

C.S.

WHALING (Reports)

(South Shetlands)

1922

DEP/WHA/3 # 2

No. 351/22

Col. Treasurer

SUBJECT.

1922

27th April

Previous Paper.

3374/21

Report by Mr. A. G. Bennett, Whaling Officer, on Whaling operations at South Shetlands for the Season 1921-1922

Temporary permits for taking of humpbacks

MINUTES.

*Minute from Col Treasurer d 27th April 1922 — Encl ①
Copy of Report by Mr A G Bennett — Encl ②
Letter from Govt Naturalist d 28th April 1922 — Encl ③*

Y.B. Submitted

- 2. Y.B. might wish appreciation of this interesting report conveyed.*
- 3. The proportion of permits in the case of the hako does not seem to correspond in the report and statistics.*
- 4. The Govt Naturalist to see and comment?*

20/4/22

P. 1. Please see also Whaling Officer's Diary attached

H.C.S.

Pages 2+3 please proceed: diary to go with report to Govt Naturalist. No. 290

Subsequent Paper.

*B.L. H.C.S.
K.C.
P.C.
H.C.S.
H.C.S.
H.C.S.*

a.g. Baker, d 29th April 1922 — Encl (3)

Govt Naturalist

Accordingly with diary

ttttt 29/4/22

Hon. Col. Sec.

Returned please, my observations in duplicate, attached.

2. I would suggest that the Norwegian Whaling Association, ^{and Messrs. Salvesen,} be informed at the earliest convenient date, of the special conditions for next season, if they are sanctioned.

3. I would further recommend emphatically that the owners of Neko and Pythia have their attention drawn to the low average output of their factories.

J.H. Hamilton

Government Naturalist

4/5/22.

Y.S. Submitted with the Govt. Naturalist's ~~report~~ observations.

2. May it not be desirable in view of the report on the Neko and the Pythia to amend the Whaling Regulations by insisting on sufficient tank storage space being available in factories?

3. I would like to speak to Y.S. with reference to the form of acknowledgment to Captain Anderson for his services in relieving Messrs. Bapstane and Lester

ttttt 6/5/22

Will Y.S. be pleased to initiate the Diary?

H.P.S.

all licences for 1922-23 for Scott
Shelton's should provide for prohibition of
taking of Rights + Hempsteds, which in
few instances. G.N.'s recommendation as to
issuing of temporary permits for Hempsteds
will be considered later.

2. Attention of owners of Pythia + Noko
should be drawn to low average output
of their factories.

3. Report + G.N.'s observations on it to
go to Sqs special reference being made
to low average of Pythia + Noko + to para:
^(presenting of Blue Note)
2, 4 + 8 of G.N.'s summary. A recommendation
should also be made that subject to
views of Sqs + Trustees of British Museum
Museum office should be allowed to give
temporary permits for taking of Hempsteds
as suggested by G.N.

4. I have written a separate minute about
Notice of Mr Bagshaw + Mr Lester.

5. I am inclined to defer amendment of
1921 Regulation until views ^{of them} of Sqs + Brit

Museum from Mr Melvill.

H.

11 May 1922

Despatch No 68 to S of S d 15 May 1922 - Encl (6)

Memorandum from Govt Naturalist d 17th May 1922

Copy of letter by Mr A. G. Bennett - Encl (5)
Encl (5a)

Y.P. Despatch submitted

~~11/10/22~~ 21/10/22

H.

22 May 1922

Observations on Report by Govt Naturalist
d 11th May, 1922 - Encl (6)

S of S Despatch No 94 of 21st August 1922 - Encl (7)

Y.P. Submitted

2 To telegraph to the Inspector
cancelling the authority to issue
permy permits for killing beards, backs?

3. Copies of the despatch and enclosure
to Govt Naturalist and Mr Bennett?
The S. G. Smith Georgia would also be
interested. It would have a copy?

Yes please
copies sent H.

~~11/10/22~~ 3/10/22

H.P.S.

I am strongly opposed to cancelling
the authority given to Inspector S. Georgia
for reasons stated in despatch forwarding
S. Georgia report on whaling for New
Zealand. I am also most anxious.

the whaling officer S. Skellern should have similar authority to grant temporary permits to take humpbacks.

2. Will you please send this paper & the South Georgia papers to Govt. Mariner for any further observations which he may care to offer on the question of temporary permits. I shall be glad if he will return the paper early: any other matters in connection with enclosure (F) can be considered later.

Yrs.

3 OCT 1922

Attach H.
1001

Hon. Secy Secretary.

I venture to suggest that it may be in the interests of public peace to sanction the granting of temporary licences to kill Humpback Whales, and adduce the reasons following.

2. Life in the Dependencies is extremely trying on account of the severe physical conditions, and,
with

with reference to whaling, because of the arduous and very
dirty work and the entire absence of recreation.

Apart from employment there is no inducement
for persons to visit these places, and the absence of
work gives full scope to the depressing influence of
the environment.

3. The actual wages paid to the factory crews
are very small and it may be stated that over 60 per
cent of their total earnings are the product of a bonus
on the oil output and overtime.

It would not be possible to conceal from these men
that humpbacks were plentiful if such were the case,
and the knowledge that advantage was not being taken of
an opportunity to add to the oil output and therefore
to their earnings would inevitably have an irritating
effect.

There has been and still may be a strong Bol-
shevik element among Norwegian labourers.

4. From time to time labour disturbances have
broken out in South Georgia. It is naturally when
work is slack and the men have spare time and super-
fluous energy that such movements are likely to origi-
nate and become active.

The suggestion that humpbacks might be killed in
order to maintain a supply of raw material is made
with a view to averting disturbances.

5. I would submit that the preservation of pub-
lic peace is of importance sufficient to justify the
proposal

proposal, the more so since in the event of the outbreak of disturbances, the Whaling Officers even if assisted by the officers of the factories would be in a hopeless minority.

6. Final decisions as to the granting of these permits could only be made by Officers actually on the Whaling Grounds.

Such persons alone are in a position to judge of the necessity of the act and to make full enquiry into the facts of each case. Permits should only be issued after careful investigation, and then only if the necessity of doing so is clear.

7. I fear that this minute may contain repetition of a certain amount which I have written before, but it seems advisable to state the case in extenso.

J. E. Hamilton

(J. E. Hamilton.)

Government Naturalist.

6/10/22.

Y.S.
Submitted

H.H.H. 7/10/22

H.C.S.

Deputy Delegation to S of S Summit

H.H.H.

10 Oct 1922

Telegram to S. of S. of 10th Oct. 1922 - Encl. (8)

Telegram from S. of S. of 16th Oct. 1922 - Encl. (9)

Govt. Lateral sheet

In information and to
direct the Whaling Officer please

H.H.H. 18/10/22

Hon. Col. Sec.

Noted and returned please

2. Copy of a letter of instructions
to Whaling Officer, S. Sheppard
enclosed.

(10)

J.A. Hamilton
Govt. Naturalist

20/10/22

Y. S. Sub. illu

H.H.H. 23/10/22

M. 23/10/22

Telegram from S of S of 24th October 1922 - Encl (11)

Minute from the Governor of 25th Oct. 1922 - Encl (12)

Telegram to Secretary of State of 25th Oct 1922 Encl (13)

~~S of S despatch No 5 of 8th Jan. 1923
with enclosures A & B - Encl (14)~~

~~S of S despatch No 4 of 9th January 1923
with enclosures A & B - Encl (15)~~

Telegram to Magistrate So. Co. 25 Oct 1922 (14)

Desp from S of S No 5 of 8th Jan. 1923 (15)
with encls 15a + 15b.

Desp from S of S No 7 of 9th Jan. 1923 (16)
with encls 16a + 16b.

Off.

Submitted

Gw. Naturalist to see?

ttttt 16/2/23

RR

14/3/23

Gw. Naturalist

accommodate

ttttt 17/2/23

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you. Noted and returned please.

J. Hamilton

Gov. Naturalist

9/3/23

Letter from Mr. J. Hamilton

of 30/1/23

No.

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

MINUTE.



27th April 1922.....19

From Colonial Treasurer.....

Stanley.
.....
.....

To

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I beg to submit the attached report from Mr.A.G.Bennett who acted as Whaling Officer at the South Shetlands during the past season 1921-1922.

2. Mr.Bennett returned to Stanley in the s.s."Ronald" on the 13th inst and will now be able to resume his duties as Customs Officer Stanley this afternoon.

A. Thompson
Colonial Treasurer.

1a

Stanley.

27th April 1922.

Sir.

I have the honour to request that you will forward the enclosed reports Etc ,relating to South Shetlands, to The Hon:the Colonial Secretary.

To The Hon: Colonial Treasurer.

W. Bennett
27.4.22.

Report

On the Whaling Season 1921-1922 at South Shetlands, and Grahams Land.



The following vessels operated in the waters of this Dependency during the season :-

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|----------|------------------------|
| 1. Ronald with | (5) 6 | Catchers | Hektor Co |
| 2. Solstreif | 3 | - | Norge Co |
| 3. Svend Foyn 1. | 3 | - | Sydhavet Co |
| 4. Orn 11. | (3) 4 | } - { | Ornen & Nor Co |
| 5. Falk | 3 | | |
| 6. Thor 1. | 3 | - | Messrs Bryde & Dahl |
| 7. Neko | 3 | - | Messrs Salvesen & Co |
| 8. Pythia | (3) 4 | - | Hektor Co (Chartered). |

The Guvernoren was wrecked near Stanley on the voyage down, and the whalers belonging to this factory were distributed, one to each of the above () ships.

From the 26th of November to the first part of January, Blue-whales were abundant, and in excellent condition. Difficulties however were present during this period in the shape of ice. This ice, which consisted of massive sea-ice, with a heavy sprinkling of more or less giant bergs, extended to the North from the land (Smith Island) some 25 miles, to the West as far as its reflection in the sky (ice blink) could be seen. The "blink" looking much better to the N.E. the Ronald returned to Nelson Strait. This Strait, and its approaches contained much large ice, but it was not the solid mass seen further to the S.W. By careful navigation Deception Island came in view where the same heavy sea-ice extended in all directions. This was forced, and the harbour entered after several days delay. Inside, conditions were very little better, no water was visible, that part of the harbour that had broken up was now filled with the large ice that had drifted in. These conditions

To the Honourable

The Colonial Secretary

Stanley.

prevailed around Deception and adjacent islands until the New Year accompanied by calms and bright sunshine. All whaling operations were most difficult, whales were badly scratched, and steam whalers damaged in the ice. Some were quite fixed in ice in the harbour for days together unable to move. Communication from ship to ship was impossible for often a week and more, although but a few hundred yards intervened.

The ice travels very rapidly to the N~~NE~~ and usually travels along the S~~SE~~ side of Bransfield Straits, this year however, the bulk passed along the N.^W. side, and was in an abnormal quantity. Photographs attached, show the conditions inside Deception during this period.

From December 18 to 21 st I proceeded in the whaler "Graham" (Svend Foyn l.) to Anvord Bay, to effect the rescue of Messrs Lester and Bagshawe of the "Cope Expedition" who had wintered on Graham Land. The ice conditions in Belgica Straits were quite as bad at this time, and the Blue-whales equally abundant to the North of Cape Murray.

December 25 to 28, I made a flying visit to Admiralty Bay in whaler Bransfield (Hektor Co). Here Neko and Pythia were operating. We then proceeded towards Astralabe Island in order to shoot whales, here the water was comparatively clear of ice.

In early January, the ice cleared away, and at once there set in one long gale only broken by spells of fog and snow. This continued until late in March, during which time sunshine was almost unknown. This type of weather was a much greater set back to whaling than the ice. Whales became scarce, or appeared so owing to the impaired visibility. Certainly the main army of the large hand fat type of blue-whale had passed at the usual time (early January). Blue-whales of a smaller type and very thin, together with equally miserable Fin-backs, were sparingly caught, with here and there a really fat whale.

In mid January I went with Solstreif to Belgica Straits. This factory anchored with others in Nansen Island, I remained a month, during which time whales were seldom seen in the Straits, All entrances, except those to the North being blocked with ice.

The weather was not of the usual clear and bright type, but was made up of calm, fog, snow, whaling at this period was at its worst.

After a most severe gale at Deception, lasting from March 20 to 22nd the whole aspect changed to really fine weather, for so late in the season. The same improvement ^{appears} to have equally affected the Straits also. Following this whaling was fairly fast, owing to the whales being more numerous in themselves, or that the more summer-like conditions rendered them more visible.

These late whales consisted of both Blue, and Fin, of all types from very fat to exceedingly thin. It was very pronounced that those who were fat had a more or less plentiful covering of diatoms, (a large number of diatom specimens will be forwarded to the British Museum), while the lean kind were minus these parasites.

During the worst whaling period, several gunners informed me that they had seen fair numbers of Hump-backed whales, (they said hundreds). These whales behaved in a manner they had not seen for years. they were found in several of the deeper bays and fjords. One had tried the experiment of stopping the engine, and, as a result the animals became sufficiently interested to swim round, and examine- in their way- the whaler.

This is the type of Hump-back that they formerly caught in abundance. The conditions imposed this season protected this whale from being shot.

The catch as declared to, was 203123 barrels from 3605 whales, giving an average of 57.1 barrels per whale, I consider the above average a really excellent one, but still open to some improvement.

A close scrutiny of the attached schedules, and the returns from which they are compiled clearly shows that both Neko and Pythia have not done the good whaling they should. I see no reason why the latter vessel should have done so badly, unless the encumbrance of so many empty barrels about the decks in place of tank holds.

Regarding the Neko owned by Messrs Salvesen & Co, I believe good results can never be expected from this boat. A better class of vessel, properly fitted is required. It will be noticed that Neko is the only factory that has not made the required quantity of press oil (1e 1 barrel of press to 2½ blubber), also the average per whale is the lowest, clearly showing that the most is not obtained from the whales caught. The absence of sufficient tank holds renders necessary the carriage on deck of a tremendous stack of empty barrels, most of these must be landed somewhere before work, in a proper form, can be started. The process of landing, and shipping must be repeated each time this ship changes her seat of operations, time and labour is thus deviated, that, in a well appointed factory would be used in the reduction of carcasses. It is also observable that Neko selects spots for anchorage remote from, and most difficult of access, to the Whaling Officer.

Owing to the prevailing conditions, Admiralty Bay, and Deception Isd were the seat of operations until January. Most factories then gradually passed on to Belgica Straits. None went South of 64.30 S owing to the ice. Orn 11. and Falk returned to Deception for a period in February and March, finally going to Nansen Island. Ronald remained as part of the land station throughout at Deception.

The whalers belonging to Guvernoren were attached for the season, one to each, of three factories. It is peculiar that these factories made no better progress than those that were not so fortunate. In my opinion had not Ronald have had a sixth whaler this season, a serious financial loss would have resulted. The area about Deception is more open and subject to much worse weather conditions, than the Belgica Straits, to which latter area all factories, except Ronald, can resort.

A fair number of embryos ~~were~~ were seen during the season, but, as most of these are aborted in the water during the flensing, I was not able to connect them with the parent. I saw none sufficiently small to preserve.

After the first week in January, there arrived a type of Blue-whale that the gunners call "Mrsh Bear", a small, and very thin

whale, poor in oil. I cannot find any distinctive feature to part this from the larger form, except one of size. It is certain that they arrive more or less about the same time each year. Similarly there are two forms of Fin-whale so far without a characteristic difference, except size, poorness in oil, and the absence of diatoms on the skin. Frequently these small Fin-whales have a "Penella" parasite that I have not so far noticed in the larger and fat variety.

The new Whaling Regulations (1921) caused much adverse comment. They certainly fill a long felt want, and cannot be anything but beneficial to this industry.

The steam whaler Minerva 11. attached to Pythia drifted on to rocks in the night-time of March 1st, and was a total loss.

Captain O. Andersen. Svend Foyn 1. of Sandefjord, who caused one of his whalers (Graham) to proceed, and personally went to the rescue of Messrs Lester & Bagshawe of the "Cope Expedition, cannot be thanked sufficiently for his heroic and gratuitous services to these men, especially when his lesser kindnesses and thoughtfulness are considered. I most strongly recommend that if the conditions of the Expedition admit, that some appreciation of Capt. O. Andersens services should be forwarded by the Government for the rescue, kindness, and carrying home of these otherwise abandoned British men. While everyone considered it expedient that these men should be rescued, Capt. Andersen was the only one who considered a couple of whales, and a few tons of coal of less value than two human lives.

I secured through the kindness of Capt. T. Larsen. "Falk", a more or less complete skeleton, and an additional jaw of the rare and almost unknown whale Berardius. This together with a number of small specimens of interest, will form the subject of a separate letter, and be forwarded to the British Museum.

A small effort at geology, and the specimens relating

to the paper, I will hand in for forwarding when completed.

I took with me and planted on Deception Isd 26 small roots of Tussac grass. These were promptly uprooted by gulls, re-planting of those that could be found, resulted finally in three roots growing, but being continually eaten down by the same birds.

During my absence to Belgica Straits, Capt Ohre, Ronald, was good enough to re-erect the flagstaff in front of the Government building that was blown down some years ago, & also to give a coat of paint to the house. This was badly needed as all the original had been scrubbed off with flying sand, and snow in the frequent gales.

It may be worth recording that Messrs Lester & Bagshawe had the British flag flying at Water-boat Point on our arrival (Graham Land) 18th December 1921. I also hoisted the flag on Deception Isd, 22nd Feb, & 6th April: almost the only occasions that the weather conditions permitted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir.

Your obedient servant.



Whaling Officer.

Table, 1.

| Name of Ship | Whales taken | | | | Oil produced | | | Average per Whale | Blubber to Press ^A | % of Press to Blubber ^B |
|---------------|--------------|------|---------|-------|--------------|-------|--------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Blue | Fin | Other | Total | Blubber | Press | Total | | | |
| Pythia. | 141 | 229 | - | 370 | 12595 | 5280 | 17375 | 43.2 | 2.33 | 41.9 |
| Neko | 239 | 150 | - | 389 | 13334 | 5036 | 13700 | 43.1 | 2.69 | 37.1 |
| Thor 1. | 167 | 206 | - | 373 | 15466 | 7632 | 23148 | 62.0 | 2.01 | 49.6 |
| Svend Foyn 1. | 217 | 223 | - | 445 | 16900 | 3600 | 25500 | 57.3 | 1.96 | 50.3 |
| Orn 11. | 230 | 223 | - | 453 | 17332 | 8133 | 25500 | 55.6 | 2.13 | 46.7 |
| Solstreif. | 240 | 210 | - | 450 | 18000 | 3000 | 26000 | 57.7 | 2.25 | 44.4 |
| Falk. | 247 | 182 | 2 BN | 431 | 17573 | 9227 | 26800 | 62.1 | 1.90 | 52.6 |
| Ronald. | 331 | 323 | - | 639 | 26995 | 12605 | 39600 | 57.4 | 2.14 | 46.6 |
| | 1842 | 1761 | 2B-nose | 3605 | 133525 | 54593 | 203123 | 57.1 | | 46.7 |

56.3

2.1

Blubber oil is taken as No 1, and Press oil as Nos 2,3,4, In practice this is not quite correct.

In addition 164 Tons of Baleen (dirty), and 3600 Bags of Guano were produced.

! 2 B-nose=are two Berardius ?.

- A. Required to produce 1 Barrel of press oil to 2 1/2 of Blubber oil = N/E. 2.5
- B. % of Press oil to 100 blubber oil = Not less than 45.0%

Table 2.

A Monthly return of whales, and oil produced 1921-1922

| Month | Blue | Fin | Other | Total | Oil produced |
|--------------------------|------|------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| December 1921 | 264 | 14 | - | 278 | 55347 |
| January 1922 | 644 | 320 | -- | 964 | 60323 |
| February - | 178 | 490 | - | 668 | 34775 |
| March - | 143 | 828 | 2 B. Nose | 973 | 44924 |
| April (1 th) | 13 | 119 | - | 132 | 7754 |
| | 1842 | 1761 | 2 | 3605 | 203123 |

Also includes 5 days of November

Stanley

28th. April *1922



From. Government Naturalist.
To. Hon. Colonial Secretary.

With reference to M.Ps. 262/22 and 330/22 (Whaling Licences for next season in South Shetland), if it is convenient, I should prefer to postpone dealing with them until the Report of the 1921/22 season has been received.

If you sanction this, shall I keep the papers until I see the report, or shall I return them?

J. E. Hamilton

(J. E. Hamilton)
Government Naturalist.

3

351/22

29th April,

22

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to convey to you His Excellency's appreciation of the interesting report you have submitted on the operations of the South Shetlands Whaling Fleet during the Season 1921-1922.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary.

Mr. A. G. Bennett,
Whaling Officer.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 68.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

15th May, 1922.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report from Mr. A. G. Bennett, Whaling Officer in the South Shetlands in the 1921-1922 season, together with the observations of the Government Naturalist on the report.

2. Whales have fortunately been plentiful and the catch good despite exceptionally bad weather conditions, which prolonged the season. It is satisfactory to note the beneficial results of the new Whaling Regulations. Otherwise the most marked event is the return of the Humpback whales in large numbers. Similar reports have been received from South Georgia.

3. I am causing the attention of the owners of the "Heko" and the "Pythia" to be drawn to the low average output of their factories.

4. I concur in the recommendation of the Government Naturalist that the taking of the Right and Humpback whales should again be prohibited next season and licences are being issued with that proviso. Subject however to your views and to those of the Trustees of the British Museum,

the/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. L. S. CHURCHILL, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

the Whaling Officer in the 1922-1923 season might, I consider, be allowed to give temporary permits for the taking of the Humpback as suggested by the Government Naturalist.

5. I am addressing you in a separate despatch on the subject of recognising the action of the Captain of the "Svend Foyn I" in rescuing the two members of the British Imperial Antarctic Expedition.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Middleton.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

WHALING SEASON, 1921/22...

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND
GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY HVALEN COMPANY. FACTORY s/s "Pythia".

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| December | - | - | 39 | - | - | - | 39 |
| January | - | - | 89 | 38 | - | - | 127 |
| February | - | - | 12 | 59 | - | - | 71 |
| March | - | - | 1 | 106 | - | - | 107 |
| April | - | - | - | 26 | - | - | 26 |
| TOTAL | - | - | 141 | 229 | 1 | - | 370 |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| December | 1644 | 225 | - | - | 1869 <i>49 Bbl</i> |
| January | 5326 | 755 | 587 | - | 6668 <i>52 Bbl</i> |
| February | 1975 | 865 | 101 | 16 | 2957 <i>41</i> |
| March | 2530 | 2151 | 75 | 1 | 4756 <i>44</i> |
| April | 1120 | 505 | - | - | 1625 <i>62</i> |
| TOTAL | 12595 | 4501 | 763 | 16 | 17875 <i>4812 Bbl</i> |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER. *1119 P. 5 1/2 Bbl*

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| "Minerva II." | - | - | 47 | 29 | - | - | 76 |
| "Almirante Goni" | - | - | 30 | 62 | - | - | 92 |
| "Ross" | - | - | 38 | 70 | - | - | 108 |
| "Odd III" | - | - | 26 | 68 | - | - | 94 |
| -----" | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | - | - | 141 | 229 | - | - | 370 |

Olaf W. Eggert
Manager.

It is important that this form should be properly filled in and returned to the Whaling Officer at South Shetlands at the end of the season.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

WHALING SEASON, 1921 / 22.

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND
GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY A/s Hektor

FACTORY "RONALD"

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| December | | | 174 | 3 | | | 177 |
| January | | | 107 | 92 | | | 199 |
| February | | | 37 | 89 | | | 126 |
| March | | | 40 | 105 | | | 145 |
| April | | | 3 | 39 | | | 42 |
| TOTAL ... | | | 361 | 328 | | | 689 |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| December | 9.040 | | | 2.805 | 11.845 ⁶⁶⁹ |
| January | 3.354 | | | 3.615 | 11.969 ⁶⁰¹ |
| February | 4.142 | | | 3.090 | 7.232 ⁵⁷³ |
| March | 4.273 | | | 2.435 | 6.708 ⁴⁶³ |
| April | 1.186 | | | 660 | 1.846 ⁴⁴⁶ |
| TOTAL ... | 26.995 | | | 12.605 | 39.600 ⁵⁷⁴ |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER.

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| "Port Stanley", | | | 74 | 52 | | | 126 |
| "Bransfield". | | | 67 | 60 | | | 127 |
| "Faal". | | | 54 | 53 | | | 107 |
| "Edle". | | | 68 | 75 | | | 143 |
| "Fogo". | | | 66 | 34 | | | 100 |
| "Odd". | | | 32 | 54 | | | 86 |
| TOTAL ... | | | 361 | 328 | | | 689 |

Jorge Chere
Manager.

It is important that this form should be properly filled in and returned to the Whaling Officer at South Shetlands at the end of the season.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.



WHALING SEASON, 1921 to 1922

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY "NOR" Whaling Comp. FACTORY S/S "ÖRN II"

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| December | " | " | 94 | " | " | " | 94 |
| January | " | " | 98 | 35 | " | " | 133 |
| February | " | " | 24 | 82 | " | " | 106 |
| March | " | " | 14 | 105 | " | " | 119 |
| April | " | " | " | 6 | " | " | 6 |
| TOTAL | | | 230 | 228 | | | 458 |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| December | 3924 | 1069 | 519 | " | 5512 <i>58.</i> |
| January | 5760 | 2159 | 443 | " | 8362 <i>62</i> |
| February | 3850 | 1669 | 308 | " | 5827 <i>55</i> |
| March | 3318 | 1513 | 239 | " | 5070 <i>42</i> |
| April | 510 | 219 | " | | 729 <i>121.5</i> |
| TOTAL | 17362 | 6629 | 1509 | | 25500 <i>55.6</i> |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER. *46.7% of number*

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| " N E B II " | " | " | 57 | 52 | " | " | 109 |
| " G V A S " | " | " | 81 | 66 | " | " | 147 |
| " H A V Ö R N II " | " | " | 60 | 63 | " | " | 123 |
| " O D D I " | " | " | 32 | 47 | " | " | 79 |
| | " | " | " | " | " | " | |
| TOTAL | " | " | 230 | 228 | " | " | 458 |

Johs. Johannessen
 Manager.

It is important that this form should be properly filled in and returned to the Whaling Officer at South Shetlands at the end of the season.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

WHALING SEASON, 1921-1922.

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND
GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY *Norge Whaling Company* FACTORY *Solstrief*

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|------------|------|---------|--------|------------|
| <i>November</i> | | | 19. | | | | 19. |
| December | | | 138. } 157 | 2. | | | 140. } 159 |
| January | | | 54. | 28. | | | 82. |
| February | | | 19. | 62. | | | 81. |
| March | | | 10. | 118. | | | 128. |
| April | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | 240 | 210. | | | 450 |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------|
| <i>November</i> | 532 | 96. | 120. | | 748. |
| December | 6919. | 1533. | 1064. | | 9516. } 10271 611.6 |
| January | 9004. | 1100. | 653. | | 5757. } 702 |
| February | 2769. | 1300. | 94. | | 4163. } 514 |
| March | 3776. | 1826. | 207. | | 5809. } 45.3 |
| April | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 18000 | 5952 | 2148 | | 26000 } 57.49 |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER. *44.4% to 60 barrels*

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| <i>"Pick"</i> | | | 91. | 69. | | | 160. |
| <i>"Commonwealth"</i> | | | 83. | 79. | | | 162. |
| <i>"Eik"</i> | | | 66. | 62. | | | 128. |
| | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | 240 | 210. | | | 450. |

H. Gjønnes-Hansen
Manager. *Master.*

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

WHALING SEASON, ... 1921 - 22.

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND
GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY Bryde & Dahl Hvalfangerselskap ^{A/S} FACTORY "Thor I"

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| December | | | 88 | I | | | 89 |
| January | | | 47 | 3I | | | 78 |
| February | | | 23 | 37 | | | 60 |
| March | | | 8 | II4 | | | 122 |
| April | | | I | 23 | | | 24 |
| TOTAL | | | 167 | 206 | | | 373 |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| December | 4285 | 1705 | 380 | - | 6370 71 |
| January | 3870 | 1625 | 413 | - | 5908 75 |
| February | 2438 | 918 | 104 | - | 3460 57 |
| March | 4067 | 1648 | 229 | - | 5944 45 |
| April | 806 | 660 | ----- | - | 1466 61 |
| TOTAL | 15466 | 6556 | 1126 | | 23148 62-0 |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER.

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| "Ingeborg I" | | | 59 | 65 | | | 124 |
| "ODD 2" | | | 57 | 70 | | | 127 |
| "Thor Junior" | | | 51 | 71 | | | 122 |
| | | | | | | * | |
| TOTAL | | | 167 | 206 | | | 373 |

A. Hansen
Manager.

It is important that this form should be properly filled in and returned to the Whaling Officer at South Shetlands at the end of the season.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.



WHALING SEASON, ...1921...1922

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY Salvesen & Co Leith

FACTORY N E K O

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| December | - | - | 71 | 2 | - | - | 73 |
| January | - | - | 89 | 27 | - | - | 116 |
| February | - | - | 16 | 28 | - | - | 44 |
| March | - | - | 55 | 84 | - | - | 139 |
| April | - | - | 8 | 99 | - | - | 17 |
| TOTAL | - | - | 239 | 150 | - | - | 389 |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|
| December | 2968 | 144 | 596 | - | 3708 ⁵⁰ |
| January | 4071 | 442 | 1092 | - | 5605 ⁴⁷ |
| February | 1567 | 316 | 662 | - | 2545 ⁵³ |
| March | 3978 | 1178 | 396 | - | 5552 ⁴⁰ |
| April | 1050 | 240 | - | - | 1290 ⁷⁶ |
| TOTAL | 13634 | 2320 | 2746 | - | 18700 ⁴⁸¹ |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER. ^{37 1/2 to blubber}

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| "SONJA" | - | - | 87 | 51 | - | - | 138 |
| "SILVA" | - | - | 76 | 48 | - | - | 124 |
| "SCAPA" | - | - | 76 | 51 | - | - | 127 |
| TOTAL | - | - | 239 | 150 | - | - | 389 |

ev 48.3

J. Sinclair
Manager.

It is important that this form should be properly filled in and returned to the Whaling Officer at South Shetlands at the end of the season.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

WHALING SEASON, 1921 - 1922

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND
GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY AKTIESELSKAPET ØRNEN

FACTORY S.S FALK"

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|---------------|--------|
| December | | | 115 | 1 | | | 116 |
| January | | | 92 | 23 | | | 115 |
| February | | | 29 | 60 | | t Botlenos | 89 |
| March | | | 10 | 82 | | 2 | 94 |
| April | | | 1 | 16 | | | 17 |
| TOTAL | | | 247 | 182 | | 2 | 431 |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| December | 5.400 | 355 | 1.960 | | 7.715 <i>66.4</i> |
| January | 6.187 | 1.500 | 1.500 | | 9.187 <i>80</i> |
| February | 2.970 | 1.250 | 960 | | 5.180 <i>57</i> |
| March | 2.430 | 807 | 683 | | 3.920 <i>41</i> |
| April | 586 | 212 | | | 798 <i>4.6</i> |
| TOTAL | 17.573 | 4.124 | 5.103 | | 26.800 <i>62.1</i> |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER. *52.6% of total*

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|----------|--------|
| H A U K E N II" | | | 82 | 74 | | Botlenos | 156 |
| G R I B II" | | | 94 | 54 | | 1 | 149 |
| K L O II" | | | 71 | 54 | | 1 | 126 |
| TOTAL | | | 247 | 182 | | 2 | 431 |

Th. Hansen

Manager.

It is important that this form should be properly filled in and returned to the Whaling Officer at South Shetlands at the end of the season.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

WHALING SEASON, *1921-1922.*

SOUTH SHETLANDS AND GRAHAM'S LAND.

COMPANY *Lydhavet*

FACTORY *Grund Fogn I*

| WHALES. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| December | | | 126 | 5 | | | 131 |
| January | | | 68 | 46 | | | 114 |
| February | | | 18 | 63 | | | 81 |
| March | | | 5 | 114 | | | 119 |
| April | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | 217 | 228 | | | 445. |

OIL PRODUCTION (Shewn in number of barrels).

| QUALITIES. | No. 1. | No. 2. | No. 3. | No. 4. | TOTAL. |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| December | 5555 | 1400 | 1102 | | 8057 61 |
| January | 4625 | 1210 | 1032 | | 6867 60 |
| February | 2150 | 720 | 541 | | 3411 42 |
| March | 4570 | 1436 | 1159 | | 7165 60 |
| April | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 16900 | 4766 | 3834 | | 25500. 57.3 |

WHALES CAUGHT PER CATCHER.

*50.8% Preserved
Loggers included*

| NAME OF CATCHER. | RIGHT. | SPERM. | BLUE. | FIN. | H'BACK. | OTHER. | TOTAL. |
|------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|--------|
| <i>Graham</i> | | | 85 | 76 | | | 161 |
| <i>Selvik</i> | | | 54 | 70 | | | 124 |
| <i>Scott</i> | | | 78 | 82 | | | 160 |
| TOTAL | | | 217 | 228 | | | 445 |

O. Andersen

Manager.

MEMORANDUM.

To The Honourable Colonial Secretary.

I have the honour to state that I have posted two boxes to the British Museum (Natural History). They contain a variety of small specimens collected by Mr.A.G.Bennett in South Shetland during the last whaling season, including the diatoms from whales (vide para 9 of my observations on Mr.Bennett's Report.)

2. Mr.Bennett also handed me a covering letter to the Director, which I have forwarded (copy attached)

J.E. Hamilton

(J.E.Hamilton)

Government Naturalist.

17th.May 1922.



59

Stanley.
Falkland Islands.
8th. May 1922.

Sir,

I have handed to the Government Naturalist Mr. J. E. Hamilton, one box of four smaller boxes of tubes of whales diatoms etc., also enclosed are a few tubes of worms and flies. Data is enclosed in each box of specimens.

One skeleton (raw) *Pygoscelis antarctica* from Cape Reclus 64½ S. 62 W. just as the skuas have picked it.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(sgd) A. G. Bennett.

The Director.
British Museum.
(Natural History)
South Kensington
London SW. 7.

(Note, *Pygoscelis antarctica* is the Ringed Penguān. *J. E. Hamilton*)
Government
Naturalist.

31128
6

OBSERVATIONS ON THE REPORT BY MR. A. G. BENNETT, WHALING OFFICER, ON WHALING OPERATIONS AT SOUTH SHETLANDS FOR THE SEASON 1921/1922.

The season under consideration was a successful one in spite of remarkably trying weather.

There was an unusually large amount of ice which impeded the fishing until early in January, when it cleared away to a considerable extent, but from that time until late in March there was a continuity of adverse weather. Wind, fog and snow characterised this period, all of these are bad for whaling.

2. Notwithstanding the physical conditions the catch of Blue Whales attained the figure 1842, only three less than the highest recorded catch for South Shetland (1915/16) when 1845 were taken.

The 1921/22 catch was 87 in excess of that for 1920/21. Blue whales formed 51.1% of the total catch for the season just terminated.

1761 Fin whales were taken, 1077 less than in the previous season, of "other species" two "Bottlenosed" whales only are recorded.

3. On comparing the oil production of this season with that of its predecessor, a great improvement becomes apparent :-

3605 Blue and Fin Whales yielded 203,123 barrels of oil.

This total is composed of 138,525 barrels of blubber oil and 64,598 barrels of press oil, the ratio being 2.28:1. In the 1920/21 season 4595 Blue and Fin Whales produced 205,017 barrels of oil. The average for the 1921/22 season is 57.1 barrels per whale, an increase on the average of the previous season (44.73) of 12.34 barrels per whale.

The extreme averages for 1921/22 are 48.1 (Neko) and 62.1 (Falk). (The latter ship has now replaced Orn II, which has taken the place of Bombay, that factory having been discarded as too

small/

small for the South Shetland fishing).

4. A more detailed examination of the figures for each factory shows that with the exception of Thor I they all had less blubber oil, and more press oil, than in 1920/21. (Pythia and Falk were fishing in South Shetland for the first time this season and therefore had no previous records with which comparisons may be made.

The extremes are, blubber oil :-

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Meko | 546 barrels less |
| Svend Foyn I | 670 " " |

press oil :-

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Solstrief | 57 barrels more |
| Svend Foyn I | 70 " " |

Svend Foyn returned exactly the same amount of oil for each season.

The ratio of blubber to press oil fell in every case except that of Thor I, Solstreif's fell by .06 and Svend Foyn's by .73 (the extremes)

5. The case of Thor I exhibited certain peculiarities. This factory produced 1552 more barrels of blubber oil and 3304 fewer barrels of press oil than in 1920/21. The ratio is 2.01:1, an increase of .46 of blubber oil, but Thor produced the remarkably high average yield per whale of 62.0 barrels per whale, an increased average production of 14.95 barrels per whale over the average for the 1920/21 season.

6. The total oil production for the whole fleet is only .92 % less than that for the previous season's Blue - Fin oil yield, although the catch is less by 990 whales. If the Meko and Pythia had a productivity equal to that of Orn II (the factory with the next lowest average, but still 7.4 and 7.5 barrels above them) the oil production for the season would have been increased by 5313 barrels, to 208,436, a figure actually greater than that for the whole catch of 1920/21.

7. In this connection I would refer to Sir Sidney Harmer's letter/

letter to the Colonial Office of Oct. 31/1921, para. 8, where he states that the oil of the 1920/21 season (208269 barrels) might have been produced from about 650 Blue Whales or 1150 Fin Whales less.

Although 87 more Blue Whales were taken in the 1921/22 season than in that which preceded it, 1077 less Fin Whales were captured so that the diminution (990) is due to the less number of the latter species. The approximation between the difference in total catch (990), which only resulted in a fall of .92% in the oil yield, and Sir Sidney Harmer's suggested diminution (1150) is noteworthy, and lends support to his statement and is strong evidence in favour of the new Regulations, and indicates that along the lines of them the efficiency of floating factories may be raised to a reasonably satisfactory pitch.

8. While the reduction in the number of Fin Whales obviated waste to some extent by reduction of supplies of the new material, I consider that to a very large extent the improvements exhibited by the returns for the 1921/22 season, when compared with those for 1920/21, may be justly attributed to the revised Regulations of the 17th October, 1921 among them being the Regulation which gives executive power to the Whaling Officer (No. 20).

9. Mr. Bennett has done useful work in collecting further specimens of diatoms from the South Shetland whales, but it is most desirable to ascertain whether they are identical with the planktonic forms of those waters, I would therefore suggest that the Government representative next season be asked to take every opportunity of collecting samples of the plankton in South Shetland and on the voyages up and down, if it is possible to carry out the necessary operations.

He would have to be supplied with two nets of suitable design, some of these are expected to arrive in the Colony shortly.

10. The securing of a skeleton of the very rare whale *Berardius* is a matter for great satisfaction, the specimen is probably unique.

11. Mr. Bennett comments on the presence of foetuses which he
observed/

observed floating in the neighbourhood of the factories, after they had escaped from the body of the parent during the flensing so noting one of the principal difficulties in the way of the investigator.

12. The relief of the two members of the British Imperial Antarctic Expedition was satisfactorily accomplished, both men being found in good health. Captain O. Andersen from the beginning showed much concern on behalf of these men, and has put himself to considerable trouble for them both in 1920/21 and 1921/22 seasons.

13. Sir Sidney Harmer has pointed out that in his opinion the protection of the Sperm Whale in the waters of the Colony is not of importance and has recommended a scheme for the protection of them in the South African Whaling Area, where they occur in numbers.

The inclusion of their protection as a special condition of the Whaling Licences may therefore be discontinued.

14. I would recommend that the special condition that no Right Whales should be taken in South Shetland be continued, and that a similar proviso be made with reference to Humpbacks, but that if it should be found next season that the Humpbacks occur in increased numbers, it would be advisable to empower the Whaling Officer to permit their being taken, but only in case of extreme necessity, and such permission should only be given for one week at a time, but it could be renewed for subsequent periods of the same length if necessary.

It is important that the factories should have material sufficient to keep them at work, since if there are unduly long periods of slackness in the trying conditions of life in South Shetlands, the occurrence of labour troubles and strikes becomes a possibility which it is advisable to bear in mind.

SUMMARY.

1. This season was characterised by a great amount of ice and very bad weather.

2. The catch was good, 5605 whales were taken, of which the

1842 Blue Whales form 51.1%, 1761 Fin Whales and 2 "Bottlenosed" Whales make up the remainder.

3. The oil production was 203,123 barrels, .92% less than that for the Blue - Fin Whales for 1920/21, and the average per whale, compared with that season, rose from 44.75 to 57.1.

4. With one exception all the factories show an increase of press oil and a diminution of blubber oil, the evidence tends to support Sir Sidney Harmer's contention that the catch for 1920/1921 might have been considerably reduced without lessening the oil production. A considerable amount of the improvement in economy is attributed to the revised Regulations of 1921.

5. A considerable number of diatom specimens have been collected, and it is recommended that next season efforts be made to collect plankton specimens.

6. A skeleton of *Berardius* was collected for the British Museum.

7. The two members of the British Imperial Antarctic Expedition were rescued in good health.

8. It is suggested that the protection of the Right Whale and Humpback be continued, but that the Whaling Officer next season should have power to permit fishing of the latter, if the necessity should arise, and if he is satisfied as to the continued abundance of the species, but that the permits should be weekly only.

(Sgd.) J. E. Hamilton,

Government Naturalist,

4th May, 1922.

1432

DUPLICATE

BRUNSWELL ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.

Downing Street,

27th July, 1922.

24 August, 1922.

7

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO. 94



Sir,

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 38 of the 15th May and to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the British Museum (Natural History) on the subject of the whaling operations in the South Shetlands during the season 1921-22.

Fr. B.M. 27th July

Having regard to the views expressed by the Trustees in paragraph 2, I am of opinion that it would be advisable to refrain from issuing any temporary permits for the taking of Humpback Whales during the season 1922-23. The question, however, might be again considered in connexion with the season 1923-24 should a further years experience indicate that such a course is desirable.

I have noted with satisfaction the remarks of the Trustees in which I concur as to the value of Mr. Bennett's work. That one year's experience is insufficient to justify a re-I have the honour to be,

I have called Sir, on more than one occasion, to the Your most obedient Blue Whale was always have passed its maximum in humble servant, takes. The figures now received are the first ones obtained for the time which do not support this conclusion.

(Signed) WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

The statistics referring to all production are

GOVERNOR,
THE J. MIDDLETON, RESID., GOV. OFF.,
COLONIAL OFFICE, etc., etc., etc.,
S.W.1.

B.M.(N.H.).
2816/22.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
CROMWELL ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.

27th July, 1922.

Sir,

I have had the honour of submitting to the Trustees Sir G.Grindle's letter 31250/22 of July 11th, on the subject of Whaling operations in the South Shetlands during the 1921-22 season, with its enclosures.

2. The Trustees have given special consideration to the recommendation respecting the issue of temporary permits for the capture of Humpback Whales during the season 1922-23. They have taken specially into account the alarming rapidity with which the catch of Humpbacks fell, after 1911-12, as shown on p.23 of the Appendix to my Report of December 17, 1918, communicated to the Colonial Office on March 29, 1919. They have further borne in mind the belief, prevalent among the Whalers, that the Humpback is a timid whale, easily frightened away from a locality. I am accordingly to inform you that the Trustees consider, with reference to the reported increase in the number of Humpback Whales, that one year's experience is insufficient to justify a relaxation of existing precautions.

3. I have called attention, on more than one occasion, to the possibility that the Blue Whale may already have passed its maximum in the whalers' catches. The figures now received are the first ones obtained for some time which do not support this conclusion.

4. The statistics referring to oil-production are particularly

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
S.W.1.

B, re
ent

particularly gratifying and the Trustees wish me to express their satisfaction that so great an improvement followed the enforcement of the new Whaling Regulations. It is of special interest to find that as compared with 1920-21, when 4754 whales produced 208,269 barrels of oil, the 3605 whales caught in 1921-22 produced 203,123 barrels. The total catch of 1921-22 was about 76 per cent. of that of 1920-21 but the oil-production was 97.5 per cent. of that of the earlier year. With 1149 whales less, almost the same oil-production has been recorded, and Mr. Hamilton has called attention to the close resemblance of the 1921-22 figures to those given in Section 8 of my letter of October 31, 1921, as an estimate of the amount of waste which ought to have been avoided in the 1920-21 season. Mr. Bennett states that the oil-production was 57.1 barrels per whale; but it is worth while to point out that, according to my own calculation from his figures, it should be 56.3.

5. Mr. Bennett has given a considerable amount of information which should be of great assistance in connection with the examination of the whalers' statistics. His table of monthly catches is a welcome improvement on previous Reports, while the description of the ice-conditions and of the weather generally is valuable in its bearing on this table.

6. Mr. Bennett's remarks on variations observed in whales of the same species are of much interest. The name "Marsh Bear", a thin type of Blue Whale which arrives in January, is perhaps a Norwegian word misunderstood, but the occurrence of different types of whales at different seasons is a fact of great interest and is one which deserves the closest study. Mr. Bennett's observation that Diatoms are found only on the skin of the fat whales confirms his statement previously published (Proc. Roy. Soc.

B, vol.91, 1920, p.353) and his inference that these are individuals which have been recently feeding on the abundant plankton of the far south. It is equally interesting to learn that the thin whales are sometimes infested with the Crustacean Pennella, since the occurrence of this parasite has previously been supposed to be capable of throwing light on the migrations of whales (see R.C. Andrews, "The Sei Whale", Mem. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., N.S., vol.I, 1916, p.322).

Further observations on the occurrence of these epizoid organisms will be well worth making, in the hope that they may contribute to the solution of the migration-problem.

Mr.Hamilton's proposal to examine the normal Antarctic plankton is a step in the right direction.

7. Mr. Bennett's successful efforts to obtain for the Museum a skeleton of the rare whale Berardius have been very greatly appreciated, and I am sending the special thanks of the Trustees for this valuable donation to the Governor of the Falkland Islands, to Mr. Bennett himself and to Capt. T. Larsen. We have suspected for some time, on the evidence of a portion of the lower jaw previously sent by Mr.Bennett, that some at least of the "Bottle-nosed Whales" recorded from time to time by the Antarctic Whaling Companies belonged to the genus Berardius and not to the familiar Hyperoodon which is the whale commonly known as a "Bottle-nose".

8. The omission of the Sperm Whale from the list of species protected at the South Shetlands appears to have followed from the opinion I expressed in par.3 of my letter of October 31, 1921.

9. The following Tables contain the most important part of the statistical facts referring to the season 1921-22. Tables I and III are taken from Mr.Bennett's Report (the average oil-production having been altered to correspond with my own calculation, as stated in paragraph 4). Table II, which is useful for

comparison

comparison with earlier years, has been constructed mainly from information previously received.

Table I.

South Shetlands. 1921 - 1922

| Ships (Floating Factories). | Whales taken | | | Total | Oil produced | | | Average barrels per whale |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------------------------|
| | Blue whale | Fin whale | Bottler nosed whale | | Blubber | Press | Total | |
| Pythia | 141 | 229 | | 370 | 12595 | 5260 | 17,875 | 48.3 |
| Neko | 239 | 150 | | 389 | 13634 | 5066 | 18,700 | 48.1 |
| Thor I | 167 | 206 | | 373 | 15466 | 7682 | 23,148 | 62.0 |
| Svend Foyn I | 217 | 228 | | 445 | 16900 | 8600 | 25,500 | 57.3 |
| Orn II | 230 | 228 | | 458 | 17362 | 8138 | 25,000 | 55.7 |
| Solstreif | 240 | 210 | | 450 | 18000 | 8000 | 26,000 | 57.8 |
| Falk | 247 | 182 | 2 | 431 | 17573 | 9227 | 26,800 | 62.2 |
| Ronald | 361 | 328 | | 689 | 26995 | 12605 | 39,600 | 57.5 |
| Total | 1842 | 1761 | 2 | 3605 | 138525 | 64598 | 203,123 | 56.3 |

Table II. South Shetlands. Total catch. 1915/16-1921/22

| Season | Hump- back. | Fin whale | Blue whale | Right whale | Sperm whale | Bottler nosed whale | Piked whale | Totals. |
|---------|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------|
| 1915/16 | 219 | 2,358 | 1,845 | 6 | 3 | - | - | 4,431 |
| 1916/17 | 21 | 602 | 1,380 | - | - | - | - | 2,003 |
| 1917/18 | 71 | 627 | 397 | 13 | - | 1 | 5 | 1,114 |
| 1918/19 | 57 | 1,296 | 716 | 7 | - | 3 | - | 2,079 |
| 1919/20 | 179 | 1,541 | 371 | - | 2 | - | - | 2,593 |
| 1920/21 | 159 | 2,838 | 1,755 | - | 2 | - | - | 4,754 |
| 1921/22 | X | 1,761 | 1,842 | X | X | 2 | - | 3,605 |

X capture of these species prohibited

Table III. South Shetlands, 1921/22. Monthly catches

| Month | Blue whale | Fin whale | Bottle-nosed whale | Total | Oil produced |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| + Dec. 1921. | 864 | 14 | - | 878 | 55347 |
| Jan. 1922. | 644 | 320 | - | 964 | 60323 |
| Feb. 1922. | 178 | 480 | - | 658 | 34775 |
| Mar. 1922. | 143 | 828 | 2 | 973 | 44924 |
| April 1922 (to Apr.11) | 13 | 119 | - | 132 | 7754 |
| Total | 1842 | 1761 | 2 | 3605 | 203123 |

+ includes 5 days of November

I have, etc.,

(sd) S.F. Harper

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

COLONIAL OFFICE,

SW1

TELEGRAM.

From : His Excellency the Governor
To : Secretary of State for the Colonies

Dispatched : 10th October, 1922 Time. 12.45 p.m.
Received : 19 Time. ..

CHAPELRIES
LONDON.

ODACINE RAMENABLE UNCORDING WELKROMP AND RAMUNCULE UNCOMMIXED
WELDCRAB MACHINALLY SOUTH GEORGIA ARCHINOBLE GRANT TEMPORARY
PERMITS SPURWISE HUMPBCKS IF ORIGMA NAVICOMB SUMMERROOM
OUTMEASURE KEEP STATIONS TRAINBOY SILVERGOD IF ABARREM
HUMPBCKS AS TURFINNESS AND SCARCITY OTHER SPECIES TOTAL
PRANDIOLA FORMER LASSBECKEN GIVE RISE TO KYSULPHUR EMACANT
PROCLIVOUS TIMEWORN DENTIVERIS OIL BONUS SILVERGOD SINCE ONLY
OFFICERS ACTUALLY IN WHALING AREAS CAN JUDGE OF NECTAROUS
TEMPORARY PERMITS GORMAND AND GOVERNMENT NATURALIST CONDRUID
THIS DOCEVINT DICAVERAS WHALES ORGANSTOP INSWATHING PULLABUNT
ARBORVINE TRACTRICE AND ANEMONICAL ALTERATIVE SOUTH SHETLANDS
SILVERGOD REPROVIGNA QUESTION RAYLESS YODBENCEEN FOREGOING.

MIDDLETON.

Meaning:

10th October. For reasons given in my despatch of 13th September No. 103 and before receipt of your despatch of 24th August No. 94 Magistrate of South Georgia was authorised to grant temporary permits to take Humpbacks if in his opinion it is necessary at the time in order to keep stations at work. If there is abundance of Humpbacks as last year and scarcity other species total prohibition of former likely to give rise to labour troubles especially as large proportion of men's wages derived from oil bonus. Since only officers actually in whaling areas can judge of necessity for temporary permits being granted and Government Naturalist considers that this can be done without detriment to whales am of opinion that in interests of public tranquillity authority given should not be withdrawn and similar arrangements should be applied to South Shetlands. Request that question may be reconsidered in the light of foregoing.

Encl. 3
MP 269/22

Middleton.

351/22

(9)

TELEGRAM.

From : The Secretary of State for the Colonies

To : The Governor

Dispatched : 16th October, 1922 Time. 4.50 pm
Received : 17th " 1922 Time. -

GOVERNOR

PORTSTANLEY

ODERMUST (? ODERMUST) UNRUMPLING HUMPBCKS CAPITEVEN

?(CAPITEVEN) ABDATH RATETIME (? RATETIME)

ROUGHLIER

Meaning.

16th October. With reference to your telegram of 10th October, Humpbacks in view of all the circumstances willing to accept your recommendations.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Stanley.

20th. October 1922.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable Colonial Secretary to inform you that during the coming season in South Shetlands you are authorised to issue permits to individual factories to kill Humpback Whales.

2. This authority is granted with regard to the reports of Humpbacks having been seen in numbers in South Shetland and South Georgia last season and in case Fin and Blue Whales are so scarce that the factory crews cannot be kept at work.

3. It is desirable to avoid issuing such permits if possible, but you may do so if your information as to the occurrence of Humpback's indicates the presence of an adequate supply and if a careful examination of each application convinces you of the absolute necessity.

Permits should not be granted for more than one week at a time, but may be renewed.

4. From the beginning of the season every endeavour should be made to determine the relative abundance or otherwise of Humpbacks and no detail of the subject, however insignificant, should be allowed to escape record.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. Hamilton

Mr. A. G. Bennett.
Whaling Officer.
South Shetlands.

(11)

TELEGRAM.

From : The Secretary of State for the Colonies

To : The Governor

Dispatched : 24th October, 19 22 *Time.* 3.20 pm

Received : 25th " 19 22 *Time.* -

GOVERNOR

PORTSTANLEY

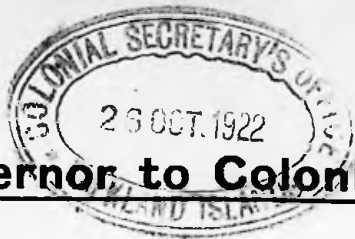
TONSBERG ALLOYAGE APEDROMF TAKE HUMPBCKS PRANDIPIIT ORKNEY
ROTATIONS SILVERGOD ARIESES PRANDICIA EXPORTABLE ORKNEYS
PLUMATOTF CANTURITE CATCH AFFIANT COMPATIBLO UNRUMPLING
RUMUWADO (? REMUDADO) REARDORCE (? REARDORSE)

ROUGH LIFE

Meaning.

Tonsberg anxious for assurance take humpbacks will not be prohibited Orkney this season. Not aware that prohibition has been extended to Orkneys presume that in any case catch will be allowed under conditions given in your telegram of 10th October telegraph with least possible delay recoverable.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.



(12)

DATE.....

From Governor to Colonial Secretary.

I have discussed this with your Honorable. No arrangements can be made for embarking fishing of kumbracks under temporary permits, or Salt Akney unless a whaling office is sent there & this is not practicable.

2. Will you please reply in some form with reference to your telegram of 26th October kumbracks will not be permitted at Akney this season.

3. Please inform

By Inagomasa S. Yungia by telegram
25 Oct 1922

13

TELEGRAM.

From : ~~Amsterdam~~, His Excellency the Governor

To : Secretary of State for the Colonies

Dispatched : 25th October, 19 22 Time. 4.0 p.m.

Received : 19.. Time. ..

CHAPELRIES

LONDON

ODICORUM UNSCORCHED HUMPBACKS PRANDERUNT ORKNEYS

ROTATIONS.

MIDDLETON.

Meaning:

25th October. With reference to your telegram of 24th October Humpbacks will not be prohibited Orkneys this season.

Middleton.

14

TELEGRAM.

From : The Colonial Secretary
To : Magistrate, South Georgia.

Dispatched : 25th October, 19 22 *Time.* 4.0 p.m.
Received : 19 *Time.*

MAGISTRATE
SOUTH GEORGIA.

25th October. Taking of Humpbacks at South Orkneys
will not be prohibited this season.

SECRETARY.

WATERBURY & CO
LIMITED

A
1

Reference to previous correspondence

Encl (9)

Secretary of State's Telegram of the
16th October, 1922

15

FALKLAND ISLANDS

No. 5

Downing Street,

8th January, 1923.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the papers
noted below on the subject of the capture of
humpback whales at the South Shetlands.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

DEVONSHIRE

The Officer Administering
the Government of
the Falkland Islands

Date.

Description

1922

30th December.
(Telegram)

Encl 15a

From the Norwegian Whalers Association, Sandefjord

1923.

3rd January
(Telegram)

Encl 15b To

" " " " "

TELEGRAM from the Norwegian Whalers Association, Sandefjord,
to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated 30th December, 1922. (15a)

(Received Colonial Office 1.28 p.m. 30th December,
1922.)

- - - - -

Catch reports from South Shetland very unsatisfactory
and hitherto only 50 per cent of the usual catch in
the first six weeks of season has been obtained. We
fear that the operations may show a heavy loss if the
catch continues as bad as hitherto and we beg to
apply for permission to capture humpbacks during
present season at South Shetland please wire.

2/4/23/23

158

Under
Telegram from the Secretary of State for the
Colonies to the Norwegian Whalers Association,
Sandefjord.

(Sent 1.p.m. 3rd January, 1923)

Your telegram 30th December whaling officer
South Shetlands already given discretion to grant
temporary permits for taking harpbacks if
necessary to keep factories at work.

Under Secretary of State
Colonial Office.

16

A
1.

Reference to previous correspondence

Secretary of State's Despatch No. 5 of the
8th January, 1923.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

No. 7.

Downing Street,

9th January, 1923.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the papers noted below on the subject of the taking of humpback whales at the South Shetlands.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most obedient

humble servant,

DEVONSHIRE.

The Officer Administering
the Government of the
Falkland Islands

Date.

Description.

1923.

2nd January, *Encl 16 a* From Messrs Salvesen and Company

10th " *Encl 16 b* To " " " "

(16a)
CHR. SALVESEN & CO.,
29, BERNARD STREET,
LEITH,

2nd January 1923.

Sir,

South Shetlands.

We have the honour to support the application which we understand has been made by the Norwegian Whaling Association for the suspension of the regulation prohibiting the killing of the humpback whale in the waters of the South Shetlands and Grahamland. In taking this action we are influenced by two main considerations, first, the disastrous opening of the South Shetland present season as shown by reports received, and secondly the fact that large numbers of humpback whales were reported last season by the whalers operating in the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands.

The northern limit of the icefield was much further south than usual early in November this season - the "Ronald" reached Deception as early as November 8th reporting the fairway free of ice - and past experience has shown that such conditions have an adverse effect upon the catch. Unfortunately this has been confirmed by the wireless reports so far received from the various floating factories. Without going into detail we can say that if the present average weekly production continues, the factories will have to leave the grounds with their tanks only half full. It will be remembered, moreover that the first month's fishing at the South Shetlands is nearly
always

sheet 2 of (16a)

always the most successful.

The regulation protecting the humpback was presumably made on account of the reported diminution in the numbers of this species. Last season however, more humpbacks were seen both on the South Georgia and South Shetland grounds than has been the case since the spring of 1913, so that the falling off witnessed in the preceding seasons must have been due to conditions of the ocean currents affecting the food supply and not to excessive hunting.

We trust that this application will receive your favourable consideration and that you will have the necessary instructions sent by wireless to the Magistrate accompanying the expeditions.

We have, etc.,

per pro Chr. Salvesen & Co.,

(Signed) N.G. Salvesen.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

(168)



569/23.

Downing Street,

10 January, 1923.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Duke of Devonshire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd January regarding the taking of humpback whales at the South Shetlands; and to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of the reply returned to the representations received from the Association of Norwegian Whaling Companies on the subject.

o Assn. 6th Jan.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. GARDNER

MESSRS. CHR. SALVESEN AND COMPANY.