

C.S.

SEALING.

1924.

SHI/VES/2 # 3

No. 578/24.

C.E. "A"

S. Of S.

SUBJECT.

1924

Apl.

Withdrawal of Jason Guard.

Previous Paper.

Programme of work for the "Afterglow" in connection with the protection of the fur seal.

886/23

MINUTES.

Copy of Secretary of State's desp. 23 of 3rd Apl. 1924. (1)

Copy of minute from Governor 28th August, 1924 in M. P. D/28/24. (2)

Copy of Minute from Ag. Harbour Master, dated 2nd September, 1924 in D/28/24. (3)

B.W. 19/12/24

18/9/24

19/9/24

J.B. Submitted

- (1) Afterglow to sail on *13th*?
- (2) Gun and all gear to be brought in?
- (3) What to be secured as far as possible and left as a skeleton?
- (4) Guard to be brought with Stanley?
- (5) Seal skins to be killed off *Jason* rocks as far as time permits?
- (6) As much extra coal to be carried as possible for re-establishment of a depot?
- (7) Duration of stay at Jasons to be not at 10 days?

Attttt 9 Sept 24

Subsequent Paper.

H.C.S.

1. Proposals as above approved.
2. In addition to killing off sea lions on the sea rocks a party is proposed to be taken off on Elephant Island. Master of afterglow recently reported that there were a number of sea lions on the island which would probably find their way later to the sea rocks.

~~3. On return voyage to Stanley afterglow should call at San Carlos South + bring Mr. G. Brown to Stanley~~
 M.P. 21/24. I shall be glad to hear later approximately date for his arrival at San Carlos. Can I say about 26th Sept?

Br.

10 Sept 1924

Minute from the Governor 19th Nov^r 1924

(4)

Copy of minute to C.O.

TTTTT 20 Nov. 24

Vide Encl. 17 + 18
J.M.P. 21/24.

Copy of Encl. (4) sent to Acting Colonial
 Cessantia, 24th November, 1924. Encl. (5)
 Harbour Master

of Harbour Master

On 21/24 sent to you today
 the Governor has decided that the afterglow
 should on her next voyage take an opportunity of
 calling at the Elephant Island and that a landing
 be made and a count of the pinnacled, but

The vessel must in any case be
back in Stanley by the 23rd December
or, if weather conditions are unfavourable
a landing cannot be made.

[Signature] 15 Dec. 24

The Hon. Col. Secy.,

Noted.

2. Copy of Sailing Orders for above voyage
was put up in M/P 21/24.

[Signature]

Ag. Harbour Master.

17/12/24.

Copy

Secretary of State's despatch No. 23
of 3rd April, 1924. Duplicate of
despatch filed in M.P.D/28/24 as Encl.6.

Falkland Islands.

No. 23.

Downing Street,
3rd April, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Middleton's despatch No. 59 of the 26th of April, 1923, in which he asks that on arrival in England he might be afforded an opportunity of discussing the question of the protection of the fur seals.

2. The decision which I have already conveyed to you with regard to the increase of the contribution from the Dependencies to £9,000 a year will enable the Colony to maintain the patrol boat "Afterglow", for this as well as other purposes but after consultation with the Governor I have agreed to the withdrawal of the guard from Elephant Jason Island and I have so informed you in my telegram of 3rd April.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

J. H. THOMAS.

The Officer Administering
The Government of the Falkland Islands.

*Encl 2
M.P. 319/23*

*Encl 1. M.P.
D/28/24.*

2

Copy of Minute from the Governor to the Colonial Secretary, dated the 28th of August, 1924. in M. P. D/28/24.

In May last in M. P. 21/24 I decided that Guard should not be withdrawn at that time. I am, however, anxious that economy which would result from this measure should be effected.

2. Owing to position of rookery the Guard is unable to carry out any observation work as was originally contemplated and no reports on life history and habits of fur seals have been made by the Guard.

3. Afterglow should be able to afford adequate protection to this rookery by periodical visits but they will probably need to be more frequent than has hitherto been the practice. In addition at certain seasons, especially pupping season, she should make West Point Island or Carcass her base. She should also spend a considerable part of July, when seal are known to haul up, in vicinity of rookery.

4. As many sea lions as possible (male and female) should be killed off at Elephant Jason, and carcasses disposed of.

5. Thereafter the Guard may be withdrawn the members of it being given one month's employment in Stanley in lieu of notice.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,

Noted.

2. I should be glad to have instructions on the following matters:

- (a) When the "Afterglow" is to sail for the Jasons.
- (b) If the gun and other gear now at the Jasons is to be brought to Stanley.
- (c) Whether the hut is to be brought to Stanley or to be boarded up and left as a shelter (I would suggest the latter.)
- (d) If the guard is to be brought to Stanley on the next voyage of the "Afterglow."
- (e) Whether the sea lions at Elephant Jason are to be killed off during the next trip by the guard and the crew of the "Afterglow" or during subsequent trips by the crew of the "Afterglow."

3. The Master of the "Afterglow" informs me that from the middle of September to the middle of February is the period when the fur seal require to be protected and that West Point would be the best base.

4. The supply of coal and water would be the greatest difficulty in maintaining any base on the West Falklands. Unless bunkers were provided at West Point it would require that the vessel would have to return to Stanley once a month for coal and water, so being off her station about 7 or 8 days per month at more or less regular intervals. but this no doubt could be got over by shipping a small supply of coal and tanks for water storage to West Point; also each trip to land a certain amount of coal from the Afterglow's reserve bunker; in this way a coal depot could be established and thereby make it most difficult for the dates when the vessel would be off the station to be arrived at.

5. In the meantime I have instructed the Master of the "Afterglow" to make preparations for sailing early next week for the Jasons. (sgd. R. B. Baseley.

From His Excellency the Governor

to The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

From the end of the second week in December
 Appyghoo should be detailed for work in connection
 with fur seal protection & investigation. Mr
 Williams at Elephant Jason Island, Volunteer
 Rocks & Bird Island should be visited and another
 attempt should be made to get Braueren Island
 Elephant Jason should be visited at least twice
 between middle of December & middle of February.
 Probably the best time for visit to Braueren
 would be in January.

2. Mr Bennett is the only Customs officer in Stanley
 at present & is engaged as ^{early} ^{late} expected in December
 & also early in February it is important that he
 can give much time to fur seal investigation this
 season. The work must be left for most part to
 Mr Appyghoo who knows exactly what
 Mr Hamilton did in 1921-22 & 1922-23.

3. It is most important that a count of pups should
 be made at Jason Island & Volunteer Rocks. A
 few of the seasons pups should also be banded

and campsite watch kept for those islands in
1922-23

4. With a view to determining numbers of fur seals
on Laysan & Midway islets perhaps it might be
possible to supplement information obtained from
count of pups by photographs of the huts.

5. If hair seals are present on the four seal rocks
they should be killed provided their skins carcasses
can be removed.

6. It is desirable that only preparations which are
necessary for this season work should be made
in advance of return of expedition to Honolulu in
second week of December.

W.

18 November 1924.