

C.S.

STOCK

Miscellaneous.

1931

No.

343/31.

S. of S. No. 109.

SUBJECT.

1931.

26th September.

IMPORTATION OF REINDEER AND MUSKOXEN  
INTO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS  
DEPENDENCIES.

Previous Paper.

140/12, 309/19.  
884/16, 780/19.  
444/17, 541/20.  
882/18, D 775/26.

*See 343/31 + 447/32*

MINUTES.

*1-5 S. of S. despatch No. 109 of 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1931.*

*vet. off.*

*Ag. for Nat.*

*For your consideration!*

*please?*

*are "staked polar bear"*

*likely to prove L to Falkland*

*islands proper at it is, that*

*useful object would be served*

Subsequent Paper.

by their introduction?

J. Hunter

30.10.31

Hon. Col. Secy.

I am of the opinion that Reindeer  
would thrive well in this colony.

Red deer would thrive very well in this  
colony and might prove a valuable  
addition to the food supply. They would  
do no harm to existing fences in the  
islands; but <sup>as</sup> I have no experience of reindeer  
I can not give an opinion as regards  
their behaviour with fencing.

J. Hunter.  
V.O.

Hon. Col. Secy:

I have long considered Reindeer as  
a desirable introduction to the Falklands.  
They thrive & breed on a hay diet in the London  
Zoo. I see no useful purpose in introducing  
the polar musk-ox.

Apart from S Georgia there is no  
vegetation to support animal life in the  
dependencies. In 8 years of Antarctic wanderings  
I have certainly not seen enough vegetation  
to support life of one animal for a month.  
Some food animal should be placed  
on the multitude of unused islands round  
this coast.

Alf Bennett  
2.11.31 of Note

Inside Minute Paper.

4.2. I think Reindeer Moose with  
is South Georgia. There are actually  
two herds in that depending both,  
I believe, in flourishing condition.

None of the other dependencies  
would appear to be suited to  
their introduction.

2. I think certainly that  
the introduction of reindeer into  
the Falkland Islands is worthy of  
exploration.

3. Mr. Rasmussen, however,  
seems to be ~~convinced~~ convinced

primarily, if not solely, with selling

animals to this point.

4. If animals are wanted for  
the National Hunt I should have

thought that they could be produced

at once more easily, more cheaply

and generally more satisfactorily for

South people.

5. In any case at the present

time I doubt whether this project

would be justified in incurring any

considerable expense in this connection.

6. If y.e. approves, I will

draft - dispatch to be done

effect.

JMS

7. 11. 31

Hon C. S.

The subject is interesting, and I hope will not be lost sight of

At the moment the question of expense is such that we ought not to undertake any obligation in the matter

Please do draft the dispatch as suggested

JMS  
9-11-31

6-7

Respatch to S. of S. no. 222 of 14/11/31

Vetr. Office.

Ag. Govt. Vet.

Please see :

I shall be glad if you  
will give your further  
consideration to this question with  
the object of assisting me to  
formulate definite suggestions at  
a suitable season.

J. V. S.

16. 11. 31.

Hon. Col. Seng.

Seen Thank You

Jh.  
V.O. 19. 11. 31.

Hon. P.S.

Thank you, seen  
Aft. 20/11/31

8. Minute to Magistrate, South Georgia 21. 11. 31.

Spoke W. J. Handra  
20/11. 11. 31.

b. f.  
21. 12. 31.  
~~jud 21. 11. 31~~

b. f. 21. 2. 32.  
~~jud 21. 12. 31~~

9-13 D. of D. despatch No. 134 of 8th Dec. 1931.

14-16. D. of D. despatch No. 5 of 5th January, 1932.

b. f. 21. 3. 32      b. f. 30. 3. 32

~~jud 16. 2. 32~~, ~~jud 21. 3. 32~~

17. Minute from Magistrate 24/1/32

G. P. Schell.

Hou @. P.

~~jud~~

24. 3. 32.

Noted

~~jud~~  
24. 3. 32

b. f. 26. 10. 32

~~jud~~ 26. 3. 32

b.f. 5. 12. 32.  
jul 26 10. 32 (17. Barlas)

b.f. 20. 12. 32  
jul 10. 12. 32

~~b.f. 24/12/32~~  
~~jul 19/12/32~~

b.f. 31/12/32.  
a.l.d. 23/12/32.

Spate 17. Barlas

b.f. 10. 2. 33  
jul 2. 1. 33

b.f. 7. 4. 33  
jul 24. 3. 33

b.f. 20. 3. 33  
jul 10. 2. 33

b.f. 21. 4. 33  
18 7. 4. 33



67.

~~21. 10. 33.~~

~~26. 4. 33.~~

b. 10/12/33.

C. 24/10/33.

18. Telegram to the Magistrate S. G. No. 55. d 12/12/33.

b. 15/4/34.

C. 12/12/33.

19. Minute from Magistrate S. G. 14/12/34.

Submitted for information

MCH  
A.C.S.  
10. 4. 34.

✓ J. 10. 4. 34.

P. A.  
MCH  
11. 4. 34.

S.G. No. P. 273/30

MEMO.

C.S. No. 343/31..

14th December 1933..

From:-

THE MAGISTRATE,  
South Georgia.



Honourable,  
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
Stanley.

*Recd 18.*

With reference to your telegram No. 55 of the 12th of December, 1933, and previous correspondence on the subject of the introduction of reindeer into the Falkland Islands from South Georgia, I have to inform you that the arrangements necessary to attempt the capture of the animals would entail such considerable cost that the scheme would prove almost prohibitive. I would add that at the present time great difficulty would also be experienced in obtaining the services of sufficient men to ensure the possibility of capturing any of the animals, irrespective of obtaining the requisite species in regard to sex. It would perhaps be more advantageous to import kids from Norway.

*L. Barlas*  
MAGISTRATE.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.



C.S. No. 343/31

Departmental Number.

From Magistrate, South Georgia.

P.272/30

Date 26th February, 1932.

To Hon.Col.Sec., Stanley.

Reference  
Numbers.

*Read*

With reference to your Memo. No.343/31 of the 21st of November, 1931, on the subject of the introduction of Reindeer to the Falkland Islands, I very much regret having to inform you that owing to the early closing of the Station of the Compania Argentina de Pesca that it has been impossible to take any action in the matter.

2. I shall be glad to take steps with a view to complying with your instructions immediately on the commencement of the next whaling season.

*L. Barlas*  
MAGISTRATE.

Reference to previous correspondence:-

A  
1

Secretary of State's Despatch No. 222... of the  
Governor's

...4th November...1931..

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 5.....



DOWNING STREET,

...5th January, 1932..

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, ~~the papers~~ for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the importation of reindeer and muskoxen into the Falkland Islands, and Dependencies.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(Sgd.) P. Curcliffe. *Lister.*

Date.	Description.
<u>1931.</u>	
7th December.	From Odd S. Rasmussen.
24th "	Do do.

243/31

Copy.

ODD S. RASMUSSEN.

AALESUND, den December 7th, 1931

The Hon. Under Secretary of State

Colonial Office,

Downing Street,

London, S.W.1.

Sir,

Ref. 86768/31 Falkland Islands.

I beg to refer to correspondence re muskoxe calves for Falkland Islands and Dependencies and I shall be pleased to know if there is anything news in the matter now.

By eventual shipment do the liners of the Norwegian South - America Company call at Aalesund at 20th inst. viz M/S. "Salta" abt. 6500 tons dw. which I dare inform you about it.

Next sailing of named Companys Liners is in January coming.

I remain, etc.,

for ODD S. RASMUSSEN

(Signed) K. PAULSEN.

24 December 1

86768/31.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to refer to your letter of the 7th of December, and your telegram of the 21st of December, and to confirm the telegram sent to you on the 24th of December, to the effect that the Government of the Falkland Islands does not desire to purchase any of the animals offered.

I am to thank you for your offer.

I am,

Sir,

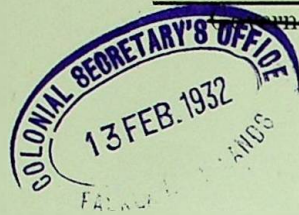
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) Anthony Levin

OLD S. RASMUSSEN, ESQ.

$\frac{A}{1}$

Reference to previous correspondence:-  
Secretary of State's Despatch No. 109 of the



26th September 19.....

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 134.....

DOWNING STREET,

1st December 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, ~~the papers~~ for your information, a copy of the papers noted below on the subject of the importation of reindeer and muskoxen into the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(Sgd.) P. Curlyfe - Lister.

Date.	Description.
<u>1931.</u>	
3rd November.	From O.S. Rasmussen (with enclosures)
18th "	From - do -



343/31.

COPY.

ODD S. RASMUSSEN.

AALESUND, den November 3rd 1931.

To

The Hon. Under Secretary of State  
Colonial Office,  
London, S.W.1.

Sir,

Refer. your 86768/31.

Muskoxencalves Falkland Islands and S. Georgia.

I beg to inform you that I wrote a letter dated 29th September last to The Crown Agents for the Colonies,

4 Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

which letter referred to my obedient letter of August 29th last for you, as I did not hear from you in the matter.

This day I received their favour dated 30th ult. stating that they requested for requisition and number and as I presume that my obedient letter has been forwarded to the above Hon. address, I have the honour to post you a copy enclosed of my obedient reply of this date which I beg to refer to it;

I have the honour to be,

etc.,

(SGD.) ODD S. RASMUSSEN.

Aalesund 3rd November 1931.  
(Norway)

To  
The Hon. The Crown Agents for the Colonies,  
4, Millbank,  
Westminster, London, S.W.1.

Gentlemen,

Muskoxen - calves to Falkland Islands.  
and South Georgia, please refer my obedient  
letter dated August 29th last.

I thank you very much for your favour of 30th ult, and beg to inform you that I have for sale now 9 Muskoxen - calves of which a calf is two years old and the remaining are born last spring (1931)

3 of these calves are males and 6 are females and the price is £75. 0. 0. per calf fob Bergen (West Norway) shipment by liners to Newcastle or Hull.

If you may desire further number of Muskoxen calves may be then, that I can offer you until 12 or 14 calves besides above offered calves.

Every muskoxen calf will be inspected by an official veterinary surgeon here before shipment and the food for them (hay) will be sent with calves to Newcastle or Hull.

As the calves have stayed in Norway since August month last (1931) they are already to consider to be acclimatised and they are thriving well.

I beg to inform you, that in Norway are not foot and mouth disease or any other infectious sickness among cattle or horses.

I shall be glad to hear from you, and I have the honour to remain.

Yours very sincerely,  
(SGD.) ODD.S.RASMUSSEN.

ODD S. RASMUSSEN.

AALESUND, den November 18, 1931.

The Hon. The Crown Agents for the Colonies,  
4, Millbank,  
Westminster,  
London, S.W.1.

Gentlemen,

Muskoxencalves to Falkland Islands  
and South Georgia.

I beg to refer to my letter of 3rd, re offer of muskoxencalves for eventual acclimatation on above Islands and I shall be glad to hear from you in the matter, if possible please wire by receipt of this letter.

The Norwegian Government maked a trial to transfer a herd of 17 Muskoxencalves two years ago to Svalbard or Spitzbergen and as has been reported thrive the animals very well there.

Last year purchased U.S.A. Government  
Norway from  
34 Muskoxencalves from/which country the animals were shipped by a liner to U.S.A. for acclimatation in North of Alaska, and as have been reported has it been successful for them also.

All the muskoxen which I have offered you are all so big that they can feed themselves in wild state where they are to be acclimated.

The climate in Arctic as Antarctic Islands are very like so I presume it should be worth to do a trial by acclimatation of such animals on above Islands now.

Muskoxen are fullgrown in the age of two years and they are very hardy animals, which food  
consist

consist of moss and short grass which grows on the Arctic and Antarctic Islands also as I presume that the vegetation is very like there.

Muskoxen is in fact a big game and very strongly as hardy and easily contented animals, which also defend themselves and their calves very easy.

On Arctic Islands or coast defend Muskoxens themselves superciliously when they has been attacked by Polarbear or Polarwolves, in Antarctic are not such animal of prey there.

Muskoxen have a very fine meat and soft long wool they are worth to be acclimated on Antarctic Islands.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) O.S. RASMUSSEN.

8

No. 343/31.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

21st November, 19 31.

*From*

*To* Magistrate,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

South Georgia.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to enquire into the possibility of this Government obtaining a number of reindeer from the herds in South Georgia for introduction into the Falkland Islands.

2. I am to explain that in the first place it is estimated that a consignment of two or three bucks and six or eight does would be required.

3. I am to request further that, if it appears possible to arrange for such a consignment to be sent, you will give me at the same time some indication of the expenses likely to be involved.

13  
Colonial Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY.

14th November, 1931.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 222.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Thomas's despatch No. 109 of the 26th of September, 1931, transmitting for my observations a copy of a letter from Mr. O. S. Rasmussen, regarding the importation of reindeer and muskoxen into the Falkland Islands and Dependencies, I have the honour to state in the first place that, as you will be already aware, reindeer actually have been introduced and have become established in two flourishing herds in South Georgia. The remaining Dependencies would not seem to be suited for their introduction but there is no reason, I am advised, why they should not thrive in the Falkland Islands and prove a valuable addition to the resources of the Colony, more especially by way of affording a variation in the food supply. I do not see that any useful purpose is to be served by the introduction of muskoxen either into the Colony or into the Dependencies.

2. So far as concerns the Dependencies, therefore, I am of the opinion that no action in this connection is desirable or practicable. I propose, however, to explore with full attention the possibility of introducing reindeer into the Colony proper.

3. In any event I do not consider that it will be

to/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER,  
G.B.E., P.C., M.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

to the advantage of this Government to avail itself of the immediate offer made by Mr. Rasmussen to sell these animals. If it is finally determined, as I trust it may be, to proceed with the experiment in the Falkland Islands I do not doubt that it will be at once easier, cheaper and generally more satisfactory to procure the reindeer required from South Georgia. Furthermore at the present juncture in my view the question of expense is such as to prohibit this Government assuming any appreciable obligation in the matter.

5. As I have said, I shall continue to give my careful study to the issue as a whole and I shall not neglect to address you further when it appears possible to formulate a definite proposition. In the meantime I have to suggest that Mr. Rasmussen might be thanked for his offer but informed that this Government does not desire at any rate at present to purchase any of the polar animals indicated.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

JAMES O'GRADY.

159/19



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

NO. 109

DOWNING STREET,

26 September, 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your observations, a copy of a letter from Mr. O.S. Rasmussen, regarding the importation of reindeer and muskoxen into the Falkland Islands and its dependencies. In this connection I would refer to the correspondence ending with Mr. Douglas Young's despatch No. 120 of the 18th of September, 1919.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) J. H. THOMAS

29.8.31.

M.P.  
G.O. 159/19

GOVERNOR

SIR JAMES O'GRADY, K.C.M.G.

etc., etc., etc.,



ODD S. RASMUSSEN

Import - Eksport

AALESUND, den August 29th, '31

The hon. Crown Agents for the Colonies,  
4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Honourable Sir,

I take the liberty to apply to you re a question which might be of interest for you.

It is about transfer of live reindeer and muskoxen-calves male as females to Antarctic Islands, South Georgia, Falklands Isl. or south Shetland, for to get a pen of such useful animals acclimatised there, which has succeeded on other places in Polar Sea viz Svalbard (Spitzbergen) where The Norwegian Government last year transferred such beasts with good result and they thrive very well there.

I beg to call your attention on enclosed newspaper-cutting and the translation of same showing that U.S.A. Government has earlier marked likely trials by transferring of such Polar bears and with a very satisfied result of same.

I therefore beg to ask if your Government might interest of to do a trial on some of The Kingdoms Antarctic Islands where the fauna there would have opportunity to be increased by valueable animals which both the muskoxen as reindeer are in fact.

As you know are these kinds of polar beasts very easily sustained with their food as the reindeer eat a kind of moss and short grass, but the muskoxen only such grass, which both kinds of vegetables grow on polar islands generally.

The

The meat of reindeer as of muskoxen has a very good taste, and the muskoxen give a kind of soft fine warm wool which the famous french explorer Mr. Charcot once has told.

It is worth a trial such an experiment by transferring of stated polar beast and the price of same is thus reasonable.

I beg to propose that the best way would be to purchase a herd of each kind and they can be shipped by the Norwegian South American Liners to Argentina and transhipped to your Islands, or to ship by Norwegian whaling factories which are bound there.

In every case do the beast be carefully treated, feeded and tended by the crew, and food hay can be sent with them.

My application to you is because I have sealers which have reported to be returning with a catch of muskoxen calves.

There is no foot or mouth disease or any other infection sickness among cattle in Norway and every animal which are to be shipped will be inspected by an official veterinarian which certificate will be enclosed B/L by shipment.

I shall be much obliged for your favour by return and remain, Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

f. Odd S. Rasmussen.

(Sgd.) K. Paulsen.

Enclosures.

Translation of a Newspaper-cutting.

34 Muskoxen to U. S. A. by s.s. "Stavangerfjord"  
(Norwegian-American Liner) tomorrow.

They are bought of the U.S.A. Government and probably be transferred to Alaska for to get a pen of muskoxen there.

Picture of Muskoxen

a number of muskoxen

Last year were a number of muskoxen calves transferred up to Adwent Bay (Svalbard) and the beasts feel themselves very well on the Polar Island (Spitzbergen) last winter. This summer has two herds been seen on other parts of Svalbard and the beast feeled themselves very well.

It is an experiment to see how such polar cattle would live there in wild state which has given the U.S.A. Government the idea to purchase a whole herd of muskoxen calves to be transferred up in Alaska where also reindeer has been imported from Norway earlier and this herd has prolificied considerable.

The herd of muskoxen calves which the U.S.A. Government has purchased is the total number 34 beasts and arrived last night from Sunnøre (a part of West Norway where Aalesund is situated). The herd of the beasts are partly born last year as this year and all are caught on East Greenland, near the fiord of Clavering there, the same district where such beasts had been caught last year and carried to Svalbard. The beasts have lived in captivity on Sunnøre and were in good condition.

Each calf is shipped in a wooden box of suitable size and their food is small hay which they like very good.

The crew on board s.s. "Bergensfjord" shall feed and tend them during their voyage where the muskoxen calves will be taken care of by the U.S.A.

(1)

How much these muskoxen calves has been paid each we do not know it.

Muskoxen have also earlier been transferred to Sunnare where they are still living in wild state on the mountain and a forest of an Island there and they have been reported to be seen in good condition.

These experiments shows that polar beasts as muskoxen which is in fact a good and valuable game which meat has a good taste.

The muskoxen has also a fine and warm soft wool like silk which can be spound to yearn of especial strengthened as a french explorer Mr. Charcot has told about it.