

C.S.

SEALING

(Fur Seal)

1927.

No.

143/27.

Mr. N. A. Macintosh.

SUBJECT.

1927

28th March 1927

FUR SEAL ROOKERY, JASON ISLANDS.

Previous Paper.

120/26.

Report on by Mr. N. A. Macintosh
B.Sc., A.R.C.S. of Discovery Expedition.

See MS 15/30

MINUTES.

Report from Mr. N. A. Macintosh, of 25th March 1927.

1-2. G.P. Schuch. I have asked Mr. Macintosh for his report personally. G.P. may perhaps wish me to send it to G.P.'s children a formal expression of G.P.'s thanks for his service in this connection?

2. Mr. Macintosh has explained to me the difficulty experienced by a casual visitor, as it were, in appreciating the condition of the rookery particularly on the basis of a comparison

Subsequent Paper.

See 0958

with the conditions as recorded in the report
of other observers.

3. I have asked W. Macintosh for a similar
report on the "Volunteers' rookery" if time and weather
permit of P.S.S. "William Smith" visiting it.

W. Macintosh

29. 3. 27.

Hes.

Will you please write to Mr. Macintosh
as proposed and thank him for his useful
and interesting report.

2. As Mr. Macintosh rightly points out the
presence of sea lions on the Fur Seal
rookery deserves consideration. Hon. M. Craig-
Stewart has recently expressed the view ^{to my satisfaction} that
fur seals have been driven away from
the Volunteer Rocks rookery. This can be
borne in mind in connection with the apprehension
of Mr. J. Davis to take some 15,000 hair seals
off the Falkland Islands.

See also para. 45
p. 13 of Mr. Stenhouse's
report of 20th April
1923 (Int. 319/23)

3. Eventually a copy of Mr. Macintosh's report
should go to the Secy of State, but for the
present we can await a similar report on the
"Volunteers" which Mr. Macintosh and Captain
Mercer have kindly promised to visit if it
can be arranged conveniently.

W. Macintosh
29 March, 1927.

P.S.

I should like to discuss the problem of
fur seals with Dr. Kemp on his arrival with
the discovery about made of April. Please
let me have this + connected info then

W. Macintosh
29-11-27

C.S.O. No. 143/27.

Sheet No. 2.

Inside Minute Paper.

(3)

Letter to Mr. N.A. Mackintosh Esq. 30th March.

The Treasurer

To see.

Julius

G. G. Sec.

31. 3. 27.

Hon. G. G. Sec.

Thank you - seen.

Mr. George Kitchin

Treas

31. 3. 27

f. 15. 4. 27. f. 19. 4. 27

l. 31. 3. 27. l. 16. 4. 27 (Whitaker)

f. 27. 4. 27

l. 20. 4. 27

Off. G. Sec. I have discussed this matter

with Mr. Kemp. He is of the opinion

that the killing off of a number of

best of the lions at Elephant Land

could keep the two seal working there.

2. Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange for Mrs. "William Scoville" to visit the Volunteer Rookery at the chance of U.N.C.S.

"Hesperus" I fear that an inspection of this rookery must be deferred for the present.

3. I should be glad of W. Bennett's comment on W. Macdonald's report and in this matter generally. Has he any previous information in regard to the apparent settlement of two seals on the main island?

4. please see my minute of June 26th in N.P. 120/26 which should be annexed to this N.P. when it is sent to W. Bennett.

Jul

19.5.27

Mrs. C.H. Bennett.

Your note with special reference to His Excellency's para 3 above. M.P. 120/26 is being sent to simultaneously.

GRH
OVC sent 19 May 1927

Dear B. & Secy.

Mr Mackintosh has well described the spot & his experiences there are those of mine, except the sea lions.

I would recommend that these lions be got rid of. They take to a spot, & if undisturbed, rapidly introduce their friends.

Care must however be taken that the shooting down of the lions does not frighten the fur seal.

It is difficult to suggest a method because of the conditions that might be met. Several days & several men would be necessary, at the Jaxons.

The Guard might be asked if Fur-seal calls at night have been heard from other directions than the known rock. I suspect other spots.

The area of the Jaxons is rather extensive

Please see minute in 120/26

Albenneto
as Nat
20/5/27

48.

Submitted

2. With regard to the possible existence of other rookeries in the vicinity of Jason Island, the Guard have standing instructions to enter in their log book any information which may be of assistance in this connection (Vide Red 9 m M. P. 257/26). The Harbour Master apparently submitted the log kept by the Guard stationed at Jason in 1926 (see his minute of 8th June 1927 on Sheet 12 of M. P. 257/26). I cannot trace whether this log was returned to the Harbour Master and so far I have been unable to enter phone communication with him to ask him.

5/11/27

W. J. E. S.

28 May 1927

Off. H. Sect.

Draft duplicate herewith to be filed.

2 Harbour Master should instruct the Jam Guard by the first available opportunity to investigate in any way possible the existence of other fur seal rookeries in the locality.

2 Hereafter I will discuss with

him at the V. Bennett that
steps can best be taken to pull
off some at least of the sea
lion pilot are preparing on the
main fur seal rookery.

4. I trust that on return of IMCL
"Oftentimes" it will be possible to make
a thorough inspection of all these fur
seal rookeries.

Just

29. 5. 27

4-9. Despatch to S. of S. No. 94 of 4/6/27.

V.C. Despatch submitted for signature.

G.R. 1/2

By Secy

7 June 1927

Just
7. 6. 27.

Harbour Master,

Referred to you in connection
with W's directions contained on
page 2. of minute of 29th May 1927.

W. H. B.
D. J. E. S.
7 June 1927

13.6.27.

Submit page 2 which.

Letter will be sent first opportunity.

W. H. B.

W. H. B.

to Col. Sec.

Spoke W. Bennett who is of opinion
that the killing of sea lions at the Elephant
Island passed working should only be
undertaken by an organized party under proper
control. The killing should be done before
the end of the month of November i.e.
before the beginning of the breeding season.

4. 20. 8. 27

18. 6. 27

Inside Minute Paper.

4. 20. 9. 27
 7. 20. 8. 27

4. 11. 10. 27
 12. 20. 9. 27

Spoke St. 1. the chance of

W. Bennett this should stand over
 for the present.

4. 11. 1. 28
 10. 13. 10. 27

y. 2. It will be desirable during the course
 of the present summer to arrange for
 inspection of the boat for - seat machines.
 R.R.S. "William Smith" might be of service,
 on arrival, in this connection. 29. 1. 28
 for further consideration?

Wm. Smith

15. 1. 28

Hon. C.S.

Thence.

1928.

A.H.

$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 8 \end{array} 29. 1. 28$
 $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 12 \end{array} 16. 1. 28$

9.2. During 9.2. 5⁴ 'chance' in the
 Duplication I will average the water
 with the Captain at Senior Scientist
 of a.s.s. - William Scowby

Jul

30. 1. 28.

14th C.S.

Blank Jan.

$\frac{31}{1} 28.$ 44.

$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 8 \end{array} 10. 2. 28$
 $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 12 \end{array} 31. 1. 28$

$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 8 \end{array} 12. 3. 28$
 $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 12 \end{array} 23. 2. 28$

$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 8 \end{array} 22. 2. 28$
 $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 12 \end{array} 11. 2. 28$

$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 8 \end{array} 17. 7. 28$
 $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 12 \end{array} 20. 5. 28$

$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 8 \end{array} 17. 4. 28$
 $\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ 12 \end{array} 17. 4. 28$

6/12/8.28
~~7/2/28~~
 12/21/7.28

Off. Sec.

W. D. John, Senior

Director of R.R.S. "William

Scoville", has been sent camp

to undertake, if opportunity permits,

a survey and report of the

Patented Blank for Seal Working;

i.e.,

~~the~~ the Elephant Tarn, Volunteer

Work, Bird Is., and Beechey

workings; as well as any

others that may be discovered

S.F. in the neighbourhood of

the Arch Blank.

2. Will you kindly let him

see his D.A. with attached

N.M. ?

W.D.
2

30. 7. 28.

Senior Scientist

R.S.S. "William Scoresby."

To you accordingly.

W.D.

for C.S. 31. 7. 28.

Off. C.S.

seen and returned

W.D.

"Scoresby" 3. viii. 28.

Report from Mr. H. Bennett. 15/8/29 9-12.

G.D.

Submitted. I have discussed

this report with Mr. Bennett on

the lines directed by your Excellency.

He agrees that a concession to take
seals this year might very well be
granted with benefit to the Eskimo.

2. By your Excellency's further direction
I offered provisionally to Capt Watson
of The Falkland Islands Sealing Company

the grant of a licence to take
2000 seals on the understanding
that the Company will pay
£200 in respect of the concession
and in addition a royalty of
2/- on each skin produced.

Further that they will observe
such other conditions regarding
the manner in which operations
should be conducted as the
Government may see fit to impose.

3. With Your Excellency's
approval I will ask Mr Bennett
to draw up the necessary
conditions prior to confirming
the arrangement with the
Company in writing and to
submit for the approval
of the Secretary of State.

I wd. be anxious to know
what was the value of a skin.
when this was proposed MC 3/iv

W. H. R.
A. J. C.
22.11.27

Hon. C. S.

Please, Hon. Colonial Treasurer to assist
in compiling the financial statement. At
the same time the Sealing Company
will be able to bill off the Sealers.

$\frac{22-29}{8}$

R.H.
5

Y.E.

I have spoken to Mr. Bennett on this
subject. In order that reference to the
Secretary of State should not be delayed
I have embodied his recommendations,
communicated to me verbally in the Draft
despatch, submitted.

2. I will refer paper to Hon. Treasurer
on return from your Excellency.

R.H.
A.C.S.

25. VIII. 29

Hon. C. S.

Very good despatch. Please send it once
to Hon. C. S. Get off by the mail.

M

$\frac{28-29}{8}$

Hon. Treasurer.

For your observations. The royalty
can be forced by the terms of the license?

R.H.
A.C.S.

26. VIII. 29.

Hon. Col. Sec.

I concur with the terms of the draft despatch.

2. The Royalty on Fur skins should be at least 4/- or 5/-, and that on Hair skins 2/-.
Royalty may be fixed in terms of license:

M. Ganga Khatke
Secy.

27. 8. 29

13-14

Despatch to S. of S. No. 188 of 28th Aug 1929.

Hon. Secy.

I spoke to His Excellency regarding your suggestion in para 2. While His Excellency considers 2/- too low for a fixed royalty he is of opinion it would be better to let it remain at 2/- for this season in order to give the Company every chance of making a success of the industry. If required

it can be cured next season.

W.L.B.

Ag. C.S.

30. VIII. 29

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you - seen.

W. Craigie Haller

Treasurer

31. 8. 24.

Got Naturalist.

To see

W.L.B.

Ag. C.S.

6. IX. 29

Hon. Col. Secy:

Seen, thank you. I agree except that (13)

in Para 6. "immature seals" should be deleted. It is the immature males that are to be collected as skins - 2 to 5 years old.

PA mentions

10. IX. 29

Agreement as. Nat.

7/9/29

Telegram from Sept. 9/10/29

Hon. C.S.

(18)

- A. Inform Capt. Watson. etc.
- B. Inform members of Council to see. R.H.

10. 29
10

Capt. Watson informed.

C. D. J.
10/10/29

Hon. Treasurer.

Hon. P. W. O.

Hon. Secy Robert

Met H. 10. 29
J. M. 14. 10. 29.
C. B. 16. 11. 29.

To see. Rea. (18)

C. D. J.
10/10/29

P. H.
19/11/29

19. Minute from H. E. the Governor. 13/12/29.

20-25. S. of S. despatch No. 7 of 8th March, 1930.
(Transferred to M.P. 19/7/30)

P.A.
23/4/30.

20-22 Copy of letter to M. R. Danley. 3/4/30.

23. Letter to J. E. Hamilton, Esq. 2/5/30.

P.A.

2-5-30.

~~24-25~~ ~~Soft Despatch to say of 24/9/29~~

Ga.

R.S.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY

28 MAR 1927
COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE
HONG KONG

MARCH 26th 1927

Sir,

With reference to our conversation of 7/3/27 I beg to submit the following report on the fur seal rookery at Elephant Jason Island.

The R.S.S. William Scoresby visited Elephant Jason Island on Feb. 10th to land the Jason guard and I took the opportunity of visiting the rookery accompanied by Captain Mercer Mr. Gunther and Mr. John. As mentioned in Mr. Bennett's report of June 28th 1926 the rookery is situated on a rock about a mile from the western end of the main island. The weather was fine and we were able to make a landing.

A large number of seals were on the rock but it was found extremely difficult to make an estimation of the numbers present as very many took to the water as we approached and when we had landed it is probable that many more were in the water than on the rock. By counting the number of seals however which occupied different areas and judging the proportion these bore to the total number present the population of the rookery was estimated at 3-4000. Of these probably 800 - 1000 were sea lions adult and young and 2 - 3000 fur seals. It should be emphasized however that these figures are very rough and could hardly form a basis for a reliable numerical comparison with the numbers reported during recent years. One might say however that there was no evidence of any striking alteration in the number of fur seals since the visit reported on by Mr. Bennett in June 1926. Account should perhaps be taken of the size of the rock on which the rookery is situated. This is actually quite small and may set a limit to any further increase in the size of this particular rookery. I should mention that at one point on the main island

we saw about 200 fur seal and a few sea lions.

Another point which should be commented on is the number of sea lions which were observed at the rookery. Mr. Bennett mentions that only five were present on the occasion of his visit in June, while Mr. Hamilton, in his report of April 20th 1923, states that in January 1923 " there were many male sea lions with harems of various sizes" It seems probable therefore that the number may vary according to the time of year. At the same time the great number inhabiting the rock at present is a point which deserves some consideration.

I am Sir,

Yours faithfully

Hamackintole

The Hon. Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley

143/27.

30th March,

27.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of March, 1927, relative to your visit to the Fur Seal Rookery at Elephant Jason Island, and to express to you His Excellency's thanks for your useful and interesting report.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Acting Colonial Secretary.

N. A. Mackintosh, Esq., B.Sc., A.R.C.S.,

R. S. S. "William Scoresby."

(9)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

4th June, 1927.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 94.

Sir,

With reference to Lieutenant-Colonel Beattie's despatch, No. 100 of the 14th of September, 1926, I have the honour to submit the following report on the condition of the Fur Seal herds in the Falkland Islands for the season 1926-1927.

2. - I would explain in the first place that largely on account of the fact that the patrol boat, H.M.C.S. "Afterglow", has been out of commission throughout the past year it was again impossible to visit Bird Island and Beauchene Island; nor did any opportunity occur for the same reason of inspecting the rookery at the Volunteer rocks. Every endeavour to investigate the conditions at these localities will be made during next season.

3. On the occasion, however, of the visit to the Colony of R.S.S. "William Scoresby" of the 'Discovery' expedition Mr. Mackintosh, the senior scientific officer on board, was good enough to make arrangements to inspect the rookery at Elephant Jason Island and to furnish a report of which I annex a copy for your information. It is to/

Figure 1.

RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

(8)

Enclosure II.

to be regretted that Mr. A. G. Bennett, Acting Government Naturalist, was absent from the Falkland Islands at the time in his capacity as Whaling Officer at the South Shetlands and was therefore unable to accompany Mr. Mackintosh but I enclose a copy of his comments on Mr. Mackintosh's report in the form of a minute addressed to the Colonial Secretary.

4. You will observe that this rookery appears to be in a flourishing condition even if its increase may be prejudiced in part by the company of a large number of sea lions. There is also every probability that at least one other rookery exists in the same neighbourhood.

X 5. I would add that the necessary measures to be taken for reducing the sea lions at this rookery will receive full consideration and more especially in conjunction with Mr. Davis' application to kill sea lions for commercial purposes if such is approved by you in accordance with the recommendation made in Lieutenant-Colonel Beattie's despatch of the 12th of April, 1927,

6. Such steps as are practicable will also be taken to investigate the existence of the subsidiary rookery on the main island to which reference is made by Mr. Mackintosh as well as of any other rookeries of which indication may become apparent.

7. I would state that during the year in view of the incapacity of H.M.C.S. "Afterglow" a regular guard of three men with a gun was maintained on Elephant Jason Island to protect the rookery against poachers/

coachers as reported in paragraph 5 of Lieutenant-Colonel Beattie's despatch, No. 100 of the 14th of September, 1926. No incident of an unusual nature, however, is to be recorded.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. M. ELLIS.

(4)

ENCLOSURE No. II TO FALKLAND ISLANDS DESPATCH.
No. 94 of the 4th of June, 1927.

COPY.

O.in.C., Sect.,

Mr. Mackintosh has well described the spot and his experiences there are those of mine, except the sea lions.

I would recommend that these lions be got rid of. They take to a spot and if undisturbed rapidly introduce their friends.

Care must however be taken that the shooting down of the lions does not frighten the fur seal.

It is difficult to suggest a method because of the conditions that might be met. Several days and several men would be necessary at the Jasons.

The Guard might be asked if Fur-seal calls at night have been heard from other directions than the known rock. I suspect other spots.

The area of Jasons is rather extensive.

Please see minute in 120/26.

(SGD.) A. G. BENNETT.

AG. NATURALIST.
20.5.27.

43.

Stanley.

15. August 1929.



Sir.

I beg to attach my reports on the Fur-seals, and on the Sealing Station recently visited in SS Fleurus.

I am,

Sir.

Your obedient servant.

Sealing Officer.

To the Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

(11)

Stanley.

14,th August 1929.

Sir.

Following your instructions I left Stanley in SS "Fleurus" on the 5th to inspect the Fur-seals. For the information of H, E, the Governor, I beg to report the following:-

Leaving the harbour of Port Stephens at 6am on the 8th, we steamed up to Bird Island at 8am. The ship was fairly close in, and with the aid of glasses several Fur-seal could be seen on the beach and many more on higher ground. Owing to the deep vegetation, and the uneven surface of the ground it is but reasonable to presume that many times the number of Fur-seals were present to those actually seen. Scattered about in groups I saw not less than 40. On higher land was a large group of seals which I took to be Sea-lions.

On Sunday the 11th, we left Carcass Id at 7am, and in fine weather visited the Elephant Jason Fur-seal rookery. The northern side of the rock was first explored from a distance of over a mile. This side is the highest, and at the breeding time the most thickly populated. On this occasion scarcely a seal was present. We approached nearer to the rock on the western, and southern sides. On this side the whole rock was thickly covered, and in the gulches Fur-seal were tightly packed. Counting was quite impossible, but I estimate with all due reserve, that between 5000 and 6000 were on the rock at that time. I have not before seen the rock so densely covered.

On previous visits the approach of a boat has caused the majority of seals to flee to the water; on this occasion scarcely a seal moved, while the blowing of the ships whistle failed to have any effect. I consider this to be sufficient evidence against any recent poaching.

We approached Stanley from the North and passed the volunteer rocks at something like three miles. At this distance very little can be seen even through good glasses. Although the ship was jumping heavily, I made out several seals on the fur rock. I could not be sure that they were Fur-seals, or could I suggest a number.

No landing was attempted at either spot. The conditions at

Bird Island was, at the time of passing, ideal for landing. Four hours later it would not have been possible. There is no water on the island. A landing could have been made at the Jasons with some difficulty, but no good purpose would have been served in the attempt.

A. J. Bennett

Sealing Officer.

14, th August 1929.

WATERLOW & SONS
LIMITED

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

28th August, 1929.

My Lord,

With reference to Mr. Ellis's despatch, No. 94 of the 4th of June, 1927, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that during the period intervening I have kept as close a watch as possible over the fur seal herds of the Colony. I am glad to say their numbers are increasing and that the principal rookery on Elephant Jason Island, is recovering rapidly from the effects of the depredations it suffered from poachers in the past.

2. I enclose a report by Mr. A. G. Bennett, Acting Government Naturalist, on a recent visit of inspection. In my opinion and that of Mr. Bennett, Elephant Jason rookery has reached the stage when it is necessary to exploit it. This will be to the advantage not only of the rookery but to the revenue of the Colony as well.

3. I propose, therefore, with Your Lordship's concurrence, to offer a licence for the present season to the Falkland Islands Sealing Company to take 2,000 male seals from Elephant Jason Island, on the conditions stated in the accompanying enclosure. I propose, furthermore, to grant the Company permission to kill all hair seal, which are a menace and antagonistic to the fur seal, in the vicinity of the rookery during the period of the licence. In this connection I would invite attention to Mr. Ellis's remarks in paragraph 4 of the despatch under reference.

4. I am sanguine enough to believe that the result of this experiment will lead to an important development

in the new sealing industry so lately established in the Colony. This undertaking is of vital importance as it opens up an additional source of revenue in addition to that received from sheep-farming on which the prosperity of the Colony at present solely depends.

5. I shall be grateful if I may be informed of Your Lordship's decision by telegram in order that the terms of the licence which I have reason to suppose will prove acceptable to the Company may be communicated definitely to them as early as possible.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most
obedient, humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

(13)

ENCLOSURE NO. II TO FAULKLAND ISLANDS DESPATCH, No. 183
of the 28th of August, 1929.

CONDITIONS OF PROPOSED LICENCE.

1. That a fee of £200 is paid on the issue of the licence.
2. That a royalty of 2/- is paid on each seal taken.
3. That the licence is valid for one season only, namely, from the 16th of December, 1929, to the 31st of January, 1930, and applies solely to Elephant Jason Rookery.
4. That the number of fur seals killed shall not exceed 2,000.
5. That the seals are killed in a humane fashion with as little shooting and disturbance of the herd as possible.
6. That no immature seals or females are killed.
7. That at least 10% of the adult males are left on the rookery.
8. That a full return is made showing the number of seals killed.
9. That the operations conducted under the licence shall be subject, if required to the supervision of a sealing officer, appointed by the Governor who shall be maintained totally and permanently on board the vessel employed by the Company without cost whatever to the Government.
10. That the licence is subject to cancellation at any time.

*We shd. impose a 3 year
age and 36-48" size
limit.*

*Surely an awful lot of
to TAKE more than 10% of
any one beach?*

*Subsiding is now 1/2
CDC's contents are*

T E L E G R A M.

FROM. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.
TO. H.E. THE GOVERNOR. FALKLAND ISLANDS.
DESPATCHED. 9th October. 1929. 1700.
RECEIVED. 10th October. 1929. 1025.

9th October. Your despatch 28th August No. 188. arrangements will be made for Hamilton to inspect Rookeries I consider no licence should be granted until he has reported.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

142/77

18

Hon C.S

Let me have my deposited
 re fur seal license to
 local Company -

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ \hline 12 \end{array} 29$$

All

J. S. Dispatch Bureau
 RB 13-XII-24

STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
3rd. April 1930

Dear Mr. Darnley,

I am writing this semi-official letter to you as Chairman of the 'Discovery' Committee and as the writer of the letter dated the 6th. November 1930, which I received on the 18th of February this year, it being then too late to do any detailed work on Fur Seal this season.

I am rather concerned about the supposition that there may be Fur Seal in places which are not known

During the time, 1919 to 1924, when I was working on the seals and whales of the Colony I was constantly on the look out for such places but neither saw nor heard of one at any time, farther, I have never seen seal at any place far from known rookeries. It is therefore my opinion that there does not exist any unknown rookery worth considering and indeed I am almost certain that there is none at all.

On the 31st December 1929 I took the Fleurus to examine the rookery on the Volunteer Rocks and made a count of the pups there, being assisted by Mr. A. G. Bennett. Calculations based on this count show that the rookery has increased by 40% since my last count in 1923, and that there are now 270 seal on it.

Assuming that the same rate of increase has obtained at the Elephant Jason and Bird Island rookeries, these have 2162 and 700 seal respectively, the total being 3132 seal, a number still too small to justify killing.

I consider that the only suitable policy at present is a continuation of protection.

I would like to state my belief that the expenditure of time and money on a special investigation of

What about New
Island (Hand's
Point) where there
are said to be (1931)
at least 8000?

MC

There are now (1931)
about 2000 but I
propose to maintain it
as a sanctuary.

MC

of the Fur Seal here would be unjustified, but that such expenditure would be productive if directed towards the research on the Sea Lion which shows distinct promise of results of substantial and conclusive value.

The use of the Fleurus would be more profitably directed to assisting in this work and as opportunity offered the Fur Seal could be dealt with in the course of the work on the Sea Lion, but subsidiary to it.

As to the present value of the two species to the Colony, there can be no doubt that the Sea Lion is of far greater importance than the Fur Seal, since the former exists in far greater numbers and is the basis of operations by the local sealing company.

It may be proper to touch on the subject of the Elephant Seal in the Colony itself, considerable numbers having been killed by the sealing company.

This species is clearly more abundant than has been supposed but there is no information to show whether the seal of the present day are an endemic race or merely the overflow from South Georgia. If they breed here or can be induced to do so it is clear that they are potentially of great value. It is scarcely necessary to remind you of the excellent effects which have resulted from the methods adopted in South Georgia.

Here again detailed work is required for which the Fleurus would be necessary.

The breeding season of the Elephant Seal, in South Georgia at any rate, is previous to those of the Sea Lion and Fur Seal in the Falklands, so that it is very unlikely that there would be any overlapping. I would suggest that the investigation of the local race of Elephant Seal might be begun this year when the suitable season

Of course.

Evidence points to this

I don't think
have will suggest
this.

arrives, probably October.

I expect to be occupied with work on the Sea Lion during the intervening months.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Governor as head of the local Government and as ex-officio member of the 'Discovery' Committee, and also to Dr. Kemp.

With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

*As far as I am
am sure I am
not a member!
1/5/30*

Written by W. J. H. Stanilke.

J.E. Schiller for information

JS

1.5.30.

143/27.

2nd May

30

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to express His Excellency's thanks for the copy handed to me yesterday of your letter addressed to Mr. R. Daruley of the Colonial Office and dated the 3rd of April, 1930, on the subject of the fur and other seals in the Falkland Islands.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.