

C. S. O.

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(Formerly)

Aug 1949

839

SUBJECT:

FALKLAND ISLANDS FISHERIES.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER AND YEAR.

- 0839/A F.I. Fisheries-Christies Fisheries Capetown apply for Fishing Concession
- 0839/B F.I. Fisheries - Donald Balck U.S.A., applies for Fishing Concession

EX. CO. MINTS



My Reference 19888/54

Your Reference

7039

The Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.



17th August, 1949.

Dear Sir Miles,

I think you should know the position we have reached with regard to the various requests for fisheries concessions in the Falkland Islands.

I saw Commander Villiers on the 22nd July. The purpose of his call was to enquire whether there was any possibility of his being allowed to set up a fishing industry in the Falklands. His idea was that he would purchase a factory ship which would be anchored within the 3-mile territorial limit. The actual fishing would be done outside the territorial limit by fishing vessels. He believed that the South Down banks and the fishing banks of the east coast of the Argentine would provide all the catches he required. The company could be registered in Port Stanley and he estimated that the capital outlay involved would be around £200,000. He considered there were ready markets for fish meal in the Argentine and in Brazil, and he did not think there would be any political complications in selling to the Argentine because the demand was so great. He would employ Falkland Islands labour so far as the labour was available.

I told him that a fishing concession had already been granted to somebody else, and he then enquired whether this concession was such as to make it impossible for the Governor

SIR MILES CLIFFORD, K.B.E., C.M.G.,
THE BIRCH HOTEL,
HAYWARDS HEATH,
SUSSEX.

to

OAG

For record please. Mc 18/1000

17/8.
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to grant a concession to him also.

Furthermore he said that since all the fishing would take place outside the 3-mile limit and if Government approved, it would be quite open for him merely to anchor the factory ship outside the 3-mile limit. I pointed out to him that it would surely suit his ends better if he were to have his factory ship in the relatively calm waters of the Colony.

He little knows!

I told him that I would do my best to clear up the uncertainty as to whether the existing concession precluded the possibility of the grant of any further concessions, and I enclose a copy of my subsequent letter to Commander Villers which is, I trust, self-explanatory.

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X We also interviewed at a later date a Mr. Shepherd, M.P. and a Mr. Bower, M.P. who were likewise interested in the possibilities of a fishing industry in the Colony.

It was quite clear from the conversation that both these gentlemen are still in the preliminary stages of consideration of the scheme and that they will require far more information before they can put up a sensible proposition to us, or rather to the Governor. We suggested that Mr. Shepherd should contact Dr. Mackintosh who would be able to give him useful information about the fishing banks off the coast of South America.

No copy

In your letter to Bennett of the 11th August you asked whether we had any further news of Commander Villiers.

Bennett

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G.R.

- 2 -

Bennett is as you know extremely busy with certain unfortunate crises in the Mediterranean, and I hope you will regard this letter as answering your question.

We still have not heard from Raymer about the petition, despite the fact that we sent him a reminder.

Yours sincerely,

P. A. Carter

(P.A. CARTER)

This came for some queer reason by ocean mail

19888/54/49

16th August, 1949.

I think I undertook when you called to see me on the 22nd July to let you know whether there was anything contained in the fisheries concession which had already been granted to another Company to prevent you applying also for a concession to set up a fishing industry in the Falkland Islands Colony.

I have made enquiries and it appears that there is no reason at all why you should not apply to the Government of the Falklands for permission to proceed on the type of project which you have in mind.

Perhaps then, when you have decided on the nature and scale of the fisheries scheme which you are proposing to undertake, you could send, preferably to the Falkland Islands Government, detailed particulars of your proposition which would enable them better to decide whether your application for the establishment of such an industry within the territorial waters of the Colony can be favourably considered.

P. A. CARTER.

mc

COMMANDER G. D. VILLIERS, R.N.

B.U. H. 21839 A
20/11
K.S.
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Cutting from letter/memo. from His Excellency the Governor to His Honour the Officer Administering the Government.

Fitchay: Commander Villiers is still muddling; I don't think he knows what he's talking about really. I will try and see him.

↓ I did not have an opportunity to see Villiers and although, in response to a personal enquiry from S/S as to whether I would see the MPs at X on 2 I heard nothing from either of them.

BU with 0839/A
20. 11. 49

MC 28/XI

PA

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JOHN E. ORTNER & SON

GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES

IMPORTS - EXPORTS

GUAYAQUI 3428

CASILLA CORREO 911
TEL. 41.43.23
MONTEVIDEO
URUGUAY

DIRECCIÓN TELEGRÁFICA
"ORTNERANCO"
MONTEVIDEO

August 9th., 1950.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley. - Falkland Islands.

Dear Sir,

7 We are indebted to Mr. J. F. Bonner, of yours, presently in Montevideo, for the enclosed introductory letter, of yesterday's date, as we briefly explained to him some of the reasons why we would appreciate precise data with regard to any possibilities of Hake Fishing, rather Trawling continuously all the year round from your neighbourhood, or surrounding areas, under the British flag, for the purposes of supplying the British Home market with Hake filetted fish from the Sout-Atlantic areas.

This certainly sounds as being a broad proposition, as we might mention that studies are under consideration under either or both the Uruguayan and Argentine flags. There may, however, be some remote way of operating from your end, and it is towards this end that we are now investigating.

So that if you could kindly furnish us with practical useful information, regarding the distances from Port Stanley - for instance - to the Hake Fishing Grounds and back, the prospects of getting proper Fishermen, Ice, Spares, Dry-Dockings, Engineers for attending to Crossley and other British make Diesel Engines, Provisions, Harbour conditions, etcetera, etcetera, you will be helping us along to solve an import problem.

If you possess any Admiralty Charts marking out the whereabouts of the South-Atlantic Hake Fishing grounds, we could check them up with the data we have already in hand.

We trust we are not putting you to too much inconvenience, and as writer is a Britisher, born in London in 1896, and has resided in Argentina over forty years, is married, and his only Son, now over 28 years of age, married, is the only Partner in both our Uruguayan and Argentine firms. Writer has been engaged in Shipping for something in the nature of about 35 years, having risen from Office-boy to Don Nicolas Mihanovich in the 1912's to an Executive, for at least the past 20 odd years.

Thanking you in anticipation for your reply,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN E. ORTNER & SON,

Enc. 1
JEO

117 AUG 1950

See 7.

Reply at 9.

7.

ESTATE GEORGE BONNER.

(Successors to JOHN BONNER. GEORGE BONNER & CO. LTD.)
FOUNDED 1861.

SAN CARLOS,
FALKLAND ISLANDS. (VIA MONTEVIDEO.)

at Montevideo.

8th. August 19 50.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley. Falkland Islands.

Sir,

This letter serves to introduce Mr. Ortner, the senior partner of Messrs. John E. Ortner & Son, who is interested in the prospects of sea fishing and trawling in the neighbourhood of the Colony as a commercial proposition.

He would be very interested in any research data on the subject which could be provided by the Government, and will be writing to you in this respect giving particulars of his proposals.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Managing Executor/
Trustee.

J.E.

6-7 for information. Despite an introduction from Mr. Bonner, I cannot feel that he sounds a desirable type. I don't feel that we want anyone with strong Argentine connections on our front door step. Reply giving little information and plenty of cold water?

Refer him to the Discerning investigation.

[Handwritten mark]

21 AUG 1950

Brother Guin?

Unimpressive. Any further word from

MC

20/VIII

ACS

Pl. Draft reply to f.b. as above and f.v. (separately) the file about Christian Fisheries. ✓

[Handwritten mark]

21 AUG 1950

25th August,

50.

Gentlemen,

6 With reference to your letter of the 9th of August, 1950, I am directed to inform you that there is no information available locally regarding the possibility of hake fishing in the waters of this Colony, but I am to refer you to Discovery Report, Volume XVI entitled "Coastal Fish Part II - Patagonian Region by J.R. Norman" published by the Cambridge University Press from which you will no doubt be able to obtain the information you desire.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) Michael W. Raymer

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

John E. Ortner & Son,
Guayaqui, 3428,
Montevideo

Handwritten signature and date:
MWR
30/8/50

become the chink in the armour leading to the undoing of the whole.

In Dulyshic I had the opportunity of seeing the fish hatchery & out-lying fish of Mr. Sney's Hatchery there. I also mentioned salmon to his Foreman (who has been in the Falklands) & who thought that eggs of same could be obtained similar to wild trout eggs from the River Dee area.

Later I saw Mr. Hicklin the Colonial Office's Devisory on fishery matters, who thought our Falkland rivers not large enough to accommodate salmon & that it would probably be better for us to confine ourselves to brown trout.

He wished to know what was happening about the fishery scheme in the Falklands so precipitously dropped - now that times were so good in the Islands monetary prosperity.

I informed him of what was being endeavoured in the formation of a Fishing & Shooting Club.

Extracted
6/10/52

in Stanley with which he heartily concurred as a very good line to approach & bring into popularity fish as of great benefit to augment the islands diet & its variety; & to alter the attitude of the populous so Antipathetic previously to moving towards the exploitation of this potentially great source of wealth to the Island.

With reference to "Centolla Crabs" he did not think the turning loose of specimens in our waters necessary.

But rather as a next step towards their exploitation here some thing like the persuading of one of the Centolla Fishermen from the Punta Arenas area, complete with boat nets etc to come & fish for a trial period in our waters. And any further venture to be based upon his results & if possible embodying he himself.

In respect of seals he was in complete agreement with the non-protection & even shoot at right policy with regards to sea-leopards.

Of the exploitation of the Fur Seal & Lions

for that matter; he thought the same should be based on estimates of their numbers on the rookeries.

And from such arrived at figure, a calculation some thing like this should be made.

Have the number to obtain about the number of males assume their life to be normally 6 years. Therefore divide again by 6 to give an average age group & allow the taking of that number per annum or a few more as equivalent to the number of males the colony may be expected to generate annually.

And emphasize if possible the taking of the older wigs & lions for preference.

John P. Blair
D.O.

Seen. P.A.
ll

finished. writing.
in La. Alombra. 20/2/07.

What is the
is intended
are getting at?