

C.S.

Whaling & Sealing

Sealing

1930

No.

197/30

SofS No 7

SUBJECT.

1930

8/3/30

Previous Paper.

Hudson Bay Company
and
Sealing Rights in Fackland Is.

See M.P. 143/07

MINUTES.

1-6

SofS Despatch No 7 of 8/3/30

14m C.S

In furtherance to our conversation
please see Mr. Hamilton and obtain
his report.
$$\begin{array}{r} 30 \quad 30 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}$$
 D.H.

y.e.

Draft draft submitted.

J.H.

2.5.30

D.H.

$$\frac{2}{5} 30$$

Subsequent Paper.

Despatch to S. of S. no 96 of 10/30 4.

Mr
7.5.30

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

8th May, 1930.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 96.

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 27 of the 8th of March, 1930, relative to an application by the Hudson's Bay Company for a concession to take fur seals in the Falkland Islands, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that Mr. J. E. Hamilton is of the opinion, with which I agree, that the present state of the fur seal herds in the Colony is not such as to justify their commercial exploitation.

2. Mr. Hamilton is further of the opinion, with which again I agree, that the local population of the hair seals will not support additional killing to that already authorised under the licence granted to the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Sealing Company. In the event, however, of this Company ceasing for any reason to work the licence I shall notify Your Lordship immediately and I would ask that it might then be offered on its existing terms to the Hudson's Bay Company.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most
obedient humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD PASSFIELD OF PASSFIELD CORNER, P.C.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

143/27

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FAULKLAND ISLANDS

No. 27

Downing Street,

8 March, 1930.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 188 of the 23th of August, and to the arrangements made for Mr J.E. Hamilton to inspect the fur seal herds of the Colony, I have the honour to transmit, for your observations, the accompanying copy of correspondence with the Hudson's Bay Company, relative to their application for a concession to take seals in the Falkland Islands.

2. There might be considerable advantage to the Colony in encouraging the Hudson's Bay Company to establish themselves there, provided that this could be done with due regard to the interests of local enterprises. If it is found possible to develop the export trade in skins of the hair or fur seal it seems desirable and practicable to ensure that skins obtained from Crown lands or reserves, particularly those of the fur seal, should be marketed in this country, and not in America. You will observe that the Hudson's Bay Company indicate in their letter that they would be ready to give all possible assistance in this direction.

3. I shall be glad if you will furnish me

with

GOVERNOR,

ARNOLD HODGSON, Esq., C.M.S.,

etc., etc., etc.

Red 17.

Fr. H. B. Co.
8.2.30.

To
8.3.30.

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with your observations on this application, and
inform me whether you consider that in the event
of Mr Hamilton recommending the early exploitation
of fur seals, a licence could properly be given to
the Hudson's Bay Company, and if so, upon what terms.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

COPY

D/DH

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

Beaver House,

Great Trinity Lane,

London, E.C.4.

8th February, 1930.

L.B. Freeston, Esq.,

Colonial Office,

Downing Street, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

We refer to the interview which you were kind enough to give to Mr Townsend of this Company on the 31st December, 1929, regarding the proposed partial lifting of the restrictions on Fur Sealing in the Falkland Islands dependencies.

We understand that until the receipt of Mr Hamilton's report it will not be decided as to what policy it is proposed to adopt in the taking of Fur Seals from the Falkland Islands herd, but in the meantime we beg leave to make formal application for a concession, should the herd be considered sufficiently large to justify the commencement of pelting. We shall be glad to learn in writing the conditions which will have to be met in regard to such concession.

As you are aware, London is the chief fur market in the world owing to its geographical position and to the fact that its fur sales establish a definite standard price for all classes of furs throughout the world.

Prior to the five-nation Pelagic Treaty in relation to the Pribiloff Islands, the fur seal industry

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industry was of primary importance to the dyers and dressers of London, but since the Treaty this business has been practically monopolised by the Americans. On this account there has been little incentive for research and adoption of modern methods on the part of the London operators.

The Hudson's Bay Company, realising the necessity for any manufacture of raw materials from within the Empire to be carried out within the Empire if possible, commenced research work some three years ago on Sealskins with the result that we believe it possible by the commercial application of new methods to improve the position of producer, dresser and dyer alike, and place finer seal products on the market.

Moreover, we believe that the development of the treatment of the Seal, both fur and hair, in London will help in the consolidation of London's position as the largest fur centre in the world.

We confirm Mr Townsend's views that it might be preferable bearing in mind the comparative smallness of the herd and the desire to conserve and increase its numbers, for the Government to control the killing and pelting, and in such case we should be very glad to supply all information in regard to a conservation policy on modern methods of killing, handling and curing the skin and treatment of other seal products, and to take control of the sale of the skins for and on behalf of the Government.

Yours faithfully,
For the Governor and Committee of the
Hudson's Bay Company,
(Sd.) J. CHADWICK BROOKS.
Secretary.

7 March

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Sir,

With further reference to your letter D/ON of the 8th of February, making formal application for the grant of a concession to the Hudson Bay Company to take fur seals in the Falkland Islands, I am directed by Lord Passfield to inform you that it will be necessary for him to await Mr Hamilton's report and to consult the Governor of the Falkland Islands before he can arrive at any decision as to the terms and conditions on which a licence for this purpose could be issued to your company or to some other applicant.

2. Pending the receipt of the report of Mr Hamilton, Lord Passfield is unable to form any opinion as to whether it will be possible to permit the taking of fur seals, or, if so, what number could be permitted to be taken. The Secretary of State welcomes, however, the indication afforded by

your

THE SECRETARY,
HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

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your letter that the Hudson's Bay Company is prepared to take an interest in the Colony, and I am to convey to you an expression of his thanks for the offer of advice and assistance contained in the concluding paragraph.

5. Meanwhile a copy of your letter is being transmitted to the Governor, for his information and for any observation that he may have to offer.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) E. R. DARNLEY.