

C.S.

WHALING

(Ross Sea)

1925.

No. 67/25

H. E/ The Governor

SUBJECT.

192 5

January

Information respecting Whaling  
in the Ross Sea.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

- Letter from Nautical Adviser, Marine Dept - New Zealand of 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 1924 - Encl ①*
- Minute by H.E. the Governor of 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1925 - ① A*
- Letter from Ag Govt Naturalist of (undated) - ②*
- Letter from Prof C. Chiltern of 22 Oct 1924 - ② A*
- Letter from Mr M. Godfrey of 9<sup>th</sup> October 1924 - ② B*

*ag Govt. Naturalist*

*Please see ① herein and  
It will  
The Governor's minute herein.  
probably be found best to communicate direct  
any reports direct to the Marine Department  
For action please see in the Governor's minute*

*15 Jan. 25*

Subsequent Paper.

Hon Col. Secy.

copy of Regs: & attach letter ~~---~~

Agreement  
of War  
27.1.25

J.B.

submitted

Mr. Bennett proposed to send the letter and  
enclosures under his name. It should be  
suitably altered and come from this Department?

~~W.H.H.~~ 31 Jan 25

H.P.S.

A letter from C.S.O. - (summary attached) should go  
to Secretary Marine Dept.

H.P.S.

31 Jan 1925.

Letter to Marine Dept. New Zealand, 2/2/25. (3)

*This letter was sent on board by the Bishop of the Falkland Islands.  
Information regarding Ross Sea operations might be useful: will ag: Govt. Commission  
will furnish detail information asked for in Nautical Adviser's Office,  
to this letter (if possible) & etc  
Can then be sent on to Captain Hooper M.C. Jany 1924*

Nautical Adviser's Office,  
CUSTOMHOUSE,  
Wellington, 25th September, 1924.  
H/M.K.

Last year, as you may know, this Dominion took over the Ross Dependency, and in addition to my ordinary duties, I was appointed Magisterial Officer in charge of that Dependency. This appointment took me south to the whaling grounds in  $78\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  south, last season, and I much enjoyed the experience as so many years had elapsed since I went among the ice. I came out well although I am now fifty years of age. I gathered much information of value to my Government.

I am informed that your Government control the South Shetlands Whalery in the Falkland Dependency, and I see this with your Government is on a large scale. We as yet have only one whale factory and five whale-catchers at work under license, but



but we are hopeful that our operations will be extended in a few years hence. Our second season commences very shortly and our one factory is now on her way from Norway. I am hopeful of being able to accompany her south again this year.

Quite apart from the subject of memories and acquaintances, the purport of this letter is to ascertain if it is convenient for you to give me any information in the way of Government or other records in connection with your whaling industry; especially I would like to have some information concerning the terms of the licenses issued to the licensees, and any regulations governing the industry. I believe some of the licensees are British subjects, and that the majority are Norwegians. I would especially like to know how the terms of the licenses are being observed by the licensees - if any disputes, their nature, and how they were settled.

I see by the Monthly Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, of which I am a Fellow, that your Government depute a Magisterial Officer to accompany the whalers south annually, and from this, I presume some annual report of the industry will be published by your Government. Would it be possible for you to obtain a copy?

I am conscious of having asked quite a lot of questions, but I am very interested in this business, and I desire to see it placed on a very good foundation. I shall be very glad, therefore, if you can help me in any way.

I may say that recently we had an enquiry from one of our Colleges on behalf of a correspondent at the Falkland Islands, requesting information of our whaling enterprise, and we supplied brief particulars only. I think the enquiries might have been on behalf of your Magisterial Officer. I should like to get into touch with him, if possible, and I think perhaps he would like to have knowledge of what we are doing in the Ross Dependency. Purely a reciprocal arrangement of course.

course.

Concluding, I would wish you good health and happiness, and a continuance in your good work, and would ask you to feel that your spiritual guidance given many years ago was not wasted in respect of

Yours truly,

(Capt).

*George Cooper. R.N.Z.*

Nautical Adviser to the Marine Department,  
of the General Government of New Zealand,  
and, Wellington, New Zealand.

Sir.

I beg to attach a letter from Professor Chs Chilton M.D. New Zealand Govt Biologist, author of many works, including part of "The life of the Sub-antarctic Islands of N.Z."

This letter is in reply to private correspondence in which I asked for information Re the Ross Sea whaling, about a year ago.

Prof:Chilton is working out for me a collection of crustacea from the F.I. and S Shetlands. named specimens of which will be returned, and which I propose to place in the Stanley Museum.

I respectfully ask to be allowed to give in return the information resired, and that the attached letters may be returned to me when finished with.

I am

Sir.

Your obedient servant



Ag Naturalist.

To the Hon:

Colonial Secretary.

CANTERBURY COLLEGE,

CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

2A  
22. X. 1924

Dear S. Bennett

I am enclosing a copy of the  
official reply to the enquiries about  
Sub-Antarctic Whaling which I made  
on your behalf to the Marine Department.  
I hope the information given will be  
of some use to you.

If you can give any information  
in reply as suggested in the last  
paragraph it would I know be  
appreciated.

I have identified nearly all the  
Crustacea you have sent me and  
hope during the approaching vacation  
to send you named duplicates.

Faithfully Yours Chatwin

(C O P Y)

28

Marine Department,  
9 th October, 1924.

Professor Chas. Chilton,  
Canterbury College,  
CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd ultimo advising that you have received a request from Dr A. G. Bennett of Falkland Islands, who is interested in Sub-Antarctic Whaling, and who desires to know the number and species of whales caught in the Ross Sea by the "Sir James Clark Ross" Expedition, and the quantity of oil produced.

In reply I have to advise you that the total number of whales caught was 221, the species being Blue Whales (*Balenoptera musculus*) 216, and Finback Whales (*Balenoptera physalus*) 5. The amount of oil obtained by the Expedition was approximately 17,300 barrels.

N.B. | When forwarding this information to Dr Bennett, I should be glad if you would request him to forward to this Department any information which he may be able to submit in regard to the control and conduct of the whaling industry in the Falkland Dependency. This information would be of value to this Department and would be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. Godfrey.

Secretary.

*Note*  
Average 78.28 bbls per whale.  
The whales must have been good ones  
as was told me by one of the gunners on the  
the expedition. AGS



67/25.

2nd February, 25

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor of the Falkland Islands to forward particulars of the Whaling Regulations at present in force in this Colony and its Dependencies, with notes by Mr. Bennett, acting Government Naturalist, on the production of oil and method of control.

These Regulations are forwarded in reply to:-

- (1) H/M.K. A letter from Captain G. Hooper, R.N.R., addressed to the Lord Bishop of the Falklands, dated Wellington, N.Z. 29th September, 1924, requesting information on whaling.
- (2) A letter from the Marine Department, 9th October, 1924, to Professor Chas. Chilton, Canterbury College, Christchurch, N.Z., giving whaling figures asked for by Mr. Bennett and requesting information as to local conditions in return.

2. In addition to enclosure "A", (Whaling Regulations) Seal and Bird protection Ordinances also apply. (B) is a form supplied in books of 50. Where a large number of whales are caught these forms, if properly filled in, give valuable information plotted on charts. "C" is the form of return required from floating factories giving the season's catch.

3. Captain G. Hooper desires to know if the terms of the licences, etc., are observed. No

instance"

The Secretary,

Marine Department,  
Wellington, New Zealand.

instance has yet come to notice of a breach of the law or regulations and ready obedience is given to the orders of the whaling officer. The main points to be watched are the undue accumulation of whales, waste of valuable bodies, or parts, especially in times of plenty and depredations on birds and seals.

4. The taking of Right-whale and Humpback-whale is forbidden in the terms of the licence. Special permission is however occasionally given for the taking of the latter in times of slackness of other species. This permission is usually limited to a period of one week.

5. A valuable publication that can be strongly recommended is the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Resources of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies, H.M. Stationery Office, London, 2s/6d. This deals exhaustively with the whaling question of our Dependencies (1920).

6. In conclusion I would add that in round figures about 10,000 whales are taken per annum, and there is no sufficient ground for supposing that the number of whales is falling off. The Reports and the figures compiled from them, have not so far been published.

7. This Government would be very pleased to have the results in number and species of whales caught and oil produced from New Zealand and Ross Sea waters.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Henniker-Heaton.

Colonial Secretary.

Naturalist Dept.  
Stanley.  
Falkland Islands.  
27th January 1925.

Sir.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward you particulars of the Whaling Regulations at present in force in this Colony, and its Dependencies.

These Regulations are forwarded in reply to :-

1. H/M.K. A letter from Capt G Hooper R.N.R. addressed to the Lord Bishop for the Falklands, dated Wellington N.Z. 29/9/24 requesting information on whaling.
2. A letter from the Marine Dept 9/10/24 to Professor Chas Chilton, Canterbury College, Christchurch N.Z. kindly giving whaling figures asked for by me, and requesting our conditions in return.

In addition to the Whaling Regulations (1) Seal, and Bird protection Ordinances also apply. (2) Is a form supplied in books of 50. Where a large number of whales are caught these forms, if properly filled in, give valuable information plotted on charts. (3) Is a return of catch.

Captain G. Hooper desires to know if the terms of the licenses Etc, are observed. They are fairly well. The main points are, the undue accumulation of whales, waste of valuable bodies, or parts, especially in times of plenty. Depredations on birds, and seals.

The taking of Right-whale, and Hump-back-whale is forbidden in the terms of the licence. The taking of the latter is however within the powers of the Whaling Officer's sanction in times of slackness of other species.

A valuable publication that I can most strongly recommend is the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Resources of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies, H.Ms Stationery Office, London, 2/6. This deals exhaustively with the Whaling question of our Dependencies (1920).

(2)

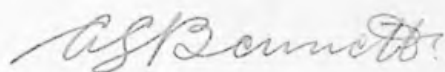
In conclusion I would add that in round figures about 10.000 whales are taken per annum, and except for a series of poor years that have been experienced at the S. Shetlands recently we have no indication of a falling off. The Reports, and the figures compiled from them, have not so far been published.

This Government would be very pleased to have the results in number, and species of whales caught, and oil produced from New Zealand, and Ross Sea waters.

I am,

Sir.

Your obedient servant.



Customs Officer.

Ag Government Naturalist.

To the Secretary.

Marine Department.

Wellington New Zealand.