SECRETARIAT

1884

(Formerly)

1884

SUBJECT :

SEALING PROPOSALS - JOHN P. OLIVER.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER	
120/26	Sealing F.I. Season 1925/26
589/27	Grant of Sealing Licence to F.I. Sealing
75/35	F.I. and Dependencies Sealing Co.
10/44	Sealing in the Falklands - Enquiries from
21/45	W. J. Hutchinson applies for
119/45	
0376	
0497	
D/22/47	Sealing - Enquiries by Cooper Fund & Co.
D/9/57	Cia Argentina de Pesca
1859	Sealing - Fishing Co. - K.S. Fund Letter.
D/8/57	Proposals for Competitive Sealing Licences
0497	Sealing Regulations
0154	Sealing - Tithing.
	Sealing in the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

1884

1.

Goose Green
29/VII/58.

Hon Col Sec.

Sir.

I beg the accompanying
out about sealing the other day.
And thought of you & our talking about
sealing.

This may be a new approach for you
to the subject. The figures extended
portulated may be all Hoey.
But the approach is economic & thus a
little ahead of anything C.D.C. ever did.

You may find it thought provoking
if only to get other peoples criticism of
it. i.e. Whalers in S. Georgia, Bunders
in F.I. Davis.
The wool trade faces depression.
And your Government unemployment in
the Falands & unrest in the years ahead
Exploitation of the Colonies untapped
resources even in a small way might
help ameliorate the rancour of workers
in depression. Yours faithfully
John P. Blair

Reply at 68

1957

(one.) 2

Sealing in the Falklands.

Two companies have operated in the boom periods after the two world wars. Both have had shore based factories around Albemarle Hbr. And had a ship or ships to bring seal carcases to the station. Both have failed as soon as oil prices started to fall. The reason the sets up were to expensive & extravigant in man power to continue.

It is interesting to note that the second venture tried methods of extracting oil from blubber without the long 6 hr. 30 lbs pressure cooking. In order to have a high vitamin content of the oil. And that a good deal of time was lost & seals improvising this experimental plant to very little purpose before old digesters were bought from Pat San Carlos floated down to Albemarle & installed converted to oil fueled boilers. Thus returning to the older well tried method of rendering down used successfully before. (1914-20)

It must be noted that neither venture terminated because of the shortage of seals. Though both of them came upon difficulties by driving the seals away from their haunts near Albemarle. And long trips to find seal & return to the factory site with the kill made the whole thing run in fits & starts of activity followed by periods at the factory of sitting around waiting.

Sealing it must be noted is only a seasonal occupation its lowest being in the winter months & it so fits in well with the sheep farming economy. For this is the farms dead season.

If we go further back to the old sealers - seasonal men from Stanley & Pat Louis. Who sealed in open boats & boiled down in open pots on the beaches near points as evidenced by the pots & remains they left behind them. These people went out of business because of shortage of seals etc to put in their pots. Thus one must assume their methods were

3

Two

not uneconomic in their time as was that of the 2 stationary factories.

Thus after much thought I would postulate a method of sealing here which I think could be run economically & thus run "permanently" whilst the seal supply remained at, to, say one half its present density.

The pressure cooker is a great advance on the open pot but there is no vital need to increase its capacity much more, or more than twice that of the open pot. Where as those of the 2nd Albemarle ventures were of 10 times & in duplicate or triplicate.

Thus say the old pot held 4 to 6 seals at a cooking. And had the great advantage that it could be shifted & unshifted by rowing boat & set up on the beach by relatively 4 to 6 men. probably here a minimum of 3.

So shall we consider a movable plant of 2 parts. say an upright boiler fire box (large) underneath. to burn peat, & scraps & left wood. And raise steam say 60 lbs pressure/sq□"
And a digester, - pressure cooker. - capacity say 10 seals at one time.

This plant with 6 hrs cooking needed before the oil could be started off. could manage 2 cookings a day. & may be in time of glut with extra men, perhaps. 3 cookings even.

Two men on the beach could operate this plant when set up in any likely beach. like say the Jumble. Black Swan, Speedwell, Elsie or Weddell. Crew of 3 say 4 or even 5. for sealing would do well to take 20 seals a day.

If a big kill were ever taken in a day they could after delivery, (gutted) to the cooks. be hung up on improvised gallows like beef is at shepherds houses & thus in our cold winter winds last, keep until the cooker caught up.

2 cookings a day of 10 seals each. = 20 seals cooked.
oil at say 6 seals to barrel. = 2⅓ barrels a day.
6 barrels to the ton. or say 2 tons per week. at?
say £65 per ton. = £130 per week income.

NO.

(hypothetical)

Sealings costs. To set against £130 per week income.

The Boat without crew. say Capital value £4,000 per week.

hired at say £40 per week i.e. 1% per week £

or in season March to end July 20 weeks say. 20% per season. A 40

Men say 1 D say £8 per week ea. = A 5 0

Provisions Cooks etc. say Capital value £2,000.

depreciation 10 yrs. 10% per annum = £200

Repairs & Maintainance spares etc but not labour.

say annum £200.

Thus £400 per season of 20 weeks = 26

Total running for. £ 121

Coal & Victualing. ? Bullets?

Say could run this out fit with say 6 men only. saving 16 per week.

This would meet costs of 2 lines above about.

Seals. 2 lines oil about 72 seals per week. or x20 = 1440 say 1,000 per season.

would require licence to take 2,000 lines & say 300 elephants.

This would not reduce present seal population in fact I think the Falklands could stand 2 such units operating.

Few seals could also be cooked & the skins sold under licence by operators of such a scheme.

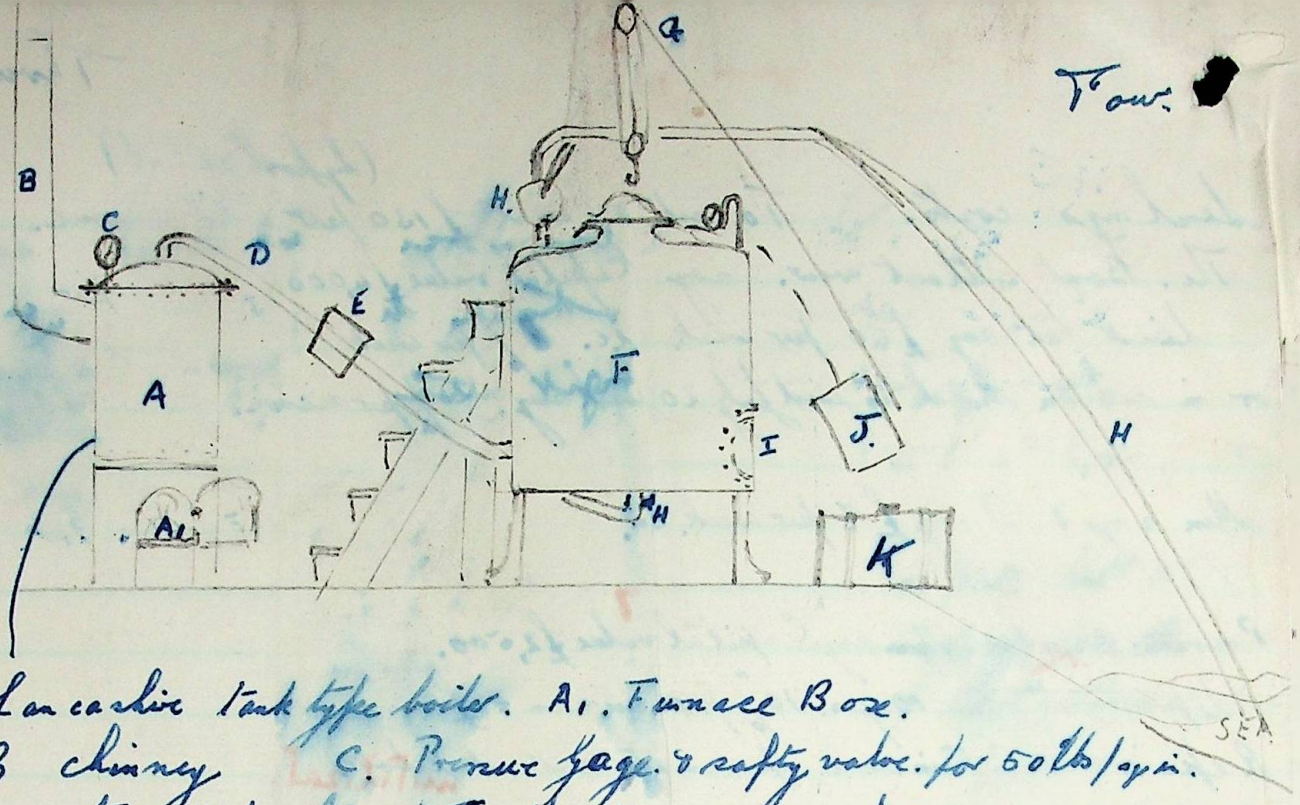
Possibly a larger pot-pressure cooker could be used but it becoming unmanageable in a boat. might be better to keep plant able to be dismantled & movable. Or be better to have 2 pressure cookers each capacity 7 seals. & one steam generating boiler. coupled to both.

A 3 sided shed, could be sectional corrugated iron on 3"x2" scantling could temporarily house plant.

And sectional hut say 16'x8' bunks & stove would make shore living quarters etc. no floor needed.

The whole must be able to be landed & erected in say 10 hrs five weeks - dismantled & put on board in same or less time by say 5 to 7 men.

5.



A Lancashire Tank type boiler. A1. Furnace Box.
B chimney C. Pressure gage. & safety valve. for 60 lbs/sq in.
D steam pipe line to F the pressure cooker.
E. a steam reducer if necessary?
F. pressure cooker. 30 lbs/sq in capacity say 230 gallons.
G Block & Tackle suspended above F to remove lid & help in filling
H. Cold water say from sea. by semi rotary pump operator in position (top of steps) so can see fat over flowing lip as he pumps. Thus stops gravy coming off as well.
I. Man hole inspection for cleaning out after each cooking. or may be a big drain cock under. into hand flag ditch to sea.
J Clarifyer. may be manually operated force pump for oil through a box of a bank of woven cloth filters.
K. Final 40 gall drum to remove product.
Drums only need to be weighed empty & number painted on them here. can weigh again before final shipment. Thus need only small scales ie. 100 lbs spring balance & can hooks.

10 scale. = $1\frac{2}{3}$ barrels oil. @ 40 gallons to barrel. = 67 gallons oil.
Thus double @ say 100 gallons real. in cooking to be raised from 40° F to about 230° F i.e. 190° F. for 1500 lbs = 190 × 1500 B.T.H.U.s.
= 285,000 BTHUs. Peat (English) has about 10,700 BTHUs per lb. say 10,000.
Then 28.6 lbs peat required to heat up each pot full. say 60% more for inefficiency of boiler. ie 44 lbs peat. Or may be 1 cwt per day.

John P. Elias

Y.E.

fs. 1 to 5 have been recd. from Mr Oliver. I will acknowledge & thank him for his suggestions. There's not much profit attached to it!

[illegible] 14/8/58

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HAgCS

Not much whole carcase utilization about this! It wd. be bound to be inefficient and wasteful & wd not give much employment. But I appreciate Mr. Oliver's giving thought to some alternative if there is a depression in the work market.

JRA 14.8.58

1884

16th August, 58

Sir,

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2-5

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th July, forwarding suggestions for sealing in the Falkland Islands and to thank you for the thought you have given to providing some alternative employment if there is a depression in the wool market.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) S. G. Trees.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

J. P. Oliver, Esq.,
GOOSE GREEN.

SGT/MF