

C.S.

NAT/FAU/1 # 18

MISCELLANEOUS.	
No.	40/26.

1926.

Mr. J.E. Hamilton.

SUBJECT.

1926.

19th January.

PROPOSED IMPORTATION OF THE SEA OTTER
INTO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

SEE INSIDE

Subsequent Paper.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

C.S.
No. 40/26

Date of Receipt.

~~Governor's Office~~ 1926

19th January 1926

C.S. Miscellaneous no 40/26.

From

W. J. Hamilton
~~Secretary of State for the Colonies~~

SUBJECT.

Proposed Importation of the sea otter into the Falkland Islands.

No.

Date.

C.S.

Colonial Secretary's Record No. 1

1. Letter from W. J. Hamilton 19th January 1926

Registered Number of last Despatch.

H.C.S.

This letter was submitted on 21st January with a formal minute in sense "W. J. Hamilton informed me when handing in the letter that he had discussed his proposal with Y.R." (initials) A.L.B.

2. I regret the original jacket has become misplaced & so I have placed the letter in a new jacket one to which I have copied subject matter etc & number.

No. next Despatch.

3. W. J. Hamilton first spoke to me on this subject on 16th January but he had no information

Not considered practicable to visit the
 sea otter to the Pribilofs it is very doubtful
 whether an attempt to establish the Southern
 sea otter in the Pribilof Islands, (and I
 can find no record of its having been found here)
 will prove successful. Dr. Hornell's enterprise
 in making the attempt, however, deserves
 encouragement.

6. Dr. Hornell had an interview with me
 immediately previous to his departure from
 Stanley for Middle Island, (I think it was
 on 19th January) at which several matters
 were discussed & there was little time to
 go into his proposals fully. He told me
 however that he had made arrangements
 for 2 or 3 pairs of Otter with captives for him
 in Tierra del Fuco & that if permission to
 transport them was given he intended to put
 them on Dutch Island or one of small islands
 adjacent to Middle Island. He admitted
 that he knew nothing of their habits but he
 said he would inspect several small
 islands & select what he thought the most
 suitable.

(Price £12 per pair)

7. He asked that he might be allowed to introduce
 his Agouti or Purina Anas by telegram to
 send the Otter by S.S. Magellan (due to
 arrive only in March), if they were available.
 As he was leaving immediately for Middle
 Island I gave him permission verbally to do so.

be prepared.

8. He may be given permission to inspect 3 pairs of sea otters & at the same time he should be asked to furnish an annual report on the progress of the experiments.

9. If the Otters arrive by S.S. Magellan & no other arrangements have been made for their care they can be looked after by Mr. A. Radcliffe Harbour Dept until an opportunity occurs for sending them to Keddell Island. Money can readily be obtained for feeding them.

A.

28 May 1926.

Letter to Mr. J. Hamilton, 1st March, 1926. 2.

Colonial Engineer.

Please see para. 9 of A.C. minute and make necessary arrangements with Mr. Radcliffe

A.

1/3/26

Hon. Col. Secy.

Thank you. Arrangements made with Mr. A. Ratcliffe accordingly

A. Ratcliffe

Colonial Engineer.

3rd. March. 1926.

It has been ascertained that the Otters did not arrive by the Magellan

A.
9/3/26

Inside Minute Paper.

H.S. I saw W. Hamilton to-day. He tells me that his plans for the capture of sea otters met with failure, but that on his recent visit to South America he made fresh arrangements with some Indian hunters which he hopes will be more successful.

no further action at present.

H.
20 Nov. 1926

H. 20.5.27
to 22.11.26

H.S. Paper brought up as directed.

H.S.
20 May 1927

H.S. Sat.

When I saw W. J. Hamilton last some work or two since he was still hopeful that he would be able to obtain and introduce some sea otters as to the Beakell I became blank.

H. 20.10.27
H. 20.8.27
6/ 20.8.27
4 20.1.28
to 22.10.27

J. 24. 3. 28
K. 24. 1. 28

Y 24. 6. 28
L 10. 4. 28

Y 24. 9. 28
K 26. 6. 28

Y 24. 11. 28
L 30. 9. 28

Y. 31/12/28
O.S. 23/11/28
Y. 31/12/29
O.S. 29/12/28

P. 31. 1. 29

Telegram from Mr. J. Hamilton. 22nd February, 1932. 3.

Y. Submitted for information. Mr Hamilton is endeavouring to introduce the S. American Sea Otter into this Colony.

Actg. C.S. M. Cairns Harkiss
A.C.S.

Noted
J.G.
25.2.32

25. 2. 32

M. H. H. H.

Please prepare letter
acknowledging Mr Hamilton's telegram
well

Letter to J. Hamilton Esq. of 1/3/32.

11/3/12/32.

G.S.O. 2/3/32

5. Letter from Mr J. Hamilton 14/3/32

J.P. Scribed for expansion.

I will switch checks 17

Hamilton's letter.

J.P.

4. 4. 32.

Hon C. S.

Thank you. Yes
please do!

J.P.
15.4.32

Wrote W. J. Hamilton d/o

J.P.

18.4.32.

67. 18. 8. 32.

18. 11. 32.

67. 18. 11. 32

18. 8. 32.

Veter. Off.

Please bear in

mind to report in due course

how this experimental ^{introduction} ~~adaptation~~

of sea otters is progressing.

W. H. H.

18. 11. 32.

Hon. Col. Secy. Noted.

Perhaps the Discovery Reservoir and development committee might take on in interest in the introduction of sea breams and trout to the waters of the islands.

J. Munro.
21. 11. 32.

b.f.

21. 3. 33.

~~Jul 22. 11. 32.~~

b.f.

~~27. 5. 33~~

~~Jul~~

~~24. 3. 33.~~

(new Stock Imp.)

~~b.f. 31/8/33. b.f. 1/8/33.~~
~~C.D. 11/8/33. C.D. 28/8/33.~~
b.f. 15/9/33.
C.D. 31/8/33.

Inspector of stock.

For your information

Hon Col: Secy.

Noted -

W.H. Clement.

C.D. 15/9/33

~~b.f. 31/12/33~~
~~C.D. 16/1/33~~

16/9/33

H. 28/2/34.
C. 28. 1/1/34.

Telegram from Mr. Hamilton 12/2/34. 9.

Y.R.

Submitted. Will Y.R. be pleased
to approve. I understand that
the first experiment was not
successful.

McA
A.C.S.
13. 2. 34.

Mr. C.S. I approve.

In due course Mr. Hamilton shall

let us have particulars as to this

further introduction e.g. number of sea

otters and localities at which

released.

J.M.S.

16. 2. 34.

- 10. Telegram to Mr. Hamilton. 21/2/34.
- (11) Letter to Mr. Hamilton, Esq. 17/2/34.

Ag. Genl. Naturalist,

To see.

C. J. H. L.
2/3/34.

Hon. Col. Secy

Dear, thank you.

Ag. Genl.
17/2/34

ll. 31/7/34.
C. J. H. L. 5/3/34.

- (12) Letter from Hamilton Esq. 18/5/34

Submitted for information.

MCH

24/5/34

15. 5. 34.

✓ J. H. L.

15. 5. 34.

Ag. Naturalist

To see.

MCH

16. V. 34.

Hon: Col: Secy:

Secn, thank you

Agg. M. S.

16/5/34

p. a.

mch

by

cl.

n. 34.

Letter from Mrs Hamilton 13/8/34

(13)

J.E.

Submitted for information.

mch

by cl.

28. 8. 34

H. C. S.

Please acknowledge receipt

with thanks.

J. H. S.

28. 8. 34

Letter to Mr Hamilton. Punta Paya of Do. 8. 34. 14.

PA
27/8/34

40/26.

30th August, 1934.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 13th August, 1934, forwarding particulars of the further introduction by you of sea otters.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. C. H.

Acting Colonial Secretary.

J. Hamilton, Esq.,
C/o Hamilton & Saunders, Limited,
Punta Loyola,
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

4076

12

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary

Port Stanley.

Punta Lysla

Rio Gallegos

15th August 1934.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with your request to be informed of the number of letters brought by the ship "Benelope" from the Cape Horn district a short time ago - that only two live letters were actually caught one of which died. But in addition I had purchased five in Magallanes which were taken on board and landed; or kept me afloat in captivity in front of the ship detained, to be given their liberty on a later occasion. The five live letters were safely landed five of which were comparatively tame - this is all the particulars I have at present.

I have the honor to be
your obedient servant
John Hamelin.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Punta Loyola
Rio Gallegos
Argentine Republic.
18th April 1934.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th February received two days ago. I shall be very pleased to comply with your request in respect to the number of Otters landed along with the name of the place selected.

The Chilian Minister in Santiago took some time to grant a special permit for a British vessel - the "Penelope" - to frequent Chilian waters for the purpose of capturing live otters with the view of acclimatizing them in the Falkland Islands.

For your information the otters captured will be from the vicinity of Cape Horn, where the smallest and best fur skins are obtainable in the great rocky Channels facing the Pacific. There are three species of these interesting animals to be found in the fastness of these cold icy waters from the depth of Cape Horn itself to the far North.

I have thought it better to send a regular otter hunter with the "Penelope" to care for the otters on board and to remain two months taming them on the Island before being finally released. I hope to hear soon that one or other of the five otters landed over a year ago have been seen. They are very shy animals and keep out of sight for years. In snow their tracks may be seen and their presence established, if not accomplished in some other way. While thanking you for your kindness in writing.

I have the honour to be.

Your abedient servant,

Shawcross

40/26.

26th February, 1934.

Sir,

With reference to your telegram of the 12th of February, 1934, I am directed by the Acting Governor to confirm the following telegram despatched to you on the 21st of February, 1934 :

"Your telegram 12th February permission granted to introduce further number otters for experimental purposes".

2. I am to request that you will be so good as to forward in due course particulars as to this further introduction of sea otters including the number and localities at which released.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MCH

Acting Colonial Secretary

J. Hamilton, Esq.,
C/o. Hamilton & Saunders, Limited,
Punta Loyola,
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

DECODE.

40/26.

TELEGRAM.

From.....Mr. Hamilton. Magallanes.....

To.....Colonial Secretary. Stanley.....

Despatched : 12th February, 19 34. *Time* : 12.35

Received : 13th February, 19 34. *Time* : 11.00

Grateful for permission to introduce more otters for
experimental purposes in Islands Beaver and Weddell districts.

Hamilton.

The Honorable
The Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley

Nov 26 1852

As appears
March 14 1852.

Dear Mr Ellis,

I send the 'Red Jacket' round to
Delos Reiss & Henry Water, to load up with seals
to sell in Stanley. After years of worry, trouble and
difficulties & at length managed to get 500 better
(sea otters) and sent them over in the 'Corolla',
but for covering & small part of my own I could
have done nothing. As it is the coat was heavy, &
number of them formerly were said to have been
caught but died afterwards. so nothing was definitely
accounted for until a couple of weeks ago.

The skipper of the 'Penelope' reports today that the otters
could not be kept in captivity any longer on his
Delaware, and that my instructions to keep them in
bond for several weeks, and catch fish for their winter
they were thought, time had to be abandoned because
they fought together so much that it was considered
advisable to give them their freedom - they disappeared
in the water like a flock of lightning - whether they will
survive and prove a useful asset to the colony,
time will tell. The question is will they remain there or
in return to their native place & region - see wards to
the next best of the Cape Horn district? The sea otter
is much smaller than the river sea otter
inhabits the channels further north, but the skin of the
summer

Lawyer is much more valuable according
to local prices in Newall's Bay, and I trust will
prove more adaptable to the Newall's Bay
waters and surroundings. But really there is no
saying, as little is known of the habits of these
animals and the latter hunters show else supply us
with very contradictory evidence. The best knowledge
available is from the Canoe Indians.

I want to mention that whenever possible
a Britisher will be sent down here in the best
Galleon but there are no English Quilons available.
The Coastal Laws here are very strict in Newall's
being almost to sail on local boats without his license.
Naturalises and a Britisher generally draws the line
at that.

At present in my Islands it is tuncas, Planting
and more tuncas planting all the time. "Killing"
the Camps and keeping up the sheep, impossible
on the land is the only relaxation of a good many
places in the West. When, Joss, Sandurians etc
birds is a mere side show. What must
cannot is the sheep and feed for them. Farmers
here are putting fewer sheep on the land with proce-
dure prices for wool & line stock.

I wonder what progress you are
making with your roads to the Camp?

With all good wishes to yourself & Mrs
I am
Yours sincerely
G. M. M. M.

40/26.

TELEGRAM

1st March,

32.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 22nd of February, on the subject of the shipment of five sea otters to Weddell Island, and to request that you will be so good as to report in due course, say at the end of twelve months, as to the result of the experiment.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. Brangji Halbert

Acting Colonial Secretary.

J. Hamilton, Esq.,
Weddell Island,
WEST FALKLAND.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Mr. Hamilton, Magellanes.

To Colonial Secretary.

Despatched : 22nd February, 19 32. *Time* : 1930.

Received : 23rd February, 19 32. *Time* :

Acting within permission already secured shipping five otters
to Weddell **p**er Penelope.

HAMILTON.

2



Colonial Office,
London, W.C. 2,
1926.

40/26.

Sir,
I beg to request to be granted permission
to introduce the sea Otter to the Weddell and
Beaver Islands or other locality in that neighbour-
hood. 1st March, 1926.

Sir, The Sea Otter is a native of the Western
Island. With reference to your letter of the 19th
January, applying for permission to introduce
the Sea Otter to the Weddell and Beaver Islands,
I am directed by the Governor to confirm the per-
mission already given verbally by His Excellency
to you when you were in Stanley last to import
three pairs of these animals.

2. I am at the same time to request you to
be so good as to arrange to furnish an annual
report on the progress of the experiment being
undertaken by you.

I have the honour to be,
I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary.

J. Hamilton, Esq.,
Weddell Island,
WEST FALKLAND.

Stanley,



19th January, 1926.

Sir,

I beg to request to be granted permission to introduce the Sea Otter to the Weddell and Beaver Islands or other locality in that neighbourhood.

The Sea Otter is a native of the Western Islands and Channels of Tierra del Fuego a similar climate to the Falkland Islands and I believe that should the experiment prove successful that their valuable furs would in time become an important asset for the people of the Colony.

Should this petition be favourably sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor may I be allowed to suggest that time be given to make several trials in case of failure in the early beginning of the experiment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John Bannister

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.