

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No.

298/16

NAT/WHA/1#12



Governor's Office.

From		SUBJECT.
Secretary of State for the Colonies.		Salvesen's slip at New Island. The proposal to sell
No.	Date.	
65	16th June, 1916.	

Colonial Secretary's Record No.

745/16

MINUTES.

Minute sent to Col Secy. 28.7.16
AD.

Registered Number of last Despatch

191/16.

Despatch to Sec. of State N^o 1378 3.P.16.

No. next Despatch

Copy.

ENCLOSURE TO DESPATCH
No 65. OF 16/6/16



29, Bernard Street,
Leith,

16th May, 1916.

Sir,

As verbally informed you, it is our intention to shift the factory at New Island, Falkland Islands to South Georgia in order to utilise the material to the greatest extent. As you know, our whaling venture at New Island has been most unsuccessful from a financial point of view, and we have lost a considerable sum of money.

We have ^a fully equipped Slip for landing steam whale catchers at New Island, and also an engineering shop for effecting the necessary repairs to these vessels. It would be a pity to remove this part of the station's equipment, and we have been approached by the Norwegian companies holding whaling licences in the South Shetlands to sell it to them, but before entering into negotiations we would esteem it a favour if you would inform us whether there are any objections to our selling to foreign buyers.

We have, etc.,

(Sd.) CHR. SALVESEN & CO.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office, London, S.W.

24468/1916.

Downing Street,

25th May, 1916.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bonar Law to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th May and to inform you that he is prepared to approve of the sale of your slip and engineering shop at New Island to the Norwegian Companies holding whaling licences for the South Shetlands, subject to the condition that if you contract, in connection with the sale, for repairing your vessels at a tariff rate or any like facility, similar facilities should be secured for all British firms whaling in the Falkland Islands or its dependencies.

2. I am therefore to request you to state whether you agree to this condition.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) G. GRINDLE.

MESSRS. CHR. SALVESEN AND COMPANY.

29, Bernard Street,

Leith,

7th June, 1916.

Sir,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, Number 24,468/1916, and shall follow the suggestion therein made, should we dispose of the slip and repairing establishment at New Island, Falkland Islands.

We have not heard from the Norwegian companies ^{operating} at the South Shetlands, and it is probable that we shall retain the slip, engineering shop, and the repairing facilities which we have at New Island. We trust that the Governor may see his way to relax the conditions imposed upon foreign companies since the War started, namely that they are bound to call at Port Stanley for clearance, and are not allowed to go to New Island as hitherto; the result being that the whale catchers which usually came to our repair depot for their annual overhaul, were sent to Monte Video and Buenos Aires, whereby we lost their custom, and no benefit was derived by the Falkland Islands.

We have, etc.,

(Sd.) CHR. SALVESEN & CO.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, London, S.W.

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Hon. Col. Sec.

With reference to enclosed extract from letter of Messrs Chr. Salvesen & Co. to Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, can the Treasurer furnish me with a statement shewing the number of whale catchers entered at New Island and at New Island, since the Port was reopened on the return to New Island of Mr Watt, last year.

AD

Gov.

28. 7. 16.

298/16

FISHERY ISLANDS.

No. 137.

Government House, Stanley.

3rd August, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 88 of the 16th June, 1915, transmitting for my observations copy of correspondence with Messrs Chr. Salvesen & Company on the subject of their Whaling Station at New Island.

2. In reply I beg to state that after the outbreak of war in August, 1914, the Deputy Collector of Customs at New Island was recalled to Stanley, New Island closed as a Port of Entry, and all vessels for New Island required to enter and clear at Port Stanley.

3. In June 1915, the Deputy Collector was returned to New Island, and the New Island Port of Entry re-opened. Consequently from that date it has been optional for vessels to enter and clear at that Port.

4. The Collector of Customs informs me that in March last three whale catchers, the "Graham", "Scott" and "Selvic" cleared from Port Stanley for New Island, to lay up there for the winter months. These vessels belong to the Southern Whaling Company (Mr F. Egeen) and accompanied their whaling factory from South Shetlands to Port Stanley. There was nothing from the Customs point of view to prevent these whalers from going direct from South Shetlands to New Island, had they wished to do so.

5. In

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Ac., Ac., Ac.

5. In addressing their letter of the 11th June to the Under Secretary of State, it is possible Messrs Salvesen & Company were not fully aware of present local conditions.

6. Vessels arriving towards the end of last year from Monte Video for the Whaling Season at South Shetlands were requested to enter at Port Stanley in order that their licences might be duly completed and issued. The vessels would not I conceive in any case have gone to New Island as they were bound with their factories for South Shetlands. I am not aware of any restrictions on vessels either entering or clearing at New Island, since the return of the Deputy Collector to that Port in June last year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Douglas Young
Governor.