

Reindeer

British Museum

No.

309.

C.S.

S. A. S. no 33

SUBJECT.

1919

18th January

Previous Paper.

882/18.

Requests further information for British
Museum re Reindeer in South Georgia.

MINUTES.

Letter to Magistrate South Georgia approved

14.4.19 ^{D.J.}/_{Cor}

Letter to Magistrate, S.G., 14.4.19.

File

Letter from P. M. South Georgia, 17.6.19.

Copy of Magistrate's letter of 17th
June, 1919, forwarded to Secretary of
State under cover of despatch
no 120 of 18/9/19.18.9.19 ^{D.J.}/_{Cor}

Subsequent Paper.

780/19.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 33.

*For C.S.O record
one copy to be kept
South Georgia for report.*

11.4.19



Downing Street,
18th February, 1919.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 43 of the 4th April 1918 I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Director of the British Museum (Natural History) together with one from Messrs Salvesen and Company regarding the experiment of introducing reindeer into South Georgia.

2. I request that you will furnish me with a report on the various points regarding which the Trustees of the British Museum desire information.

3. I have to add that the question of acclimatization is being considered by the Committee on the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands.

I have, etc.,
(sgd) Milner.

GOVERNOR

W. D. YOUNG, ESQ., C.M.G.,

etc., etc., etc.

P.M. (N.H.)
374/18.
2458/18.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Cromwell Road,

London, S.W.7. 7th January, 1919.

Sir,

I am directed by the Trustees of the British Museum to acknowledge the receipt of Mr G. Grindle's letter of the 6th November last No. 32367/18, enclosing copies of despatches from the Governor of the Falkland Islands and the Magistrate at South Georgia, on the subject of the Reindeer introduced into that Dependency in 1911-12.

In reply I am to say that the Trustees note with interest that the experiment of introducing reindeer into South Georgia seems to have met with a considerable measure of success. If other reindeer are to be introduced, in order to strengthen the breed, there would seem to be obvious advantages in bringing them from Norway rather than from Canada. In this connection it would be desirable to know the original locality of the second batch of imported reindeer (Salvesen & Co), in order to keep a complete record of the experiment. The statements in Mr Binnie's letter with reference to the parturition period of the introduced reindeer ~~are~~ of particular interest.

The statement about the Tussac grass deserves notice and information should be sought on the following points :-

- (1) Observations should be made with regard to the subsequent history of the localities where the grass has been killed by grazing.
- (2) Is it really killed, so that it will not spring up from the roots when left itself.
- (3) Does the ground become re-stocked with this grass (by seeding, for instance) when the sheep have left? If so, how many years are required for the complete re-establishment of the grass.
- (4) Is it found that reindeer, or any other animals, produce effects like those due to sheep?

If sheep are likely to exterminate their own food-supply they would be undesirable colonists. It may not be desirable to attempt to do too much at once, on the ground, already expressed, that South Georgia cannot be expected to support a varied fauna of large mammals. Experiments might, however, be made with goats.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd) C. E. Fagan.

309/19

309/19.

14th April, 1918.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to forward to you herewith a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch No 33 of the 18th February, 1918, (with enclosures), on the subject of Rainier in South Georgia, and to request you to be good enough to report as far as you are able on the several points on which information is asked for in the enclosure to the despatch.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

E. P. Binnie, Esq.,

Stipendiary Magistrate,

South Georgia.

309/19.



S.G. No. 93/19

The Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia,

17th. June 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 309/19, of 14th. April 1919, covering copy of Secretary of State's despatch No 33 of 18th February, on the subject of Reindeer at South Georgia, observations which have been made are as follows:

- (1) Where sheep have been grazing on Tussac Grass the grass dies off for about 3 years, and then only in places where seed has fallen does it spring up, the original roots are dead.
- (2) It will not spring up from the roots even when left to itself, only in places as aforementioned where seed has fallen.
- (3) Yes. About 5 years.
- (4) No. Goats always thrive well on the stations when left to themselves but are always housed in winter, they do not produce any bad effects on Tussac grass.

It has not been observed if Reindeer eat the Tussac except perhaps in winter but in the Summer months they are always grazing on the low lands where short grass and moss is to be had, they do not appear to produce any bad effects as sheep.

Honourable,

The Colonial
Secretary,

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. B. Binn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Stipendiary Magistrate.