

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

140
SGA/WHA/1 # 8

No.

Date of Receipt.

Governor's Office.

From

SUBJECT.

~~Secretary of State for the~~
COLONIES.
GOVERNOR.

WHALING, South Georgia.

Report on

No.

Date

130

12th October, 1915

MINUTES.

Despatch to S/S. No 130 of 12. X. 15.

AD
—
for.

Colonial Secretary's
Record No.

821/15.

Registered Number
of last Despatch.

No. next Despatch.

425/15.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 130.

Government House, Stanley.

18th October, 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information a copy of an interesting Report by Mr. E. B. Hinnie, Magistrate, South Georgia, on the Whaling Operations of that Dependency, during the season 1st October, 1914, to 31st March, 1915.

The Report shows the continued prosperity and increased yield of the Whaling Industry of the Dependency.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Douglas Young
Governor.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

C-o-p-y.

The Office of the Magistrate,
King Edward Cove, South Georgia,
May 15th. 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a report on the whaling operations at South Georgia for the period from 1st October to 31st March, 1915, which period has been termed the "Whaling season".) for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

2. During the period under review a total catch of 4048 whales was made, from which was produced 214324 barrels of oil, valued at £561764 approximately, or a total weight of 35720½ tons at a given average value of £15.10 per ton; calculating at the rate of six barrels to the ton, including with the above the produce of Guano and Whale bone the total value of the seasons catch would amount to £586819 these figures are given by the respective companies who are generally inclined to underestimate the value, in my opinion the total value of such a catch, at this particular juncture could easily be valued at £670000 allowing £3 to each barrel of oil and 10/- to each bag of Guano.

3. Comparing these figures with the catch of last year (1913-14) we have an increase of 1338 whales and 87867 bars. oil, or a total increase in valuation of £266217. For comparative purposes the results of the past three season are here shown, when the increase of the season under review can be readily seen:

over

3 enclosures

	Whales.	Oil.	Value.	Bone.	Value.	Guano.	Value.	total.
1912-13.	4197.	161852.	426628.	176.	3622.	53305.	23580.	453830
1913-14.	2710.	126457.	320602.	66 $\frac{1}{2}$.	5185.	60085.	24843.	350630.
1914-15.	4048.	214324.	561764.	$\frac{3}{4}$	325.	62061.	24730.	586819.

4. From the seven companies operating in the Dependency there were 22 licenced whale catchers employed (The "Southern Cross" of the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company commenced catching on Feby. 10th, making the additional whaler for that company) the average catch of whales per boat is as follows:-

Company.	No of Boats.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
South Geo. Coy. Ltd.	4	207.5	139.7	197.0
Tonsberg Whaling Coy.	3	251.0	139.3	227.0
Sandefjord Whaling Co.,	3	192.0	123.3	186.7
Compania Arg. de Pesca.	4	191.0	116.7	201.2
Ocean Whaling Coy.	2	218.0	124.6	216.0
Bryde and Dahl.	3	202.5	132.5	154.7
Southern Whaling Co.	2	106.0	128.5	106.0

5. OIL. The total average number of barrels of Oil extracted from each whale as compared with the past two seasons, is as follows:-

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	38.2	46.6	52.94

the increase is accounted for by the large number of Blue whales captured.

The following shows the average number of barrels of Oil obtained by the individual stations as compared with the past two seasons results:-

Station.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
South Georgia Coy.	42.4	47.8	58.5
Tonsberg Whaling Coy.	39.9	48.4	54.1
Sandefjord Whaling Co.	34.0	50.0	59.5
Compania Arg. de Pesca	36.9	45.4	38.7
Ocean Whaling Coy.	45.0	48.0	49.5
F. F. "Restitution"	39.0	40.8	55.7
"Thor I"	33.6	41.4	50.7

contd.

<u>Station.</u>	<u>1912-13.</u>	<u>1913-14.</u>	<u>1914-15.</u>
F.F. "Ems"	-	7.	11.0

the above vessel works in conjunction with the Compania Arg. de Pesca, by arrangement to utilise flenched carcasses.

6. The total actual production of Guano as given in the report from the various stations manufacturing same amounted to 62061 bags (vide Schedule B.) an increase of 1976 bags over the 1913-14 season; the following shows the average number of bags of guano obtained from each whale by the undermentioned companies, as compared with the results of the past two seasons:-

<u>Company.</u>	<u>1912-13.</u>	<u>1913-14.</u>	<u>1914-15.</u>
South Georgia Co.	24.3	37.4	32
Tonsberg Co.	16.4	38.0	27.3
Ocean Whaling Co.,	36.0	43.3	27.7
F.F. "Restitution"	14.1	17.5	7.5
"Ems"	3.9	18.0	12.3

The above figures cannot be taken as the exact or actual produce from the total number of whales caught, as on the 31st March which has been termed the 'close of the whaling season' the half part of Guano is not yet put through the Mill, but is stored away for grinding at some other convenient time when whales are scarce and men can be spared for this purpose. Example. South Georgia Company reports on 31st March 24231 bags, when in reality the actual produce was 35000 only the Guano which was actually bagged ready for export being given; the remainder will be included in the winter seasons catch.

The following shows the number and class of whales caught during the past three seasons, for comparative purposes:-

	<u>Right.</u>	<u>Sperm.</u>	<u>Blue.</u>	<u>Fin.</u>	<u>Bottle nose.</u>	<u>H.Back.</u>	<u>Sei.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1912-13.	2.	7.	212.	1724.	1.	2251.	-	4197.
1913-14.	63.	15.	651.	1417.	-	474.	90.	2710.
1914-15.	4.	1.	1936.	1476.	-	634.	-	4048.

showing an increase of 1285 Blue whales and 59 Fin whales or a total increase in the catch against last season of 1388 whales.

7. Whalebone; only $\frac{2}{3}$ of a ton of whale bone was taken that being Right Whale Bone, the bone from the other species is not made use of for market purposes, as the return is not considered sufficient to cover the expenses of cleaning and drying etc, it is used a good deal round the sea front of the stations for reclamation purposes.

OBSERVATIONS.

The increase shown in regard to the number of barrels of Oil extracted from each whale, is on account of the large number of Blue whales taken and not from any improvement or increase in utilisation as one might imagine, although I must agree that the Floating Factories did extremely well giving a % of 50 and 55 barrels each.

Guano. With regard to the utilisation of the whale carcasses for the production of Guano, there is still great room for improvement although as I have previously remarked, one cannot be guided by the figures given in para. 6 of the report. In order to really get at the exact amount of Guano produced from each whale, the whaling season could be counted from the first of October to the 30th Sept or the Summer and Winter reports should be used in Conjunction to obtain correct figures. The produce of Guano on Floating Factories can never be so successful as on a shore station, owing to lack of space for stowing the raw material, it would be wise for owners of Floating Factories to erect a few pressure boilers and a Mill on shore when the refuse from the ship could

could, also be used up, I believe there could be sufficient room found on shore at either of the harbours now used by Floating Factories for this purpose, in the case of the "Thor I" of Messrs Bryde and Dahl, who, during the past season produced 26000 barrels of Oil from their catch, one can imagine the considerable quantity of Guano that is wasted. I understand from the Manager of the Southern whaling and Sealing Coy. that, that company has under consideration the question of additional plant for the produce of Guano.

Schedule C. gives the number and size of Pressure boilers in use at each station and on each Floating Factory also the class of Guano Mill in use; the Sandefjord whaling Coy, have now erected an excellent plant for manufacturing Guano, which has just been completed and will be put in use as soon as the season commences in October next.

The past season has certainly been very successful owing chiefly to the large number of Blue and Fin whales taken, the whale catchers now in use are much larger and stronger than those used in previous years, consequently, they are able to deal with the larger whales, another encouragement for the Hunter to pursue the Blue whale in preference to the Hump-Back is that the Companies offer a much higher reward than hitherto, in previous years the reward was the same for both kinds; although on occasions the Hump back appeared in large numbers he was left in many cases to pursue his rambles in peace, while the larger species were plentiful. On one occasion while the S/S Don Ernesto was hunting off Cape Buller some 10 miles out, a heavy fog settled down and they were unable to continue hunting, as they were drifting about a school of Hump backs came very close to the boat and without moving the engine four of them were taken, while in conversation with the gunner some time after he remarked 'I have never seen so many whales together, there must have been hundreds. Up to the last day in March similar reports were

were, made by the Gunners regarding the great number of Hump backs seen so late in the season. A total of 631 Hump backs were taken in the course of the season, although this whale has been much sought after in the past, owing to the easiness of capture and requiring no great labour or exertion in handling, now that the reward has been raised on Blue whales, it is hoped the H.Back will be much less persecuted and that the inducement will cause it to return to its old haunts.

Owing to the state of war in Europe at the Commencement of the whaling season it was found difficult to obtain the number of men required, so that most of the stations were working underhanded, about the middle of the season there were 1300 men including crews of Transports, Expeditions and visitors. No labour trouble existed throughout the season except in isolated cases which were dealt with out of Court and settled by the management.

I have, etc.,

(SGD.) Edw. B. Binnie,

Ag. Stipendiary Magistrate.

Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

Falkland Islands.

Schedule A.

The following statement shows the total number and kind of whales taken by the various licenced whaling Coys. at South Georgia during the half year dating from the 1st October, 1914 to the 31st March, 1915.

Name of Company.	Right.	Blue.	Sperm.	Fin.	H.Back.	Total.
South Geo.Co.Ltd.	1	483	-	185	119	788
Tonsberg Coy.		357		205	119	681
Sandefjord Coy.		245		211	104	560
Compania Arg.Pesca		285	1	325	194	805
Ocean whaling Coy.		130		286	16	432
"Restitution"		254		40	24	318
"Thor I"	3	182		224	55	464
	<u>4</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1476</u>	<u>631</u>	<u>4048</u>

The following shows the total number and kind of whale captured during each month of the season 1914-15.

Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Humpback.	total.
October		1	68	33	8	110
November			182	153	155	490
December			248	591	181	1020
January	1		635	324	200	1160
February	2		441	67	37	547
March	1		362	308	50	721
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1476</u>	<u>631</u>	<u>4048</u>

(SGD.) Edw. B. Binnie,

Ag. Stipendiary Magistrate.

Schedule B.

The following statement shows the production of Oil etc., with approximate values, as obtained from the catch of 4048 whales at South Georgia during the period from 1st October 1914 to 31st March 1915.

PRODUCTION.

Company.	Oil. barrels.	value. £.	Bone. tons.	value. £	Guano. bags.	value. £	Total value £s
S. Geo. Co.	46135.	138405.	$\frac{1}{4}$	150	24231	12115	150670
Tonsberg.	36881.	92202			18800	6580	98782
Pesca, Arg.	31178	78000					78000
Sandefjord.	33300	68265					68265
Ocean Coy.	21400	59800			12000	3000	62800
"Restitution"							
	17732	42830			2400	720	43550
"Thor I"	23536	70608	$\frac{1}{2}$	175			70783
β "Ems"	4162	11654			4630	2315	13969
	214324	561764	$\frac{3}{4}$	325	62061	24730	586819

β An arrangement with the Compania Argentina de Pesca to utilise flenched carcasses, the above quantity of oil and Guano was taken from 375 carcasses an average of 11 barrels of oil and 12 bags of guano.

(SGD.) Edw. B. Binnie,

Ag. Stipendiary Magistrate.

Schedule C.

Whaling

South Georgia.

Season 1914-15.

SHORE STATION.

Number and variety of whales with quantity of oil, Guano and whale Bones obtained therefrom by the South Georgia Co. Ltd., during the period from 1st October 1914 to 31st March 1915.

Kind of Whale

Number.

Company.	Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	H.Back.	Sei.	Total.
South Georgia Company, Limited.	October			23	12	2		37
	November			44	25	38		107
	December			56	83	45		184
	January	1		166	33	31		231
	February			82	8	1		91
	March			112	24	2		138
Total.		1	?	483	185	119		788

Capacity.

No of Pressure Boilers.	Dimensions.	No of open Boilers & Dimensions.	No and class of Guano Mills.
43	13ft.2" h. 7ft.6" dia. Cub. Cap.23500 C.F.	17. 7' 6" x 12 17. 5' x 7' 6"	5 vertical Drying Kilns 1 Rotary 50 ft. Long

Oil, etc.,

Oil barrels.	Value. £	Whale Bone Tons.	Value £	Guano Bags.	Value £	Total Value £.
46135	138405	1/4 Right Whale	£150	24231	12115	150670

Licensed Steam Whalers.

Name.	P. of Registry	Tons.	Engine Horsepower.	Speed in Knots.
"Saima"	Leith	70.25	560	11.
"Scana"	"	"	"	"
"Silka"	"	"	"	"

Whaling

South Georgia.

Season 1914-15.

SHORE STATION.

Number and variety of Whales with quantity of Oil, Guano and Whale Bones obtained therefrom by the Sandefjord Whaling Company during the period from 1st October, 1914 to 31st March, 1915.

KIND OF WHALE.

Number

Company.	Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Hump-back.	Sei.	Total.
	October.			13	4	2		19
Sandefjord Whaling Company.	November.			32	16	37		85
	December.			41	86	27		154
	January.			77	52	27		156
	February.			55	5	6		66
	March.			27	48	5		80
	TOTAL.			245	211	104		560

CAPACITY.

No. of Pressure Boilers.	Dimensions.	No. of Open Boilers. & Dimensions.	No. & Class of Guano Mills.
28	10' x 8'	8. 8' x 12'	1 Rotary (not yet completed)

OIL &c.,

OIL.	VALUE.	WHALE BONE.	VALUE.	GUANO.	VALUE.	TOTAL VALUE.
Barrels.	£	Tons.	£	Bags.	£	£ s d.
33300	68,265	Right 0	0	0	0	68,265. 0. 0
		Blue 0				26

LICENSED STEAM WHALERS EMPLOYED :-

Name.	Port of Registry.	Tons.	Engine Horsepower.	Speed in Knots.
"Norrone II"	Sandefjord		475	11
"Norrone I"	-do-	145	475	10½
"Samson"	-do-	154	450	10

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to, the best of my knowledge accurate.

(SGD.) Th. Farlie,
Manager.

Whaling

South Georgia.

Season 1914-15.

SHORE STATION.

Number and variety of Whales with quantity of Oil, Guano and Whale Bones obtained therefrom by the Tonsberg Whaling Company during the period from 1st October, 1914 to 31st March, 1915.

KIND OF WHALE.

Number.

Company.	Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Hump-Back.	Sei.	Tptal.
Tonsberg Whaling Company.	October.			22	9	2		33
	November.			58	27	41		126
	December.			44	91	27		162
	January.			107	41	44		192
	February.			65	10	2		77
	March.			61	27	3		91
	TOTAL.				357	205	119	

CAPACITY.

No. of Pressure Boilers.	Dimensions.	No. of Open Boilers. & Dimensions.	No. & Class of Guano Mills.
30	7' x 11'	12. 7' x 12'	1 Rotary with vertical drying Kilns.

OIL &c.,

OIL. Barrels.	VALUE. £	WHALE BONE. Tons.	VALUE. £	GUANO. Bags.	VALUE. £	TOTAL VALUE. £ s d.
36881	92202	Right) Blue)	none	18,800	6580	98782.

LICENSED STEAM WHALERS EMPLOYED :-

Name.	Port of Registry.	Tons.	Engine. Horsepower.	Speed in Knots.
"Knol"	Tonsberg	60	N.R. 480 H.P.	10
"Ruggen"	"	59	" 450 H.P.	10
"Viking 2"	"	75	" 600 H.P.	11

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

(SGD.) S. Berntsen,

Manager.

Whaling

South Georgia.

Season 1914-15.

SHORE STATION.

Number and variety of Whales with quantity of Oil, Guano and Whale Bones obtained therefrom by the Ocean Whaling Company during the period from 1st October, 1914 to 31st March, 1915.

KIND OF WHALE.

Number

Company.	Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Hump-Back.	Sei.	Total.
	October.							
Ocean	November.			3	46			49
Whaling	December.			22	77	5		104
Company.	January.			36	85	3		124
	February.			47	15	8		70
	March.			22	63			85
	<u>TOTAL.</u>			132	284	16		432.

CAPACITY.

No. of Pressure Boilers.	Dimensions.	No. of Open Boilers. & Dimensions.	No. & Class of Guano Mills.
23 0	6 x 8	12. 6 x 8	3 vertical Drying Mills.

OIL &c.,

OIL. Barrels.	VALUE. £	WHALE BONE. Tons.	VALUE. £	GUANO. Bags	VALUE. £	TOTAL VALUE. £ s d.
21,400	59,800	Right 0				
		Blue 0		12,000	3000	62,800

LICENSED STEAM WHALERS EMPLOYED. :-

Name.	Port of Registry.	Tons.	Engine. Horsepower.	Speed in Knots.
"Pagodroma"	Larvik		69 N H	11½
"Montebello"	--		--	--

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

(SGD.) W. Esbensen,
Manager.

Whaling

South Georgia.

Season 1914-15.

SHORE STATION.

Number and variety of Whales with quantity of Oil, Guano and Whale Bones obtained therefrom by the Compania Arg. de Pesca during the period from 1st October, 1914 to 31st March, 1915.

KIND OF WHALE.

Number

Company.	Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Hump-Back.	Sei.	Total.
	October.	0	1	10	8	2	0	21
Compania	November.	0	0	45	39	39	0	123
Arg. de	December.	0	0	33	148	38	0	219
Pesca.	January.	0	0	80	51	65	0	196
	February.	0	0	81	8	16	0	105
	March.	0	0	36	71	34	0	141
	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>805</u>

CAPACITY.

No. of Pressure Boilers.	Dimensions.	No. of Open Boilers. & Dimensions.	No. & Class of Guano Mills.
4	High Diam. Thick 260 220 2 centimetres	No. High Diam. Thick. 20 332 238 1 2 332 218 1 2 342 205 1 centimetres	0

OIL &c.,

OIL. Barrels.	VALUE. £	WHALE BONE. Tons.	VALUE. £.	GUANO. Bags.	VALUE. £	TOTAL VALUE. £ s d.
31 178	78 000	Right 0	0	0	0	78 000 0 0.
		Blue 0				

LICENSED STEAM WHALERS EMPLOYED :-

Name.	Port of Registry.	Tons.	Engine Horsepower.	Speed in Knots.
"Fortuna"	Buenos Aires	43	300	8
"Rosita"	-do-	43	300	8
"Karl"	-do-	43	300	8
"Don Ernesto"	-do-	84	650	11

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate. Compania Argentina de Pesca for the Manager.

(SGD.) E. Johansen.

Whaling

South Georgia.

Season 1914-15.

FLOATING FACTORY.

Number and variety of Whales captured, with quantity of Oil, Guano and Whale Bone obtained therefrom by the Southern Sealing & Whaling Company during the period from 1st October, 1914 to 31st March, 1915.

KIND OF WHALE.

Number.

Company.	Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Hump-Back.	Sei.	Total.
	October.							
Southern	November.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sealing	December.	-	-	28	15	16	-	59
& Whaling	January.	-	-	90	5	8	-	103
Company.	February.	-	-	56	4	-	-	60
	March.	-	-	80	16	-	-	96
	TOTAL.	-	-	254	40	24	-	318

CAPACITY.

No. of Pressure Boilers.	Dimensions.	No. of Open Boilers & Dimensions.	No. & Class of Guano Mills.
18	(8' high (8' diam.	8. 6' 8" x 8' x 14'	1 Husvik, Norwegian Rotary.

OIL &c.,

OIL. Barrels.	VALUE. £	WHALE BONE. Tons.	VALUE. £	GUANO. Bags.	VALUE. £	TOTAL. VALUE. £ s d
17732	£15 per ton @ 6 barrels. £42830.	Right Blue	-	2400	£3 per ton @ 10 bags £720.0.0.	£43550.0.0.

LICENSED STEAM WHALERS EMPLOYED :-

Name.	Port of Registry.	Tons.	Engine. Horsepower.	Speed in Knots.
"Southern Sea"	North Shields	85 nett 203 brutt	750	10
"Southern Sky"	-do-	85 nett 203 brutt	750	10
"Southern Cross"	Cape Town.	64 nett 174 brutt	500	10

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate. (SGD.) N.A. Aldersen, Manager. S.S. "Restitution"

Whaling

South Georgia.

Season 1914-15.

FLOATING FACTORY.

Number and variety of Whales captured, with quantity of Oil, Guano and Whale Bone obtained therefrom by the "Thor I" Dahl. during the period from 1st October, 1914 to 31st March, 1915.

KIND OF WHALE.

Number.

Company.	Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Hump-Back.	Sei.	Total.
	October.							
	November.							
	December.			24	91	23		138
	January.			79	57	22		158
	February.	2		55	17	4		78
	March.	1		24	59	6		90
	TOTAL.	3		182	224	55		464

CAPACITY.

No. of Pressure Boilers.	Dimensions.	No. of Open Boilers & Dimensions.	No. & Class of Guano Mills.
16	4 p.b. 8' x 6'	8	
	6 " " 8' x 8'		
	6 " " 10' x 8'.	11' x 7'.	-

OIL &c.,

OIL. Barrels.	VALUE. £.	WHALE BONE. Tons.	VALUE. £.	GUANO. Bags.	VALUE. £.	TOTAL VALUE. £ s d.
23536	70608	Right $\frac{1}{2}$ ton. Blue	175	-	-	70783.

LICENSED STEAM WHALERS EMPLOYED :-

Name.	Port of Registry.	Tons.	Engine Horsepower.	Speed in Knots.
"Tugeborg"	Sandefjord	56	532	10
"Edda"	---	45	385	9
"Snorre"	---	45	415	9

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

(SGD.) H. A. Christensen,
Manager.

Whaling

South Georgia.

1914-15.

Rollo Coy. limited.

King Edward Cove.

The following shows the number of whale carcasses utilised and the quantity and value of Oil and Guano obtained therefrom during the period dating from 1st January, 1915 to 31st March, 1915.

Licensed Whaling Co., by whom employed.	No. of Whale Carcasses used.
--	---------------------------------

Rollo Company, Ltd.,	375.
----------------------	------

No & Capacity of Pressure
Boilers.

12 to 8 tons.

OIL, ETC.,

Oil.	Value.	Whale Bone.	Value.	Guano.	Value.	Total Value.
<u>Barrels.</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Bags.</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£.</u>
4162	11,654	-	-	4630	2315	13,969.

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

(SGD.) Henrik Klaveness,
Master,
Floating Factory "Ems"

31st March, 1915.