacturing purposes. e.g. the manufacture of artificial manure, etc., the bones would realise from £3 10s. to £4.15s. per ton in the United Kingdom, and it is a question whether they could be remuneratively shipped from the Falkland Islands at this price.

I suggest that the Government of the Falkland Islands should be asked to send over a small representative consignment of about 2 cwt. of the bones, which could then be submitted to technical trials by button-makers and their value definitely determined.

At the same time the Government might be asked to ascertain whether, in the event of the bones not proving suitable for button manufacture, it is likely that the price which the bones would fetch for the manufacture of manure, etc., viz. £3.10. to £4.15. per ton, would be remunerative to exporters in the Falkland Islands.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) WYNDHAM R. DUNSTAN.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE, S.W.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

NO. 115

Government House, Stanley.

14th September, 1915.

Sir,

With reference to your despatches noted in the margin I have the honour to inform you that a case containing a quantity of whales bones will be forwarded by the mail steamer to-morrow to the Director of the Imperial Institute, to ascertain whether the bones would be suitable for the manufacture of buttons.

2. I understand from Mr. W Barlas, who acted as Government Officer at the South Shetlands last whaling season, that all the bones of the whales are boiled down with the flesh and the oil extracted therefrom. The refuse is then, as far as possible, threaded as guano and shipped to England or elsewhere.

3. In former years the bones were thrown away, but now they are used locally with advantage, for extracting oil and for the manufacture of manure.

4. I am also sending to the Director samples of the "feeders" of the whale, which I understand are considered by the whaler to be of no value. The Director of the Imperial Institute might be asked to kindly advise whether these "feeders" can be remuneratively used in any manufacture

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.

No. 116 of the 11th
NOV. 1914
No. 68 of the 22nd
MAY, 1915.