

**CONFIDENTIAL.**  
No. *C/7/25*

C.S.

1924.

*Governor.*

SUBJECT.

1925

*23rd April*

Previous Paper.

*Excessive use of alcohol on board  
whale catchers.*

MINUTES.

- Minutes from Governor 23rd April 1925* (1)
- Letter to Mr E. J. Zinnis 24 April 1925* (2)
- Letter to Mr S. H. Riches 26 June 1925* (3)
- Report by Mr. S. H. Riches 29 June 1925* (4)

*E.C.*  
*Submitted*  
*9th July*  
*O.C./Sec*  
*30 June 1925*

*O.C./C.S.O.*

*I should be glad if Treasurer would make  
discreet enquiry as to whether there are any  
grounds for supposing that Haines took  
bribe to S. Skeltons which found its way  
to crews of whaling vessels. Mr. Haines was*

Subsequent Paper.

Hon Treasurer,

Referred.  
by  
Dir/Sec  
11 August 1925

OIC/CSO,

From such enquiries as I have been able to make, I do not think there is any grounds for supposing that the Master or any of the crew, including the steward of the "Flemus", were responsible for the reported excessive use of alcohol on board catchers at the South Shetlands during the 1924-1925 whaling season. I put up herewith a statement shewing the quantities of Spirits, Wine and Malt Liquor which ~~was~~ declared to by the Masters of the different Floating Factories operating at the South Shetlands during that season, on their arrival within the waters of this Colony, with the amounts consumed during their stay in the Colony, on which Import Duty has been collected. I may mention that this is the first occasion on which I have heard of any such occurrence having taken place at the South Shetlands.

(3)

B. Thompson

Colonial Treasurer  
10th August 1925.

G.E.  
Submitted  
by  
Dir/Sec  
10 August 1925

H.C.S.

Control is a matter of great practical difficulty in practice. No doubt the Licensing Ordinance (amendment) 1924 has had a good effect in South Georgia: on information contained in (4) & (6) it does not appear that further action can be taken or proposed & the papers may be filed  
J.R. 7 May 1926.

Confidential.

21/25

①

From His Excellency the Governor

to The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

In the report of the Hon. The Colonial Secretary on his recent visit to South Shetland attention was drawn to the excessive use of alcohol on some carboys.

2. Will you please ask Mr Binnie to investigate this matter on his return to South Georgia and to report to what extent the abuse of alcohol on some carboys exists in the Dependency + what measures are practicable for its control.

*[Signature]*

23 April 1925.

C. 7/25.

Confidential.

24th April,

25.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to inform you that in the report of the Honourable the Colonial Secretary on his recent visit to South Shetlands attention was drawn to the excessive use of alcohol on board catchers.

2. I am to request that you will investigate this matter on your return to South Georgia and report to what extent the abuse of alcohol on board catchers exists in that Dependency and what measures are practicable for its control.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown.

for Colonial Secretary.

E. B. Binnie, Esq.,

Stanley.

C/8/25.

26th June,

25

Confidential.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to inform you that in the report of the Honourable the Colonial Secretary on his recent visit to South Shetlands attention was drawn to the excessive use of alcohol on board catchers.

2. I am to request that you will report to what extent the abuse of alcohol on board catchers exists in that Dependency and what measures are practicable for its control.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. L. Brown.

for Colonial Secretary.

Mr. S. H. Riches,  
Stanley.

(4)  
Stanley,

June 29th, 1925.

Confidential.

Sir,

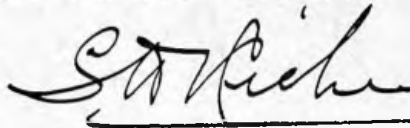
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. C/7/25, dealing with the reported excessive use of alcohol on board catchers in the Dependency of the South Shetlands during the last season. This abuse did not come under my notice, indeed I may add, that during my three seasons in the Dependency, at no time has it done so, during the season 1923/4, I was enabled to make many trips out in whaleboats, and on every occasion I found it was absent, nevertheless the subject was ever present in my mind, particularly just prior to the arrival of a vessel from parts beyond the seas, sometimes a manager would refer to <sup>the</sup> possibility of his men getting liquor from the incoming ship, and ask me to see that it did not occur; but, as it appears to have happened I am unable to connect any vessel with bringing it into the Dependency other than the "Southern Isles" or the "Fleurus"; one thing is certain, this would not be tolerated by any manager for one moment, knowing as they do that success during the season depends on the whaleboats, neither do I think that liquor is brought in to any great extent on any of the whaling vessels, other than the factory, and in this case it is under the personal control of the manager, the whaleboats not being allowed to carry it, certainly it could be concealed, but that means instant dismissal for which the gunner is not prepared to run any risks, the abuse during the last season seems to me to have escaped the notice of either of the manager's, for I feel sure that they would have acquainted me of the fact.

I am of opinion that the attention of the Colonial Secretary was drawn to this subject during his visit to the two factories then South of Deception - the "Southern Queen" and "Roald Amundsen" - and as the former was visited by the

the "Southern Isles" at "Breeze Harbour", and the whaleboats of the "Roald Amundsen" were sent round to her for bunkers, there is the probability that liquor was obtained from her; however, I am unable to dismiss from my mind the fact that this was the first visit of the coasting vessel to the Dependency, as also the first time that the excessive use of alcohol had been noticed by anyone, therefore it revives in my mind the early days of the whaling station at New Island, and the commencement of the Steamer "Columbus" coasting to that place from Stanley, when a similar thing happened, the sudden outbreak of drunkenness amongst the workers, which later was traced to the Steward of that vessel carrying it out from Stanley, this man later went to one of the whaling stations at South Georgia and the same thing happened there, this man is, I believe, away from the place; personally, I very strongly suspect the "Fleurus" taking liquor down from Stanley, which would account for it coming so clearly under the notice of the Colonial Secretary, I am satisfied that it has not been going on for long, nevertheless, as a precautionary measure I would suggest that all vessels bound for the South Shetlands after the opening of the season, from parts beyond the seas, should enter first either at South Georgia or Stanley ( I happen to know that there would be no objection on their part in coming into Stanley ) and that all dutiable stores - after the usual 8 days issue, should be placed under seal; on arrival at the South Shetlands the vessel should proceed to the Port at which the Whaling Officer is stationed, he could then proceed - in the case of a collier - in her to whatever other place she is bound for in the Dependency and thus have further means of touring his district, during which time she should be under seal. In the case of the "Fleurus" I think that she can conveniently be controlled, to some extent, by the police in Stanley, in this I mean that the Liquor Sales Book in the possession of licensed persons should be more systematically scrutinised, and that pressure be brought to bear with a view to this book being kept up to date, and that names of purchasers, with the quantity of liquor purchased, should be carefully examined to see that the entry noted therein is genuine, as I feel that if this traffic is again revived by a local vessel, for instance the "Fleurus", it would be a difficult matter to put down, again, there is the

the possibility of her obtaining supplies on her trips to South Georgia, from Transports usually to be found lying there, I do not know the procedure at that place, as to whether vessels are sealed up during their stay, but I am of opinion that this should be given careful consideration now that this Norwegian vessel is operating coastwise, it would be a simple matter for two Stewards, say the one in the "Fleurus" and one coming out in a collier, or some such ship to South Georgia, to arrange for supplies to be brought by one of the latter vessels.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant



Officer in Charge  
of Secretariat,  
Stanley.

Asst. Customs Officer.



Return of Whaling Vessels with the Quantity of <sup>3)</sup> Liquor declared to by the Master on arrival at Stanley also quantity of Liquor consumed during the Season.

Vessel	Spirits		Wine		Malt.	
	Quantity declared galls.	Consumed during Season galls.	Quantity declared doz. bott.	Consumed during Season doz. bott.	Quantity declared bott.	Consumed during Season bott.
Pythia	62 $\frac{2}{6}$	58	8 $\frac{9}{12}$	2	600	510
Odd I					120	60
Odd II	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{2}{6}$				
St. Queen	128 $\frac{2}{6}$	92 $\frac{4}{6}$	2 $\frac{9}{12}$	1 $\frac{8}{12}$	550	550
Rd. Amundsen	98	78	5	2 $\frac{7}{12}$	400	200
Kanon	$\frac{4}{6}$	$\frac{4}{6}$				
Graham	$\frac{2}{6}$	$\frac{2}{6}$				
Solstuit	35	35	1	— $\frac{2}{12}$	300	300
vik II	1 $\frac{2}{6}$	1 $\frac{2}{6}$				
Mandie	28.36	17 $\frac{2}{15}$	5 $\frac{1}{12}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	200	150
Falk	39 $\frac{5}{8}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	1 $\frac{4}{12}$	120	28
Ronald	58.2	36 $\frac{4}{15}$	6 $\frac{8}{12}$	— $\frac{8}{12}$	750	550
Smith	— $\frac{1}{2}$	— $\frac{1}{2}$				
Sund Tavn	33.8	29	1 $\frac{5}{12}$	— $\frac{9}{12}$	150	80
Alex Lange	2	2				
Graham	1		1			
Orn II	37	23	1	— $\frac{1}{12}$	300	250
Bransfield	2 $\frac{2}{6}$	2 $\frac{2}{6}$				
St. Isles	7 $\frac{1}{2}$		— $\frac{1}{2}$			

M.P.No, C.7/25.

S.S.No, 91/25.



6

Magistrate's Office,  
South Georgia,  
26th May, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter C.7/25. of 24th April, 1925., and in reply to inform you that during the season there seldom exists Alcohol on Whale Catchers as it is forbidden by the Companies.

2. The usual procedure is, on arrival of a Catcher the Customs take charge of any alcohol found on board, this is either taken to the Customs House or handed to the Manager for safe keeping or if it is only a small quantity is left on board at the discretion of the Manager.

3. In 1921 when the law regarding the use of Stills was brought into force there were 11 or 12 found on the Station at Leith Hbr, and 1 on S.S. "Subra" and S.S. "Bedna" of Messrs Salvesen & Co. Managers of other Companies also raided their Stations and found several Stills which were all destroyed, since then nothing of the kind has been carried on.

4. It would in my opinion be a very difficult matter to provide legislation wherewith catchers could be forbidden to carry alcohol.

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary.

J T A W I E Y.

/ The

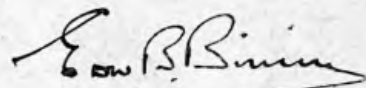
The only way in which it can be kept down, is the method adopted at present; but usually any alcohol taken on board a Catcher in a foreign port is all consumed before arrival at South Georgia.

5. The only occasion on which the Crews of Catchers are given alcohol in any form is at Xmas, New Year and Easter, when each man is given an allowance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. W. Binion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Magistrate.