

SEALING

NAT/SEA/1 # 21

C.S.

1921

No. 116/21

Stock Inspector

SUBJECT.

192¹

11th January

Reports damage done to Tussac Grass by Hair Seal and suggests destruction of a certain number

Previous Paper.

668/19

G.O. 375/20. A 369/21, 199/22, 570/23

MINUTES.

Letter from Chief Inspector of Stock
11th January 1921. Euelo

2.

Y.E. I am fully in accord with Capt. B. A. Brown and the farmers who are suffering on account of the Sea Lions. However, the killing of these animals should be done under Govt. supervision, I think.

I wrote a dispatch to the S. of S. some little time ago dealing with alia, with the Sea Lions on the small islands near Stanley Harbour. I think it is the dispatch dealing with the pelagic schooner "Eva June".

A.I. D 124/20
G.O. 375/20

Subsequent Paper.

14/20

[Signature]
25. 1. 21

H.C.S.

Destruction of Tappan is also reported in 663/19.

2. It will ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{to} await views of Sqs on Extremism
as recommended in F.I.D. 124/20. (G.O. 375/20 attached)
3. B.U. on return of Mr. Hamilton if no reply has
been received from Sqs before that time.

Yn.

28 January 1921.

H.E. the Governor,

I think Your Excellency desired that this paper
with G.O. 375/20 should be sent up, on the return of Mr. Hamilton
from the South Shetland. Mr. Hamilton returned to Stanley last
night. I understand that G.O. 375/20 is with Your Excellency.

W. Thompson
A. C. S. 1/4/21.

H.C.

Will you please refer to Mr. Hamilton with
G.O. 254/20: he should also have despatch from
Sqs in accordance with which Fuel^{ns} was recently
issued suspending issue of licences to take fuel seals.

Yn.

5 April 1921.

Mr. Hamilton,

These papers together with G.O. 375/20 and G.O. 254/20
referred to you accordingly. The latter paper will be required
in the C.S.O., as soon as you can conveniently spare it, for His
Excellency's despatch to the S. of S, in connection with Order
issued.

W. Thompson
A. C. S. 6/4/21.

H.C.S.

I cannot favour the destruction of seal lions without use being made of the carcasses. These animals contain a considerable quantity of oil, but the handling of the carcasses and trying out of the oil on a small scale is not remunerative under present conditions. i. e. under the Sealing Ordinance No 1 of 1899. £10 must be paid for a licence to kill every seal and 2/- royalty is due for every skin of the hair seal.

If the payment of licence and royalty were abolished or suspended with reference to the seal lions a small local industry might eventually develop.

If utilization, under the conditions which I venture to suggest, were guaranteed the killing of a number to be stated on each licence might be sanctioned.

J. Hamilton.
Govt. Nat. Z. I.
12-4-21.

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted.

A. C. S. 12/4/21.

H.C.S.

Placed in separate Minute of 2nd May with regard to experimental killing of Seal Lions.

2 May 1921.

C1369/21

Letter from Mr J Davis 21 April 1921 Encl (2)

Letter from West Falkland farmers
dated 21 June 1921 Encl (2)

Minute from Mr J. E. Hamilton
~~dated~~ Secondary Magistrate 21 7 Encl (3)

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted.

W. Thompson
A. C. S. 22/6/21.

H.E.S. As a temporary measure
Permission may be given for the
protection of tussock from sea birds
(hull seal) in accordance with
recommendations contained in
Mr Hamilton's minute on (3).

2. The permission now granted will
expire on 31st July 1922 by which
date the whole question will be
reconsidered.

3. Mr Hamilton should explain
to the Commission the limits within
which it is expected that authority
now given will be exercised.

W.T.
30 Jun 1921

C.S.O. No. 006/21

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 03

Letter to West Falkland farmers.
Encl. (2)

Stanley

January 11th. 1921

The Hon Colonial Secretary

Sir

Will you please bring to the notice of His Exelency the Governor, that several farmers on the East and West Falklands have informed me that the Hair Seals are causing a great deal of damage to the Tussac upon the small islands and especially to new plants upon sandy points on the mainland.

Aparently they roll upon both the old and the young plants and destroy them.

AS they are not used for any commercial purpose, therefore it would be quite a good thing if those farmers who were troubled by Hair seals , should be allowed to destroy a certain number each year , upon an application to do so from them.

I am

Sir

Your obedient servant

B. A. Brown

Chief Inspector of Stock

Stanley.
21st. June 1921.

Sir,

At a recent interview with His Excellency the Governor the subject was raised of the destruction of tussock grass by sea lions, and His excellency stated that he was prepared to consider the matter.

2. We now beg to state that we desire permission to drive off or kill sea lions which come up on tussock plantations on the main island of West Falkland and also on the following islands off its coast a. River Island off River Harbour b. The island immediately to the Westward of River Island. c. The island immediately to the South East of the entrance to Port Howard. d. Hill Gap Island i.e. the unnamed island on the chart of West Falkland in approximately 51 51'S, 59 44 5 W.e. Flat Island in Fox Bay, f. Pitt and Gull Island off Weddell Island, g. New Island.

3. Our request is based on the following points: the sea lions come up into the tussock and roll about and destroy it besides defiling it with their excretions, which also saturate the ground: the odour of the sea lions is such that horses will not eat grass on which they can perceive it and the tussock grass is an essential, indeed the only fodder which can be procured in winter so that we are dependent upon it for the maintenance of our horses and milch cows during the winter.

4. It is of the greatest importance to us that the supply of tussock grass should be assured to us, and we believe that this can only be done if it is possible to protect it from sea lions which occur in West Falkland in great numbers.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants

Rob. Polbrans for J. L. Waldron Ltd
William H. Looctor.
William H. Looctor for Messrs Co
Jason Hansen per Mr. Seabtt.
Michael Polbrans
W. W. Hunter for Williams & Co.

The Honourable Colonial Secretary.
Stanley.

Hon. Col. Sec.

I beg to make the following suggestions for condition under which the applicants might be permitted to protect the places indicated from sea lions (hair seal).

Permission might be granted for the stations represented by the signatures of the managers and for the places named by them, but with the following limitations.

Will advise off

I. Actual killing of sea lions to be avoided if possible for the reason that all wild animals ought to be protected from useless killing and that

the sea lions form a possible source of oil supply and therefore might be the basis for a local industry, and that the effect of decaying carcasses on tussock is not known, I suggest that it might be to destroy the grass.

II. The permits should be limited to a period of two years. I am informed that newly planted tussock requires from three to five years to attain such a size that it can be cut. In the case of natural growth on islands the period required for recuperation would naturally be less since the plants are already well established.

at the end of two years further application may be made if desired.

III. Permission should not be granted to the present applicants to clear other islands of sea lions while the permits are in force, for the reasons which I have advanced to support I.

J. H. Hamilton

Stipendiary Magistrate
West Falkland.

The following are the islands belonging to or leased by the different signatories to the letters of 21st June 1921.

- a. River Islands*
- b. Island to West of River P.*
- c. Island S.E. of P.H. Howard Entrance*
- d. "Hill Gap" island*
- e. Flat Island - M. Robson, Fox Bay W.*
- f. P.H. and full Islands - H. J. Slaughter, Weddell I.*
- g. New Islands - G. Scott.*

*R. Pole-Evans
Port Howard*

*R. Pole-Evans, Port Howard
W. Jackson, Charities*

*washed but were
here at all times.
It is actually part of
Charities*

"Dean and Co" are the owners of Port Stephens on which farm there are extensive tussock plantations.

*J. H. Hamilton
Stipendiary Magistrate
West Falkland*

116/21.

1st July,

21.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 21st of June, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency has given permission, as a temporary measure for the protection of tussock, to kill or drive off the sea lions (hair seal) which frequent your tussock plantations.

2. It should be clearly understood that all unnecessary killing of the seals must be avoided and that care should be taken to avoid carcasses being left to decay on the tussock.

3. The permission now granted will expire on the 31st of July, 1922, and the limits within which it is expected the authority given will be exercised will be explained to you by Mr. J. H. Hamilton, Stipendiary Magistrate, West Falkland.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. THOMPSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

R. G. Pole Evans, Esq., J.P., for
Messrs. J. L. Haldron, Ltd.
(Port Howard)

William H. Luxton, Esq., J.P.,
(Chartres)

William H. Luxton, Esq., J.P., for
Messrs. Doan & Company (Pt: Stephens)

Jason Hanson, Esq., for Mrs F. Scott
(How Island)

Michael Robson, Esq., J.P., (Fox Bay, E.)

H. J. Slaughter, Esq., for Messrs Williams
& Company (Weddell Island).