

# FALKLAND ISLANDS.

## Governor's Office.

DEP/WHA/1 # 3

No. 91 / 15

Date of Receipt.



From

SUBJECT.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Whale Oil

Correspondence re refusal to permit steamers "Yeko" and "Ydoratio" to proceed to Norway with

No.

Date

41

10<sup>th</sup> April 1915

Colonial Secretary's Record No.

~~238/15~~  
196/15

Registered Number of last Despatch.

MINUTES.

Mr Col Lee

for your information.

10.6.15

*[Signature]*  
G.O.

H.S. / Noted

*[Signature]*  
C.S.

Seen *[Signature]* 15  
17.6.15

No. next Despatch.

196/15

450

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

NO. 41.

DOWNING STREET,

10<sup>th</sup> April, 1915.



Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of correspondence relative to the refusal of the Governor of the Falkland Islands to permit the steamers "Neko" and "Horatio" with cargoes of whale oil to proceed to Norway.

Messrs. Salvesen.  
15th Mar.  
F.O. 30th Mar.  
To Messrs. Salvesen.  
9<sup>th</sup> Apl. 1915.

2. You will observe that I have caused Messrs. Salvesen to be informed that I do not feel justified in authorising a relaxation of the prohibition; but I desire to say that the reply to their telegram to the Governor of the 12th March does not seem to have been happily worded.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*L. Harcourt.*

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING  
THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

ENCLOSURE TO DESPATCH

No. 41. OF 10/4/15.

Copy.

29, BERNARD STREET,

LEITH, 15th March 1915.

Sir,

We received last week from the Colonial Secretary, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, a copy of Ordinance No. 1 1915, Falkland Islands, "Whale Oil (War) Ordinance 1915", and were much surprised to note contents, as we were under the impression that such stringent regulations on the part of the Falkland Islands Government were unnecessary in view of the steps which have been taken by our Home Government to prevent the importation of whale oil into an enemy country.

By contract dated at Sandefjord, 26th January 1915, and Leith, 4th February 1915, we sold to the Vera Fedtraffineri Aktieselskab the production of whale oil resulting from our South Shetland Expedition, and to be conveyed home by our steamers the NIKO AND HORATIO. The buyers are domiciled in Sandefjord, Norway, where they have a hardening factory for the conversion of whale oil into fat, and our cargoes are sold for discharge at the factory in the port of Sandefjord, Norway.

We made it an absolute condition, that neither our whale oil nor the manufactured products thereof should on any account and under no circumstances be allowed to be consumed by or pass through an enemy country, and Clause 11 of the contract runs as follows:

"Buyers undertake to furnish such

documentary

documentary guarantees as will satisfy H.B.M. Government whereby the s/s NEKO and the s/s HORATIO will be allowed unhindered to proceed to Sandefjord to discharge",

and may mention for your guidance, that the same buyers lately received two cargoes of whale oil from the South, having received permission to discharge them at Sandefjord from our Government through H.B.M. Minister in Christiania.

We are extremely anxious that no delay should take place in the Falkland Islands to our steamers, and in view of the Saving Section 3 of the Ordinance we telegraphed to the Governor, Port Stanley, on the 12th instant as follows:

"Steamers NEKO HORATIUS cargoes sold  
"Sandefjord, buyers guaranteed satisfy  
"British Government regarding disposal,  
"please proclaim exception these two  
"cargoes, telegraph",

and received this morning the following reply:

"Not good enough, Secretary Falklands".

This reply is certainly unsatisfactory both as regards its wording and its ambiguity.

Our interpretation thereof seems to lead us to believe, that the Governor of the Falkland Islands and his Council regard guarantees which satisfy our Imperial Government as insufficient. We cannot for one moment believe that this can really be meant, but we are at a loss to know how to act in the matter.

We would feel much obliged to you if you would be good enough to state your views, and in

case

case you agree with us that any acts performed by our Imperial Government override the Ordinances of a Colonial Governor, we shall thank you if you will send a wireless message to the Governor of the Falkland Islands with the necessary instructions, asking him to proclaim exception for the s/s NEKO and s/s HORATIO in the manner stated in Section 3 of the Ordinance.

Our steamers are under orders from us to call at our whaling station at New Island, Falkland Islands, on their return from South Shetland. We expect them to arrive there at the end of this month. You are aware that there is only a monthly mail service between Port Stanley and the West Falklands, and owing to the irregularities at present obtaining we do not know when the steamer leaves Port Stanley for the West.

It is therefore desirable that leave for the NEKO and HORATIO to be cleared out for Sandefjord should be granted as soon as possible, and we hope that you will be good enough to expedite matters in order to prevent unnecessary delay and consequent loss.

We have, &c.,

(SL) CHR. SALVESEN & CO.

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
COLONIAL OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W.

14933/1915.

DOWNING STREET,

9 April, 1915.

Gentlemen,

With reference to the letter from this Department of the 18th March I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to inform you that, after consulting the Foreign Office, he does not feel justified in authorising the Government of the Falkland Islands to permit the steamers "Neko" and "Horatio" to proceed with cargoes of whale oil from the Falkland Islands to Norway.

2. The proposed agreement with the Norwegian Whaling interests has not yet been concluded and it is therefore impossible to relax existing restrictions in favour of shipments for any individual firm in Norway.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

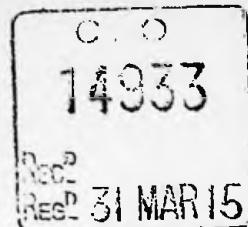
(Signed) H. J. READ.

for the Under Secretary of State

MESSRS. CHR. SALVESEN AND COMPANY.

Copy

32057/15.



POSTAL OFFICE.

March 30 1915.

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to refer to your letter (12575) of the 18th instant transmitting a copy of a letter dated the 15th instant addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by Messrs. Chr. Salversen and Company of Lerch respecting the refusal of the Governor of the Falkland Islands to permit the steamers "Taka" and "Oratio" with cargoes of whale oil, to proceed to Norway.

I am to state, in reply, that the decision of the authorities of the Island seems to Sir E. Grey to be expedient in view of the fact that the agreement with the Norwegian whaling interests has not yet been concluded, and it would therefore be contrary to the decision taken some time ago, to relax the prohibition from any place directly controlled by the Imperial Government, in favour of shipments destined for any

individual

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

(32087/15).

individual firm in Norway, even the "Vera Fedtraf-  
fineri" Company.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,