

CONFIDENTIAL.

C.S.

1931.
~~1929.~~

No.

C/10/31

Hon. Treasurer.

SUBJECT.

1931.

~~1929~~

9th June.

MR. G. BRECHIN, WHALING OFFICER.

Previous Paper.

Failure to pay into Treasury certain monies collected at South Shetlands during the whaling season 1930-1931.

MINUTES.

1. Minute from Hon. Treasurer, 9th June, 1931.
2. Minute from H.E. the Acting Governor, 9th June, 1931.

Hon. Treasurer

Will you kindly investigate as in A.E's minute. Red (2):

*A.S.
side so.
15/6/31.*

Hon. Col. Sec.

I interviewed Mr G. Brechin today relative to enclosures 3-4. Mr Brechin stated he did not collect the sum of £3-1-6 (encl. 3) but admitted he got payment for £1-11-6 (enclosure 4)

In result of my investigation please see enclosure 5 and 6.

Mr Brechin put in an explanation in writing (enclosure 7 and 8). In his

Subsequent Paper.

explanation he admits the truth of the allegations made against him.

2. I understood from Mr. Riches that this person permitted Whaling Ships to contravene the regulations. Perhaps Mr. Riches can be asked to furnish a Confidential Report regarding this. If this is substantiated then the question of proceedings could be considered together with the present case.

Perhaps this matter can be brought up in Executive Council tomorrow morning.

Mr. Ranji Halhate
Treas.

12. 6. 31.

12. 6. 31.

y/E.

Submitted.

Govt. Secy. has seen this correspondence.

a.s.
checked.
12/6/31

Extract from Minutes of Meeting of Executive Council held on the 13th of June, 1931.

A report submitted by the Honourable the Treasurer regarding the failure of Mr. G. Brechin Whaling Officer, South Shetlands, to pay to the Treasury certain monies collected during the whaling season 1930-1931, was considered.

It was stated in the report that it was understood from Mr. S.H. Riches, also Whaling Officer, that Mr. Brechin had permitted whaling ships to contravene the whaling regulations.

After careful consideration the Council agreed that the Honourable the Treasurer should obtain confidentially from Mr. Riches a report on the matter of the alleged contravention of the whaling regulations and that the case should be fully investigated with the ultimate possibility in mind of instituting criminal proceedings against Mr. Brechin.

C. J. Stewart

Clerk of the Executive Council.

*Y/E.
? to Hon. Treasurer for report
from Mr. Riches.*

*C. J. S.
17/6/31*

*W. Sest
Please.*

W. S.

17.6.31.

*Hon. Treasurer
will you please obtain*

Confidentially from Mr. Riches,
a report regarding the alleged
controversy of whaling regulations
referred to in paragraph 2 of your
minute of 12/6/31.

A.S.
recd.
18/6/31.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Report from Mr. Riches herewith. 9.

Mr. Brajji Kalketa

Treasurer

18. 6. 31.

y/k.
Rec 9 submitted.

A.S.
18/6/31.

Hon. Treasurer

Hon. P. M. O.

MCH 20.3.31
J.M. 22.3.31.

Circulated for consideration in
Executive Council on Monday
22nd June 1931.

A. J. Hensel
Clerk, Ex Council,
20/6/31

Extract from minutes of meeting of Executive Council held on the 22nd of June, 1931.

With reference to paragraph 9 of the minutes of the meeting of Executive Council held on the 13th of June, 1931, the Council further considered the advisability of taking criminal proceedings against Mr. Brechin.

X

It was unanimously agreed that the more politic course would be to allow him to make good the sum of £1. 11. 6 and that an entry should be made in the official records to the effect that he should not be considered for further employment in the service of the Government.

C. J. Stewart

Clerk of the Executive Council.

Mr. Treas

Please note for

necessary action.

J. M. H.

24. 6. 31.

Hon. Col. Sec.

The sum of £1-11-6 was paid in by Mr. G. Brechin on the 23rd inst:

2. With reference to enclosure (3a), the Brown Agents should be asked to collect from the Norge Whaling Coy the sum of £3-1-6

M. Brian Halliday

Treas

24. 6. 31.

The Treasurer

Please see

J. M. Kelly

30. 6. 31.

Hon. Sol. Sec.

Perm.

Mr. Craig Kalkete

1. 7. 31.

Letter from Crown Agents 4th Sept. 1931.

11-12.

The Treasurer

Please see by comparison

with the original statement, vol 3,

I presume that £ 3 1 6 4

is correct amount at that £ 1 10

is the proper charge for "Entry at Clearing"

J. M. Kelly

23. 10. 31.

C.S.O. No. C/10/31

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 4

Hon. Col. Sec.

The correct amount is £3-1-6.
£1-1-0 for entering and clearing is
correct.

W. Smijer Kalken

24. 10. 31.

13. Letter to the Crown Agents 28th October, 1931.

W. Smijer
28.10.31

No. _____

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

MINUTE.

5th June 19 51

From Colonial Treasurer

Stanley.

To

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Hon. Col. Sec,

I beg to report for the information of H.E. the Ag. Governor that on recent examination of Customs papers dealt with by Mr. G. Brechin, Whaling Officer S. Shetlands, it was found that an import entry covering 22 duty had not been paid to the Treasury.

I sent for Mr. Brechin to explain the matter and he stated he had forgotten to pay the amount in and at the same time ^{produce} a further £11--11--6 on account of Tonnage Dues etc, which he also said he had forgotten. Mr. Brechin was supplied with an official receipt book but out of the total of £13--11--6 received by him only one official receipt for £1--1--0 appears to have been issued - presumably receipts on slips of paper were issued for the other amounts.

2. Mr. Brechin returned here on the 1st April and when he appeared at the Treasury he was asked whether he had cleared

everything and he replied that he had. Had the Entry mentioned above not been found it seems very doubtful whether the amount of \$13-11--6 would have been paid.

3. I have again had to ask Mr. Brechin to come to the Treasury to explain other items and until I have seen him I cannot say whether they are in order or not.

4. I had previously expressed the opinion that this person was totally unsuited for employment in the responsible position of Whaling Officer, and I have to again express that opinion.

Mr. Craig Harker
Treasurer.

Confidential

(2)

Off. Sect.

I regard this matter in a
most serious light.

I shall be pleased if the
Treasury will investigate it with
every thoroughness.

In so doing I wish him to
bear strongly in mind the desirability
and practicability of instituting criminal
proceedings against Mr. Brechin.

J. M. G.
2

9.6.31.

S. Shetlands

37

April 8th 1931

Statement of charges incurred by
SS "Skarass" at S. Shetlands.

Entering + cleaning	£ 1-1-0
Bill of Health	10-6
Duty 19 gall spirits	£ 1-10-0
	<hr/>
	£ 3-1-6
	<hr/>

Knut Augustad

G. Brechui, Whaling Officer: 1930-31 Season
States this sum was not collected by
him and that he forgot to draw attention
to the matter.

Amount will require to be collected from
the Norge Whaling Coy.

M. Brajvi Kallio

Treasurer.

12. VI. 31



44

Captain of S S Norvegia
Debtor to
Col Govt. Falkland Islets

To Entering & Clearing

"S. S. Norvegia"

£ 1 - 1 - 0

Bill of Health

10 - 6

£ 1 - 11 - 6

G. Brechini states that he has this money but forgot to pay it in. No official receipt was issued by him.

Brechini offered to pay amount in but I told him I could not accept it until matter had been referred to Colonial Secretary.

m c h
12. 6. 31.

6

Friday 12th June 1931. 10.30 a.m

Interviewed Mr. Gregor Brechui in the presence of Mr. A. G. R. Jones, Ag. Chief Clerk, Treasury.

1. I questioned Mr. Brechui relative to an a/c for £1-11-6, made out by him as due by the master of the S.S. "Norwegia". Mr. Brechui admitted that he had received the amount and had forgotten to pay it in.

Questioned as to why an official receipt had not been issued for the £1-11-6, Mr. Brechui could give no satisfactory reply. He admitted giving a receipt on a piece of paper. Mr. Brechui offered to pay the £1-11-6, but I informed him I could not receive it pending reference to the Colonial Secretary.

2. Questioned concerning a/c for £3-1-6 signed by master of the S.S. "Skarass", Mr. Brechui stated he had not collected this amount and had forgotten to draw attention to the matter.

3. Questioned relative to import duty £2, and further amounts of £11-11-6, paid in on the 9th June after he had been sent for and questioned, Mr. Brechui stated that he had intended paying the amounts in but had forgotten to do so.

Fairlie to pay in £13-11-6 until questioned

until he was asked to come to the Treasury to explain about the Import duty of £2.

Questioned relative to his failure to issue official receipts for monies collected, Mr. Bocchini stated he thought typed receipts were alright. Asked why he issued an official receipt to the R.R.S. "Discovery II," Mr. Bocchini stated one had been demanded.

Failure to use official receipts.

I pointed out to Mr. Bocchini, with reference to his statement that he intended to pay the monies in, that it was clear he would never have paid the monies in or had any intention of doing so, until he was questioned about the £2 Import duty.

I further pointed out that he must have known that the issue of receipts on slips of paper for public monies was not legal, and that his action in issuing such receipts and failing to pay in the monies showed that he intended to embezzle and convert the monies to his own use. Mr. Bocchini made no reply to these remarks beyond again stating he intended to pay the monies in.

I thereupon informed Mr. Bocchini

that if he wished he could put in
an explanation in writing not
later than 3 p.m. today.

M. Gaurji Kadhete
Treasurer.

I was present during the time
the Hon. Sol. Treasurers interviewed
Mr. Breehni and confirm the
foregoing statement as correct.

~~Mr. Breehni~~
Ag. Chief Clerk.
12/21/31.

Stanley

June 12th 1921

Sir,

I beg to offer herewith, some explanation of my negligence in not giving Official Receipts for monies received from The Manager of SS "Melville" by me.

These monies were not actually payable by "Melville" but were monies due by two vessels that called at Reception Isd, namely "Isola" and "Norvegia".

Neither Captain had any money and Mr Nielsen, the Manager of "Melville" undertook to pay these respective amounts, providing that the Captains signed the statements of costs.

On our arrival at Stanley I received these monies from the Manager, Mr Nielsen and gave him these statements.

In the hurry scurry of the

Melville's sudden departure, I had no opportunity, even if I had thought of it, to give him the proper receipts.

As regards me not having paid the money into Government immediately, I plead that I was worried at the time of my return to Stanley and the fact that I do rarely come out of doors.

I realize the construction that can be put upon my actions and humbly crave that a lenient view be taken of my gross carelessness.

Trusting, Sir, that this explanation, may assist you to deal leniently with me

I am,

Sir,

Yours humbly
G Brecken

Col Treasurer
Stanley.

Hon. Treasurer & Collector,

Replying to your minute of yesterday's date, particulars asked for herewith.

During last Christmas I was stationed on the floating factory "Ronald", and in course of conversation, in my room, with the Wireless Operator, he asked me:- 'Who is Mr. Brecken, I had never heard of him until last season, is he a Government Officer'. I replied. 'He is a temporary officer during the whaling season'. He then went on, 'I don't think much of him as a whaling officer, and I can't understand the Government employing him'? I asked him why; he then continued 'Do you know that last season all the factories, when they got back to the Shetlands from pelagic, were using their spare whaleboats, which I don't think they had licences for', I replied that I did not know, it was no concern of mine.

(I understand that all South Shetlands licenced factories, including Messrs. Salvesen's 'Saragossa' and 'Salvestria', returned to the Dependency from the ice at the end of the season).

At the latter part of January last, I reached the 'Maudie' in the vicinity of the Sandwich Islands, after steaming 1200 miles in the British Tanker 'Telena'; upon stepping across to the factory I was met by the master in, what I considered, a hostile manner; he enquired 'where are you going, Stanley', I replied 'No', I have come to stay with you for a short time? He replied, 'H'm, I have no room for you' I said, I shall have to find room I can't go on in the 'Telena', she is going to the Cape Verde Islands from here'. He later had a spare room got ready for me.

Two hours later, when seated at the tea table with the Mate and Chief Engineer, he again started off denouncing everyone except Mr. Brecken, particularly, the Governor and Mr. Bennett, in the case of the latter, he laid great stress on a comparison of the ~~xxxxx~~ services as a Government Officer with those of Mr. Brecken, and it appeared quite clear to me that the latter was the only officer wanted on the 'Maudie', of course, the information I had received on the 'Ronald' was still fresh in my mind, whilst this 'boosting' of Mr. Brecken was taking place

(The master, O. Aronsen, of the 'Maudie' last season, was the master of the 'Melville' during the 1929-30 season, he and Mr. Brecken would be together throughout the 1929-30 season at Deception Island. This was his first season as master, and on neither vessel was he manager, neither is he a representative type of master on a whaling factory).

When I reached Admiralty Bay on the 'Maudie', at the latter part of February last, the master informed me that he would like to use his spare boat for the manager and himself to go to the Schollert Channel, to see if there was any whales down there, and, as they were calling at Deception to pick Mr. Nilsen up, I decided to go with them. We left Admiralty Bay in the morning of the 27th., and arrived alongside the 'Melville' at Deception in the evening. As Mr. Brecken wanted to go to the Schollert Channel, I stayed back at Deception, and during the three days I was there I never saw a whaleboat laid-up. Mr. Brecken returned at about 11.30 pm. on the third day, and when I left the 'Melville' at 12.0 pm. I saw the 'Weddell', which had recently come in, with a gun loaded with a harpoon, in her bows. I asked Mr. Brecken if she was the spare boat and he replied 'Yes', but I gave them permission to use her, owing to one of the other boats having a damaged propellor. I saw no evidence of this whilst I was at Deception.

ST. Hiches

Asst. Customs Officer.

17. 6. 31

C/10/31.

27th June,

31

Gentlemen,

I am directed to forward the attached statement of charges amounting to £3. 11s. 6d. incurred by the whaling transport "Skaraas", at South Shetlands during the 1950-1951 whaling season, and certified by the master, and to request that you will be so good as to collect this amount from the Norge Whaling Company.

(Duplicate of vol 3)

2. I am to explain that the collection of this amount has been overlooked through inadvertence up to the present.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary.

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



ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER BEING QUOTED.

4 MILLBANK,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.1.

137 P/Misc.Falks. 1.

TELEGRAMS: "CROWN LONDON."
TELEPHONE: 7730 VICTORIA.



4th September, 1931.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.C/10/31 of the 27th June, requesting us to collect the sum of £3.11.6. from the Norge Whaling Co., in respect of charges incurred by the whaling transport "Skaraas" at South Shetlands during the 1930/1931 whaling season, I have the honour to inform you that the statement forwarded with your letter, shows the amount due as £3.1.6., and that this amount only has been received from the Company, and credited in our account with the Government of Falkland Islands for the month of August, 1931.

2. We would however, point out that there is a discrepancy in the addition of the statement and that the correct amount due to you would appear to be £3.2.0.

3. We accordingly return herewith the statement for your inspection and await your further instructions in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

for Crown Agents.

The Colonial Secretary,
Falkland Islands.

S. Shetlands

April, 1st 1931

Statement of charges incurred by
S.S. "Skarass" at S. Shetlands.

Extending + cleaning .x.	£ 1 - 1 - 6
Bell of Health	0 - 10 - 6
Duty on 190ll spirits	£ 1 - 10 - 0
	<hr/>
	£ 3 - 1 - 6
	<hr/>

Karst. Aigestad

.x. Should be £ 1 - 1 - 0
mch

C/10/31.

28th October,

31.

Gentlemen,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 137 P/Miss.1 of the 4th of September, 1931, and to express regret for the error which occurred in my letter, No. C/10/31 of the 27th of June, 1931, regarding the amount to be collected from the Norge Whaling Company, and for the discrepancy in the addition of the Statement attached thereto.

2. I am to say that the correct amount should have been £3. 1s. 6d., the fee for entering and clearing being £1. 1s. 0d. and not £1. 1s. 6d. as shewn in the Statement.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

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