

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Governor's Office.

No.

SGD/WHA/1 # 16

Date of Receipt.

From		SUBJECT.
Secretary of State for the Colonies. Governor.		WHALING LICENCE. Application by Messrs David Geddes & Son for, in South Georgia or South Shetlands.
No.	Date.	
142	14th Aug., 1916.	

Colonial Secretary's
Record No.

1235/15.

Registered Number
of last Despatch

MINUTES.

Despatch to Sec. of State No. 142 of the 14th August, 1916.

No. next Despatch

454/16

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 142.

Government House, Stanley.

14th August, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you a copy of a letter received in November last from Messrs David Geddes & Sons, of 45 Renfield Street, Glasgow, renewing their application of 12th January, 1912, to the Colonial Secretary of this Colony for a vacant whaling licence at South Shetlands, or South Georgia. The licence to carry with it a land station or a floating factory with four whale catchers.

2. In reply to their letter the Firm has been informed that there is no vacancy.

3. It has occurred to me that with a view to the immediate increased production of whale oil you might possibly be willing to consider the application of Messrs David Geddes & Sons, renewing the application they state they made to the Secretary of State in 1911.

4. From the letter, copy ^{enclosed} ~~assigned~~, of the Union Bank of Scotland Ltd. it would appear that the Firm of Messrs David Geddes & Sons is of the highest character.

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.

cc.,

cc.,

cc.

45 Renfield Street.

GLASGOW 22nd Oct., 1915.

The Colonial Secretary,

Falkland Islands.

Sir,

We beg to refer to the correspondence passed, particularly to our application of 12th January, 1912, as per copy enclosed and in view of Whale Oil having found its way via Norway to Germany and the probability that it will be decided that in future it will be in the interests of this country that whaling licenses should be held by Britishers or that they, at any rate, should be in a privileged position as compared with foreigners, we beg to renew our application for a whaling licence at South Shetland or South Georgia. You have now had our application registered for some years and we trust you will now see your way to grant us a licence so that we may erect either a land station or utilise a floating factory and employ four shooting steamers so that a sufficient catch may be got to make the enterprise a success.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Sd) David Geddes and Sons.

12th January, 1912.

The Colonial Secretary,
Falkland Islands.

Sir,

We made application to the Colonial Office for a Whaling Site in South Georgia and the Secretary of State has sent us a copy of a memorandum which has been prepared in the Colonial Office on the subject of Whaling round the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies.

We regret to observe that no further licences will be granted at present at South Georgia, but beg that you will be so good as to make note of our name as applicants for Lease of a Land site and anchorage for a floating factory there on usual terms and conditions and favour us with a Lease whenever it is possible for you to do so, and oblige. Meantime we shall be glad to be favoured with the best Whaling Licence you may be able to grant us at South Shetlands, (or Eranhamsland or South Orkneys, or Falkland Islands or even South Sandwich Islands. The latter two are unpromising Whaling grounds but we would rather have a site there than none.) We have recently been successful in securing by public tender from the Union of South Africa a 25 years lease of a Whaling Site at Walfish Bay and are most anxious to obtain one in your waters also.

We may say that Glasgow has been associated with the Whale Oil trade from its infancy, and it is still the largest market for the commodity.

We

We beg to furnish you with the enclosed reference from our Bankers and to state that if you are able to grant us a suitable licence on reasonable terms, a strong Company will be formed and an expedition dispatched as promptly as possible.

We are,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

10th Jan., 1912.

Private & Confidential

Copy of letter received from the Union Bank of Scotland
Ltd., St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, dated 10th Jan. 1912.

Messrs David Geddes & Son.
45 Renfield Street.

Dear Sirs,

In reference to our recent interview I regret that we are unable to trace the name of any banking institution in the Falkland Islands. There is therefore appended a report by this Bank upon your Firm which you may be able to forward direct to the proper quarter.

Report.

"Messrs David Geddes & Son, who are of the highest
"respectability, conduct an old established business
"possessed of ample means and are good for any
"obligations to which they may put their name. I may
"add that the firm is accustomed handling trans-
"actions involving large amounts.

"Both partners of the firm were recently admitted as
"members of the Merchants House in Glasgow, a body
"of which is exclusive and seeks to admit only
"those who are of the highest social and commercial
"standing in the city.

Yours faithfully,"

(Sd) J. C. Caesar
Agent