

C.S.

WHALING.  (M. Steel).	1920.
No. <i>788/20</i>	

S. of S. 91.

SUBJECT.

192 0  
9th August.  
Previous Paper.  
*1005/19.*

Refusal of application for whaling licences made by Mr. Mitchell Steel.

*PA 9/3/20*  
*2/2/21*  
*PA 20/11/20*

MINUTES.  
S. of S. Despatch No. 91 of 9th Aug. 1920....Encl...1  
Draft Letter informing Mr. Steel of 15th October, 1920. for  
*your Excellency's amendment or approval.*  
*W. B. for C.S.*  
*16.10.20*

*2*  
*Draft approved.*  
*W. B.*  
*16.10.20*

Extract from Minutes of the Executive Council, Meeting of the 22nd April, 1921.

"The Council further advised that, if circumstances permitted, the application of Mr. Mitchell Steel, dealt with in G. O. 15/20, should receive consideration"

*W. B. Thompson*  
Clerk, Executive Council,  
25th April, 1921.

H.E.the Governor,

Submitted with C.S.267/21, as Your Excellency

Subsequent Paper.

may wish to mention this in the same telegram.

*W. B. Thompson*  
A. C. S. 257/4/21

*Hes.*  
*Reference has been made to this application in telegram to S. of S. which is in M.P. 267/21. Dn. 11 May 1921.*

Telegram to Secretary of State 26th April Euel (B)  
Telegram from do do. 2nd May Euel (B)

I saw Mr. Shel on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1923. He inquired  
whether anything could be done to help him to get  
the licence for South Shetlands for which he had  
applied. He is anxious to form a local company  
but he did not think they had more than £8000 capital  
to raise really towards £100,000 or £120,000  
which would be required. He was enquiring then if  
he got a licence he could raise the necessary capital  
in England.

2. I told him that I had already called Sigs  
to review the decision with regard to his application.  
Mr. Shel had been many other applications. Mr. Shel  
Sigs was unable to appear of granting further  
proceedings for whether pending investigation of  
his company.

JA

20 March 1923



FALKLAND ISLANDS  
No. ~~88~~  
91.

DOERING STREET,

19 Aug. 1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Colonel St. Johnston's despatch No. 12 of the 9th February forwarding an application from Mr. Mitchell Steel for a licence to take whales at the South Shetlands and the South Orkneys.

2. In his despatch Colonel St. Johnston states that very little fishing is being done at these Dependencies at present, but, as regards the South Shetlands, I would point out that, including the additional facilities promised to Messrs. Salvesen and to the Southern Sealing and Whaling Company during the war, the Government is committed to the use of 35 catchers at that Dependency. In these circumstances I am inclined to think that the limit of safety has already been reached; and I am certainly of opinion that no additional facilities should be granted, at any rate pending further investigation of the industry. In this connection I may observe that, in paragraph 62 of their Report, the Dependencies Committee expressed the view that it is desirable to permit the use of

floating

THE OFFICE ADMINISTERING  
THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.



floating factories no more than is absolutely necessary.

3. It is true that no operations are now being carried on at the South Orkneys but I am not satisfied that that field can be satisfactorily worked except by a very experienced firm already established in another Dependency.

4. Therefore while I am anxious to extend British interests in the whaling industry and should be glad to foster local enterprise I regret that I do not consider that I should be justified in granting Mr. Mitchell Steel's application and I request that he may be so informed.

5. You will learn from my despatch No. *84* of the *19 July* that I have also refused the application of Messrs. Chr. Nielsen and Company for whaling facilities at the South Orkneys.

6. The proposal, referred to in my despatch No. *87* of the *12 July*, to allow the Tinsberg Company a lease for a land station at South Orkneys for a term of five years stands on quite a different footing.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) MILNER

782/20.

15th October,

20.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 23rd January, 1920, I am directed by the Administrator to inform you that, on the matter of your application for a Whaling Licence being referred to the Colonial Office, the Secretary of State has decided with regret that he is unable to accede to your request.

2. In the case of the South Shetlands, the Secretary of State considers that, pending further investigation of the industry, it is undesirable to permit the use of floating factories more than is absolutely necessary, and while His Lordship is anxious to extend British interests in the whaling industry and should be glad to foster local enterprise, it is with regret that he does not consider that in the present circumstances he would be justified in granting you the licence for which you have applied. With regard to your application for a licence at the South Orkneys, His Lordship is not satisfied that these whaling grounds can be satisfactorily worked except by a very experienced firm already established in another Dependency.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Mitchell Steel, Esq.,  
Stanley.

G.R.K.13  
Sec. Colonial Office

*Copy of Telegram in C.S. 267/20 (3)*

*C.S. 988/20*

**TELEGRAM.**

*From :* The Governor.

*To :* The Secretary of State for the Colonies.



*Dispatched :* 29th April..... 19 21 *Time.* 11. a.m.

*Received :* ----- 19 *Time.* -----

With reference to your telegram of the 21st March, pending decision of companies referred to in your despatch of 15th April, 40, referred to in your despatch of 18th May, 54, last year, do not recommend licence Thor, South Shetlands. If circumstances permit request that you will consider application referred to in your despatch of 9th August, 91.

Middleton.



Copy of Telegram in C.S. 267/20

(14)

C.S. 768/20

TELEGRAM.

From : The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To : The Governor.



Dispatched : 2nd May ..... 19 21 Time. 11.45 a.m.

Received : 3rd May ..... 19 21 Time. 8.30 a.m.

( May 2nd. With reference to your telegram of the 27th April, full number of licences Shetlands <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ not be worked next Season. In these circumstances, what do you recommend?) Regret that I am unable at the present time to reconsider application referred to in my despatch No. 91. Explanatory despatch follows.

Churchill.