

C.S.

Whaling  
No. 844.

S. A. S. No 42

SUBJECT.

1918

17<sup>th</sup> July

Previous Paper.

Forwards copies of a memorandum on the whaling industry of the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

MINUTES.

Wait

Letter to Mr S. I. Wilson 28.10.18.

Letter from Mr S. I. Wilson 30.11.18.

N.E.

The only communication received from Mr Wilson on the subject & dated September 1912 is his letter (& enclosure) dated 14.9.12 in M.P. 316/12 attached. The enclosure to his letter is not in the paper & a note has been made in pencil on the C.S. letter of acknowledgement dated 18.10.12 - "Notes on Whaling extracted. J. Q. W. 26.3.14"

Subsequent Paper.

Thos. Gals.  
3.1.19.

Might write to Magistrate South Georgia and

and ask him to furnish, in duplicate, a copy  
of Mr. J. D. Wilson's <sup>notes</sup> (report) on Whaling in South  
Georgia, a copy of which was enclosed in Mr  
Wilson's letter S. G. 12096/1912 of the 14<sup>th</sup> September  
1912, but which cannot now be found or recovered  
in the office.

A. J.  
10

8.2.19

Letter to S. M., S. Georgia 10.2.19.

H. E.

? ack. receipt of Mr Wilson's letter and  
thank him -

A. J.  
10.2.19

Thos. Fuls.  
10.2.19

Letter to Mrs. Wilson, 12.2.19.

Letter from S. M., South Georgia, 5.3.19.

Copy of Mr. Wilson's letter of 30.11.18 & of his  
whaling notes received from Sth Georgia, forwarded  
to Sec. of State under cover of despatch L<sup>3</sup> 124  
of 20/9/19.

A. J.  
20.9.19

FALKLAND ISLANDS

No. 42.

844/18

*H.M. Coll. Sec.  
Please send copy to Mr. J. Lewis Wilson, and ask him if he can favour me with any additions or suggestions - copy to be returned -  
25.10.18 W.H.L.*

Downing Street,  
17th July, 1918.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information, and any observations which you may wish to offer, three copies of a memorandum on the whaling industry of the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands.

Memorandum

2. The statistics available in this Office with regard to the early years of this industry are incomplete; and it would be a convenience if they could be supplemented from sources at your disposal in the Colony. I do not, however, wish to put you to any trouble in the matter at the present time.

I have, etc.,  
(Sgd) Walter H. Long.

Governor  
W.D. Young, Esq., C.M.G.,  
&c. &c. &c.

REVISE  
29153



No.

THE WHALING INDUSTRY OF THE DEPENDENCIES OF THE  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

PART I.

Rise of the Industry.

THE occurrence of whales off South Georgia was first reported by Captain Cook, who sighted and took possession of the island in 1775. Captain James Colnet sailed north-west of South Georgia in 1793-4, and confirmed Cook's report of the enormous number of whales, especially black whales. Captain Bellingshausen visited South Georgia in 1819, and met British whalers there. Captain William Smith discovered the South Shetlands in 1819, and reported whales there also. Ross especially noted the presence of whales in Erebus and Terror Gulf, which, fifty years later (in 1892), led to the despatch to the gulf of four vessels of the Dundee whaling fleet. A Norwegian expedition in charge of Captain Larsen also left for the gulf about the same time. The whaling enterprise was a failure, as the vessels were equipped for bowhead whales, and had not the modern guns and gear required for dealing with finner and other whales.

On the return of the Dundee expedition to the United Kingdom an effort was made, privately, but without success, to arouse interest with a view to the introduction in Antarctic waters of the Norwegian type of whaling—then unknown in Britain. Later, Captain Larsen was chosen by Dr. Nordenskjöld as master of the "Antarctic." This vessel was wrecked, all hands being rescued by the Argentine sloop "Uruguay"; and one consequence of the interest thus aroused in Buenos Ayres was the formation of an Argentine company (the Cia Argentina de Pesca) to carry on whaling operations at South Georgia. This company was granted a lease as from the 1st January, 1906. Steam whaling around the Falkland Islands and the South Shetlands was started by Mr. Alexander Lange in the season 1905-6.

Extent of the Industry.

The principal whaling fields are the two dependencies of South Georgia, and the South Shetlands with Graham Land. Whaling has also been carried on to a much smaller extent in the South Orkneys, and apparently on one occasion at the South Sandwich Islands. A magistrate is stationed at South Georgia, where there is a permanent whaling settlement, and operations continue all the year round; in the case of the other Dependencies a representative of the Colonial Government accompanies one of the expeditions. Eight leases of land sites for whaling purposes have been granted for South Georgia. In the South Shetlands one lease has been granted on similar terms to those of the South Georgia leases, but the industry in the Dependencies other than South Georgia is almost entirely conducted by a system of annual licences authorising the employment of not more than two floating factories and two or three steam whalers. In practice more than one floating factory has seldom been employed under one licence. At one time it was the practice to issue licences covering all the Dependencies except South Georgia; but, in 1912, it was decided:—

- (1) That separate licences should be issued for :
  - (a) The South Shetlands and Graham Land;
  - (b) The South Orkneys;
  - (c) The South Sandwich Islands; and
- (2) That the number of licences issued in any one year for the South Shetlands with Graham Land should not exceed ten, and that not more than seven licences should be issued annually for either the South Orkneys or the South Sandwich Islands. Later, it was decided that after the 1st October, 1914, no further licences or leases for whaling purposes in the Dependencies, other than South Georgia, should be issued, with the exception of renewals of existing licences.

As regards the vessels employed, the following table shows the number to which the companies were entitled, at the opening of the 1914-15 season, by their respective leases or licences:—

	<i>Floating factories. Whalers.</i>	
	8*	21
South Georgia, in addition to land stations ...		
South Shetlands and Graham Land, in addition to one land station ... .. .	12	32
South Orkneys ... .. .	4	9
South Sandwich Islands ... .. .	0	0
	<u>24</u>	<u>62</u>

(\* Eight permissible, but only two actually used.)

The full number of vessels authorized for the highly profitable whaling fields of South Georgia and the South Shetlands with Graham Land were always employed before the War, but this was not the case as regards the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands. During the War there has been a considerable reduction in the pursuit of whales almost all over the world, except in South Georgia, where, in consequence of the demand for oil, it has been necessary to permit the temporary employment of additional extra whale catchers. The number of whale catchers operating in the South Shetlands is less than half of what it was previously, and whaling in the South Orkneys has entirely ceased. This has been due partially to the demand for tonnage for other purposes and to losses sustained by the whaling fleet from enemy action and other causes.

The labour engaged in the industry is almost entirely Norwegian. Since the invention of the harpoon gun by Svend Foyn, in 1865, a large and highly skilled whaling population has grown up in Norway. While the transport vessels can be manned by British crews, the skilled ratings on the whale catchers and floating factories, and at the land stations, can only be filled with Norwegians, and, although persons of other nationalities are sometimes employed in unskilled ratings, British subjects are apt to object to the Norwegian food. The British whaling population which formerly existed seems to have disappeared entirely.

Great skill is required in some of the ratings, particularly that of gunner. The training of a new man as a gunner always involves some loss of whales. Consequently only men of considerable whaling experience are tried in this capacity.

The number of men employed at South Georgia in the season 1915-16 (the last for which there is any record) was 1,700, not including the crews of transport vessels.

The following table, extracted from the report on the 1915-16 season at the South Shetlands, is of interest as showing the usual rate of wages paid to the workmen in the whaling industry:—

Occupation.	Wages per month.	Share (Oj) per barrel.			
<b>On Floating Factories—</b>					
Engineers ... .. .	from 120 to 200 kroner	from 4 to 10 öre.			
Mechanics ... .. .	" 40 " 120 "	" 3 " 5 "			
Carpenters ... .. .	" 80 " 100 "	" 4 " 5 "			
Blubber Boilers ... .. .	" 60 " 70 "	" 3 " 5 "			
Flensers ... .. .	" 55 " 70 "	" 3 " 5 "			
Ordinary Labourers ... .. .	" 40 " 50 "	" 1 " 3 "			
Stewards ... .. .	" 100 " 110 "	" 6 " 8 "			
Cooks ... .. .	" 70 " 90 "	" 3 " 5 "			
Firemen ... .. .	" 40 " 55 "	" " 2 "			
Sailors ... .. .	" " 50 "	" " 2 "			
Boys ... .. .	" 20 " 30 "	" 1/2 " 1 "			
Purser ... .. .	" 80 " 120 "	" 3 " 6 "			
Occupation.	Wages per month.	Share per whale.			
		Blæ.	Fin.	Humpback.	Right.
<b>On Whale Boats—</b>					
Gunner ... .. .	125 kroner	80 kroner	50 kroner	30 kroner	200 kroner
Masters (when not Gunner) ...	100 "	6 "	5 "	4 "	10 "
Engineers (1st) ... .. .	160 "	6 "	5 "	4 "	10 "
" (2nd) ... .. .	130 "	6 "	5 "	4 "	10 "
Firemen ... .. .	40 "	4 "	3 "	2 "	10 "
Sailors ... .. .	60 "	6 "	5 "	4 "	10 "
Stewards ... .. .	75 "	6 "	5 "	4 "	10 "

(1 kroner equals about 1s. 1½d. 100 öre equals 1 kroner.)

As regards the several Dependencies :—

*A.—South Georgia.*—The first factory in South Georgia was built by the Cia Argentina de Pesca, an Argentine company, which was granted a lease of a site at Grytviken for a period of twenty-one years from the 1st January, 1906. Subsequently seven other leases of land sites for whaling purposes were granted for a similar term—three dating from 1908, three from 1909, and one from 1911. Particulars of all the above leases will be found in Appendix I. Of the existing companies four are Norwegian, three British, and one Argentine. In considering the annual returns relating to the industry, it must be remembered that the figures for the South Georgia Company include those for the closely allied firm of Messrs. Chr. Salvesen & Company. These firms hold a lease each, but work in common.

Each lease carried the right to employ one floating factory and two steam whalers, except that the oldest lease allows four steam whalers. Three companies are allowed an extra steam whaler each, under licence. The total number is thus twenty-one. The later leases contained the obligation to utilise the whole carcass of the whale, and permitted the use of only two whalers.

*B.—South Shetlands and Graham Land.*—A lease at Deception Island for a period of twenty-one years from the 1st October, 1912, is held by the Hektor Whaling Company, Norway, which also holds a licence. A list of the licences issued for the 1914-15 season, i.e., the first season following the outbreak of the War, will be found in Appendix II.

It will be seen that one licence was held by a British company and eight by Norwegian companies; the tenth licence being held by a Chilean company. The season in the South Shetlands lasts from November to March.

*C.—South Orkneys.*—No whaling has been carried on at the South Orkneys since the season 1914-15. Appendix II. includes a list of the licences, four in number, issued for that season, all of which were held by Norwegian companies. Only one of the licences was actually worked.

Whales are usually plentiful at the South Orkneys, but the short season, lack of safe harbours, and bad weather combined, form a serious disadvantage. It has been stated that in the most open seasons the factories may be able to remain in the roadstead fourteen weeks, but that a stay of twelve weeks is more likely to be the real length of the season.

*D.—South Sandwich Islands.*—No licences have been granted since the 1912-13 season, when (*vide* Appendix II.) six licences were issued, all to Norwegian interests. None of these licences was actually worked. The only record of whaling in these waters, and that a very scanty one, is for the season 1911-12, when one company conducted operations. Whaling in this group is attended with great difficulty, as no satisfactory harbour is known in the group, which consists of a chain of volcanic islands, in some of which the volcanoes are still active. In many cases the constant emission of poisonous fumes makes it difficult to land, and no attempt has been made to establish a shore station.

### Regulation of the Industry.

(a) *Legislation*: The whale fishery was first dealt with by law by Ordinance No. 3 of 1906, which made it unlawful to take whales without a licence, and imposed royalties on each whale caught, at the following rates, viz.: right whale, £10; sperm whale, 10s.; other whale, 5s. This system was, however, considered unsuitable. The Ordinance was therefore repealed, and the whale industry is now regulated by Ordinance No. 5 of 1908 (the principal Ordinance) and amending Ordinances, and by separate regulations for South Georgia and the other Dependencies, made under the principal Ordinance. A summary of Ordinance No. 5 of 1908, as amended, will be found in Appendix III., which also includes summaries of the regulations and of the forms of lease and licence. It may be added that the Ordinances of the Legislature of the Falkland Islands do not necessarily apply to the Dependencies, but can be extended to them by the Governor in Council, under section 3 of Ordinance 9 of 1908.

(b) *Policy*: The present policy aims at :—

- (1) Limiting the extent to which the pursuit of whales may be carried on;
- (2) Reducing the amount of waste involved to the narrowest limits consistent with existing rights and with not involving the companies in work entailing an actual loss.

To secure the first of these objects it was (as already stated) decided to issue no further leases or licences, other than renewals of annual licences already granted, and to allow no further addition to the number of vessels authorized to catch whales.

No attempt has been made to regulate the number of whales taken in any one season; but the killing or shooting of any whale calf, or any female whale which is accompanied by a calf, is prohibited. The scope of this prohibition is, however, in practice, restricted to such calves as are in company with their mothers, and it does not afford any protection to immature whales not falling within this category.

The grant of permission to operate additional floating factories was at one time thought likely to result in an increased slaughter of whales, but further experience led to the conclusion that it was practically impossible for the steam whalers already licensed to increase their catch of whales, and the policy of the Government was revised in consequence. In the Dependencies other than South Georgia the use of second floating factories is now permitted, conditions being imposed to secure adequate equipment for operating with a minimum of waste. The factory or factories are compelled to carry pressure boilers 10 feet long and 7 feet in diameter, or with an equivalent cubic capacity; but it has not been thought expedient to compel them to carry plant for making guano, since it is doubtful whether, even in peace time, the manufacture of guano on board ship can be made profitable. Licensees, if using not more than two steam-whalers, are required to carry on their floating factory or factories a total of not less than nine pressure boilers of the prescribed capacity; if a third whaler is used twelve pressure boilers must be installed. With regard to South Georgia, those companies whose leases did not bind them to utilize the whole carcass have been encouraged to erect shore stations for the purpose.

In consequence of the War it has, unfortunately, been necessary to relax the regulations for the prevention of waste of the less valuable portions of the whales, and also those in regard to the towing and buoying of carcasses. In addition to allowing, as already stated, the temporary employment of additional whale catchers at South Georgia, it has been necessary to incur certain conditional obligations as regards the grant of additional whaling facilities after the War.

#### Production of the Industry.

(a) *Catch*: The seasonal reports from the Dependencies are summarised in Part II. of this memorandum. A table of the catch, showing also the number of steam whalers employed, will be found in Appendix IV. More detailed figures in regard to South Georgia are given in Appendix V. The tables show that formerly the catch at South Georgia mainly comprised humpback whales, but that latterly the blue and fin whales have predominated. Some right whales are still being taken, although the number has fallen off considerably. A fair number of sperm whales was taken in 1913-14 and 1916-17. The only record of the sei whale is in 1913-14, when ninety-four were taken at South Georgia. There are occasional records of the capture of bottlenose whales. The most remarkable feature in the table is the practically continuous decline since 1911-12 in the take of humpbacks, although a considerable number of this species was taken in 1915-16. The higher take of the blue and fin whales is attributable to the use of larger catchers and stronger tackle, and to the higher reward now offered by the companies for these animals. In this latter connexion reference may be made to the rates of reward in the table on page 2. The reason for the decline in the take of humpbacks is not so clear. In 1912-13 it was reported to be due to scarcity, which may have been caused by excessive hunting in the past, whether at South Georgia or elsewhere; on the other hand, there is evidence that, in subsequent years, the take has not been commensurate with the number of whales observed, since the catchers were more intent on the pursuit of the larger whales. In this connexion the reports of the Magistrate for the years 1913-14 and 1914-15 (see Part II. of this memorandum) are of particular interest. The statistics for the South Shetlands present somewhat similar features to those for South Georgia; but, in the case of the former Dependency, the take of humpbacks never predominated to the same extent as at South Georgia. At the South Orkneys the larger whales have been the more plentiful. As regards the South Sandwich Islands there is only one record—that for 1911-12—when four blue, eleven fin, and thirteen humpback whales were taken.

(b) *Products*:\* Whale oil is classified into five grades, numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4. Numbers 0 and 1 are made entirely from blubber; number 2 from the tongues and kidney fat and from the residue of the blubber boilings; number 3 from the flesh and bones; and number 4 from refuse. The oil is usually classified for sale upon the basis that the various qualities must not contain more than the percentages of impurity specified in the following table:—

\* Much of the information in this section is extracted from the Report on the Scientific Results of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, Volume 4, pages 475 to 486

					<i>Fatty acid.</i>	<i>Water and dirt.</i>
No. 0 and No. 1.	...	...	...	...	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
No. 2	...	...	...	...	6	$\frac{1}{2}$
No. 3	...	...	...	...	15	1
No. 4	...	...	...	...	30	1

Three products can be obtained from the dried meat and bones: (a) whale meat meal, manufactured exclusively from absolutely fresh whale flesh; (b) whale guano, made from the remaining flesh and about one-third of bones; (c) bone meal, made exclusively from bones. The whole of the dried carcass may also be made into one product, forming a rich guano. Whale meal is a cattle food containing about seventeen-and-a-half per cent. of protein. Whale guano contains about eight-and-a-half per cent. ammonia and twenty-one per cent. of tribasic phosphates of lime. Bone meal contains about four per cent. ammonia and fifty per cent. phosphates.

The value of whalebone, baleen, or finners (as the whalebone of the species of fin whales is commonly called), had so decreased before the War that it was questionable whether the expense of the marketing was not heavier than the value realized. There was no doubt that it did not pay to ship humpback finners at the prices then obtainable. At present, however, there seems to be a fair market for the whalebone of fin whales.

The table in Appendix VI. shows the quantity and value of the oil, baleen, and guano produced in the Dependencies in recent years. For the reasons already indicated, the statistics do not represent the full output of baleen or whalebone. As regards the values, it should be noted that these are the conventional customs declarations, and are usually much below the actual sale prices. For example, the value of the oil (197,213 barrels) produced at South Georgia in the half-year ending 31st March, 1917, was valued by the companies at, approximately, £712,627. The oil was, however, actually sold on a scale of £50 per barrel for No. 1 oil. Taking an average of £45. for the whole production, the amount realized was probably not far short of £1,500,000. On the other hand, this represents an inflated value due to the War.

(c) *Utilisation of the Carcass*: The average production of oil and guano per whale serves to indicate the extent to which the carcass is being utilized; and Appendix VII. gives the figures for:

(a) South Georgia, from 1909-10 to 1916-17:

(b) South Shetlands, from 1911-12 to 1916-17.

The table indicates a more complete utilisation of the carcass year by year up to 1914-15; but, in considering the figures for South Georgia, it is necessary to make allowance for the fact that up to 1912-13 the smaller humpback formed the greater part of the catch, whereas after that year the blue and fin whales largely predominated. In this connexion the following table of the average yield of each species of whale is of interest:—

<i>Species of whale.</i>	<i>Average yield of oil in barrels.</i>					
	<i>(6 barrels = 1 ton.)</i>					
Right	...	...	...	...	...	60 to 70
Blue	...	...	...	...	...	70 to 80
Fin	...	...	...	...	...	35 to 50
Sei	...	...	...	...	...	10 to 15
Humpback	...	...	...	...	...	25 to 35
Sperm	...	...	...	...	...	60

There is no doubt, however, that there has been an improvement in the utilisation of the carcass in late years. Considerable additions have been made to the reducing plant, and the number of open and pressure boilers in use in 1916-17 showed an increase of about twenty-five per cent. as compared with the number in 1914-15. In 1915-16 the larger species of whale were reported to be found in poor condition during the whole of the season, and the companies were hampered by lack of coal and empty barrels. The lower returns of guano in the last two years are largely attributable to the special conditions arising out of the War, which have necessitated some relaxation of the regulations in order to secure a maximum output of oil, particularly of the higher grades. As regards the much lower yield of guano in the South Shetlands as compared with South Georgia, it must be remembered that there is only one shore station in the former Dependency, and that only one of the floating factories had been provided with a guano plant. In South Georgia, on the other hand, several of the companies are in a position to manufacture guano under normal conditions. It will be noted that there was no output of guano in the South Shetlands during 1916-17. This was due to the facts that the shore station had been closed down owing to tonnage difficulties and that the guano plant had been removed



from the only floating factory so equipped. The plant was stated to be unworkable on board the ship.

#### Revenue from the Industry.

An export duty of 3½d. per barrel of forty gallons is levied upon whale oil exported from the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies. The appended table shows the revenue of the Colonial Government, actual, or estimated, from the whaling industry, and also the total revenue of the Colony:—

Year.	1914.* (Actual.)	1915.* (Actual.)	1916. (Actual.)	1917. (Estimate.)	1918. (Estimate.)
	£	£	£	£	£
Export tax on whale oil ...	5,262	5,435	7,839	4,100	4,500
Whaling leases and licences ...	4,400	4,700	2,300	3,000	2,200
Total ...	9,662	10,135	10,139	7,100	6,700
Total ordinary revenue of the Colony ...	33,760	31,347	39,106	31,681	30,247

\* In these years the rate of duty was 3d. per barrel of forty gallons.

#### Falkland Islands.

Although the terms of reference to the Committee do not cover the Falkland Islands themselves, a brief statement of recent whaling operations in those waters may be of interest. Towards the end of 1908 the British firm of Messrs. Salvesen & Company began the erection of a whaling factory on New Island, West Falkland, having, with the permission of the Government, obtained a site from the lessee. The factory was the first erected in the Colony, and was equipped with the most modern machinery for utilising the whole carcass of the whale. The station was completed in 1909, and the following statistics are taken from the Blue Book reports:

Season.	Number caught.	Oil.		Bone.		Guano.		Total Value.
		Barrels.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bags.	Value	
1912-13	200*	6,628	£ 26,512	—	£ —	—	£ —	£ 26,512
1913-14	300*	4,505	13,515	80	—	3,363	1,681	15,196
1914-15	200*	7,434	29,763	10	18	7,870	3,849	33,630
1915-16	69	4,902	16,340	—	—	1,014	500	16,840

\* Approximate figure.

No whaling operations have been carried on since March, 1916, and the station at New Island was dismantled in October of that year and removed to South Georgia. There is no record of any other whaling at the Falkland Islands in the years mentioned.

## PART II.

### SUMMARY OF THE SEASONAL REPORTS FROM THE DEPENDENCIES.

#### (a) South Georgia.

Complete statistics for the early years of the whaling industry at South Georgia are not available, but the following is a summary of the reports received in respect to the years from 1909-10 and onwards.

1909-10.—Seventeen whalers were engaged, and all the Companies except one continued whaling operations throughout the year.

1910-11.—The Companies engaged in the whale fishery employed nineteen licensed steam whalers. Three of the Companies continued operations during the winter. At the commencement of the season whales were reported to be very numerous off the north and north-east coast.

1911-12: *Summer Season*.—Twenty-one licensed steam whalers, two of which arrived late, were employed during this season, a most excellent one, the results of which exceeded those of the previous record season, 1910-11. The largest number of whales was caught during the months of November, December, and January; the continual stormy weather during February and March often made hunting quite an impossibility. There was a considerable increase in all the species of whales killed, with the exception of the humpback, which showed a slight decrease.

*Winter Season*.—Only three Companies continued whaling operations throughout the whole of the winter months, during which eight hundred and fifty-four whales were taken, a decrease of one hundred and fifty-six as compared with the previous year. The weather conditions had much to do with this difference.

1912-13: *Summer Season*.—Twenty-one steam whalers were employed, two of which did not commence operations until the beginning of January. The season, while on the whole very successful, showed a decrease of one thousand four hundred and eighty-four whales, as compared with the previous season. This was accounted for by the scarcity of humpbacks, only two thousand two hundred and fifty-one of these animals being taken, as compared with five thousand one hundred in the half-year ending the 31st March, 1912. More whales were caught from October to December, 1912, than during the latter half of the season 1912-13.

*Winter Season*.—Four Companies continued whaling operations during the winter months, but from the end of June to August little hunting was done. Six hundred and fifty-three whales were taken, a decrease of two hundred and one as compared with the corresponding period of 1911-12.

1913-14: *Summer Season*.—The Companies engaged employed in all twenty-one licensed steam whalers. Owing to the great and continued scarcity of the humpback, the season could not be regarded as a successful one, when compared with former seasons, but, fortunately, large blue and fin whales were numerous, and are to be found off the Dependency practically the whole year round. As regards the humpback, the following extract from the Magistrate's report is of interest:—

“The question has often been debated by the local whalers as to the real cause of this continual scarcity of the humpback whale. Is it the continual killing that has thinned them down and frightened the remainder off; or in the course of their ocean migration have they merely changed their course for the time being, to come back again? The general feeling is hopeful, and inclined to take the latter view, although it is really hard to say. On more than one occasion shipmasters have reported to me schools of humpbacks three hundred or four hundred miles off the land. A very reasonable contention is also held that the humpback whale, while foraging along his usual ocean track finds plenty of food all the way; this will delay, if not altogether prevent, him from touching at his usual resorts in these latitudes.”

During February and March a number of sei whales were captured, an unusual occurrence for South Georgia.

*Winter Season*.—Four Companies continued operations during the winter months, during which the take of whales showed a total decrease of fourteen as compared with the same period in the previous year. *Decrease*:—one right, one hundred and thirty-four fin, seventy-one humpbacks; *increase*:—four sperm, one hundred and eighty-four blue, four sei. The scarceness of humpbacks continued, but the increase in the number of blue and sperm whales was looked upon as a good omen for the next season.

1914-15: *Summer Season*.—Twenty-two licensed whale catchers were employed and the season proved very successful, owing chiefly to the large number of blue and fin whales taken. The whale catchers in use, being much larger and stronger than those employed in previous years, were consequently able to deal with the larger whales. Another encouragement to pursue the blue whale in preference to the humpback was the much higher reward offered by the Companies than hitherto; in previous years the reward being the same for both species. The rates of reward for the various species are indicated in the table (relating to the South Shetlands) on page 2. Although on occasions the humpbacks appeared in large numbers, these animals were, in many cases, left to pursue their rambles in peace while the larger whales were plentiful. On one occasion a vessel hunting some ten miles off Cape Buller was drifting in a heavy fog, when a school of humpbacks came very close

to the boat, and four of them were taken without the engine being moved. In conversation with the Magistrate the gunner of the vessel remarked: "I have never seen so many whales together; there must have been hundreds." Up to the last day in March similar reports were made by the gunners regarding the great number of humpbacks seen so late in the season. Owing to the War many of the stations worked shorthanded.

*Winter Season.*—Two Companies continued operations throughout the winter, which was, however, very severe, and stormy weather in July and August often prevented whaling for several days consecutively. There was a considerable increase in the number of humpbacks taken up to the end of June, and, according to reports from the hunters, these whales were numerous the whole year through.

1915-16: *Summer Season.*—In the earlier part of the season twenty-two whale catchers were employed. One factory with three catchers did not arrive until the 15th February; and, from the 15th March, three additional catchers were employed, making a total number of twenty-eight at the end of the season. The production was good, although the larger whales were found to be in very poor condition, and the Companies were subjected to many inconveniences, such as lack of coal and empty barrels. With the exception of a few which were taken some thirty or forty miles at sea, the whales on the whole were found near land. Owing to the necessity of a good output of the higher grade oils, the regulations regarding the utilisation of the whole carcass, and the use of buoy boats, etc., were relaxed completely for the time being. There was a considerable increase in the number of humpback whales taken in the half-year, the number—one thousand two hundred and sixty—being double that in the corresponding period of 1914-15. The Magistrate reported that, from his personal observations and reports from the gunners, so many whales had never been seen in any part of the world as in South Georgia waters during 1915-16. The high price of coal affected the output of guano.

*Winter Season.*—Three Companies continued operations throughout the year with excellent results. The increase in the take was two hundred and fifty-one blue, four hundred and twenty-eight fin, and one hundred and twenty-six humpback whales; but there was a decrease of ten in the take of right whales. The total number of whales captured was one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, as compared with one thousand and forty-nine in the corresponding period of 1915-16.

1916-17: *Summer Season.*—Thirty-two whale catchers were employed as against twenty-eight in the previous season; there was, however, a decided decrease in the number of whales captured, but twenty-six sperm whales were taken on various parts of the coast. During the early months the weather was on the whole very boisterous, and whales were not so plentiful nor found so near land as in the corresponding period of the previous season. The blue and fin whales arrived rather later than usual, probably owing to the stormy weather. Few humpbacks were taken, but the figures of captures are not necessarily a guide to the numbers present of this whale.

*Winter Season.*—All the Companies continued operations during the June quarter, and three until the end of the year. The usual boisterous weather prevailed. The number of whales taken up to the end of June was much less than for the same period in 1916, but this was chiefly owing to the scarcity of coal at the stations. Whales were very scarce in June, July, and August, and were seldom seen inside a circle of from forty to sixty miles from land. In consequence of the lack of coal the catchers were laid up for repairs much earlier than hitherto.

#### (b) *South Shetlands.*

Steam whaling operations in the South Shetlands were first conducted in the season 1905-6 by Mr. Alexander Lange, who operated in those waters, and also in the waters of the Falkland Islands, with one floating factory and two whalers. His total catch was three sperm whales and one hundred and twenty-two sei whales off the Falkland Islands, and fifty-eight whales (species not recorded) in the vicinity of the South Shetlands.

1907-8.—Four Companies operated during this season, but the statistics are incomplete. The total catch was between six hundred and fifty and seven hundred whales, and it is recorded that the two small steamers of Mr. Lange's expedition caught eighty-one blue whales, thirty-seven fin whales, and one hundred and six humpback whales. Most of the animals were found in the Bransfield Strait; but there were a great many fin whales in the Belgica Strait, and humpback whales were plentiful near Joinville Island.

1908-9.—The total catch of two of the Companies was as follows:—

<i>Right.</i>	<i>Blue.</i>	<i>Fin.</i>	<i>Humpback.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1	74	148	530	753

The remaining two Companies were reported to have captured about the same number of whales.

1909-10.—No detailed report is on record.

1910-11.—One Company operating three small steam whalers took five hundred and eighty-six whales, including forty-seven blue, one hundred and ten fin, and four hundred and twenty-nine humpback, yielding over seventeen thousand barrels of oil and fifty tons of whalebone, the total estimated value of which was about £70,000. Another Company secured nearly seventeen thousand barrels of oil and twenty tons of whalebone. A floating factory, which followed the expedition but was not licensed to kill whales, dealt with between one thousand seven hundred and one thousand eight hundred carcasses. Whales were reported to be extremely plentiful, but to be going farther south.

1911-12.—The first floating factory arrived on 29th October, and the ten licensed factories, each with three steam whalers, were all on the whaling grounds by the 28th December. The arrival of some of the vessels was delayed by labour troubles in Europe. More than half of the whales caught this season were brought into Deception Harbour. At ordinary times the whales were caught within forty miles of Deception Island, and many were taken within a few miles of the entrance to the harbour. Whales were very scarce, and few were caught until about the 1st December; thenceforth they were plentiful throughout the whole season. Blue whales were caught all through the season, but most abundantly in the first half. Fin whales were not taken in the early part of the season, but were more plentiful in the latter half. Humpbacks were not nearly as plentiful as in the previous year. They were caught throughout the whole of the season, and their numbers seemed to be always about the same. Right whales were only taken during the latter part of the season. For a few days about the beginning, and towards the end of the season, some of the whalers went south to the Belgica Strait, which did not, however, prove so good a whaling ground as last year, although towards the end of the season whales were very plentiful.

1912-13.—Thirty-two licensed whalers were employed by the ten Companies working, as compared with thirty in the previous season. Two additional catchers worked in connexion with the new shore station of the Hektor Company, the first whale carcass being hauled up on the platform of the station on the 24th December, 1912. Up to the 1st January, 1913, the weather could not have been better for whaling purposes, but after that date continual storms rendered the pursuit of whales on some days almost impossible. The Magistrate expressed the opinion that the time had now arrived when the industry in these waters would be centred in the Belgica Strait.

1913-14.—No detailed report was received for this season.

1914-15.—The prospects of a successful season were not very bright at first, as pack ice was encountered as far north as 58° S. latitude, and it was not until the middle of December that the majority of the factories succeeded in reaching Deception Island. This was a serious set-back, as November and December are considered the best months. In the early part of the season whales, chiefly blue whales, were fairly numerous; in January and February they were not quite so numerous. In March whales were very numerous, blue whales especially.

In former years February has always been a very bad month, but this year, except in the Belgica Strait, it was fairly good. In March the fin whale is usually most numerous, but this year they were very seldom caught until the latter part of March. In the Belgica Strait the factories had a very successful time during December and January; blue whales were very numerous. In February the blue whales departed, and practically from the beginning of February until the 20th March there were almost no whales caught in the Strait. Although all the factories had very good catches, very few had a full cargo. If they had got in at the usual time there is no doubt that they all would have had full cargoes, excepting, perhaps, the one which arrived very late.

1915-16.—During this season nine Companies were engaged in whaling, employing altogether twenty-nine whale catchers. With the exception of two, all the floating factories arrived between the 17th November and the 4th December; the remaining two arriving on the 15th and 26th December, respectively. In November and December the catch went very slowly, mainly on account of the prevailing bad weather—fog and wind—and the tremendous quantities of pack

ice; Deception Harbour (Port Foster) was not wholly free of ice until the beginning of January. With the coming of January conditions improved; the "catch" went up by leaps and bounds; and five of the factories were able to proceed to Belgica Strait, where good catches were made. About the middle of February long spells of bad weather set in, and fishing was once more delayed, although whales were still plentiful. By the end of March all the factories were completely loaded. Some humpbacks were taken, but there are now comparatively few of this species in the present fishing waters. Three small sperm whales were caught near to Deception Island on the 19th December, the first of this species reported to have been captured so far south. Blue and fin whales are to be found in almost equal numbers throughout the whole season, although fin whales are often observed to be more numerous after the middle of February.

1916-17.—During 1916-17 only four Companies were engaged in whaling. The first factory arrived on the 24th November, the second following on the 12th December. The other two factories did not arrive until the 13th and 21st January, respectively. The conditions were excellent from the very beginning of the season. The abundance of whales, particularly blue whales, in the neighbourhood of the South Shetlands, throughout the entire season, is reported to have been nothing short of astounding. The Magistrate stated that, during his first visit to the Belgica Strait in January, 1917, the waters in the neighbourhood were simply teeming with whale spouts, and the catch became so prodigious at this period that the whalers were compelled to stop and confine themselves to two whales per day. By the end of February two of the factories left completely loaded, the two remaining factories following near the end of March. As formerly, the bulk of the oil was produced from the blue and fin whales.

(c) *South Orkneys.*

The first attempt at whaling in the waters of this Dependency was made in the season 1907-8. Whales were plentiful, but the large quantity of ice interfered with whaling operations and forced the expedition to proceed to the South Shetlands. Actual whaling operations were first conducted at the South Orkneys in the season 1911-12, but no detailed report with regard to them was received.

In the season 1912-13 the first factory reached the edge of the ice on 20th November; two more factories arrived in mid-December, and the fourth on the 1st January, when it was just possible to get into the land. While waiting for the ice to break up the factories commenced fishing and obtained about two thousand barrels of oil before getting into harbour. The season was an exceptionally bad one as far as ice conditions were concerned. It is probable that the factories could get into the roadstead in mid-December if it was an "open" season, but, even in the most "open" seasons they can hardly expect to get in before this date. The weather conditions are so uncertain that to stay after the 15th March is not an attractive prospect, even for the hardiest whaler. Two notable features were the absence of right whales and the small number of humpbacks. Most of the whales were caught around Saddle Island, in Iceberg Bay, and on the south-west side of Coronation Island. In December whales were seen in very large numbers, and during January the catch was exceptionally good. Whales were scarce in February and fairly plentiful again in March. The weather was excellent in December and January, bad in February, and good in March.

The statistics of the operations in the season 1913-14 were not accompanied by any detailed report.

The South Orkneys were visited by only one factory in the season 1914-15. Ice in one solid sheet surrounded the islands for quite a hundred miles to the north, with the result that an anchorage could not be reached until the 19th January, 1915. In spite of the unprecedented conditions prevailing, the season proved a record one for the sole factory which operated, and this result was attributed to its excellent equipment.

There has been no whaling at the South Orkneys since 1914-15.

(d) *South Sandwich Islands.*

The only record of whaling in this group is contained in the table of statistics (see Appendix IV.) relating to the operations conducted in the dependencies during 1912-13.

H. T. A.

Colonial Office,  
14th June, 1918.

APPENDIX I.  
*South Georgia Whaling Leases.*

Leaseholders.	Date of Lease. (Commencement of lease for 21 years.)	Provision as to utilisation of Whale Carcasses.	Place leased.	Area.	Rent	Remarks.
				Acres.	£	
Cia Argentina de Pesca	1 Jan. '06	No provision for utilisation of whole carcass.	Grytviken ...	500	250	Allowed four whalers.
	1 Jan. '09 (for 18 years only)		Jason Harbour ...	30	100	
Sandefjord Whaling Co.	1 Jan. '08	Do.	Stromness Harbour	500	250	Allowed a third whaler on payment of an extra £100.
Tönsbergs Hvalfangeri.	1 Jan. '08	Do.	Husvik Harbour, Stromness Bay	500	250	Do.
Messrs. Bryde & Dahl.	16 Sept. '08	Do.	Godt Hull Harbour	114	250	Do.
Ocean Whaling Co.	1 Oct. '09	Whole carcass to be utilised.	New Fortune Bay	500	250	Limited to two whalers.
Messrs. Chr. Salvesen & Co.	1 Oct. '09	Do.	Allardyce Harbour, Cape Buller	500	250	Do.
South Georgia Co.	1 Oct. '09	Do.	Leith Harbour, Stromness Bay	500	250	Do.
Southern Whaling and Sealing Co.	1 July '11	Do.	Prince Olaf Harbour	500	250	Do.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF LICENCES ISSUED FOR (a) THE SOUTH SHETLANDS AND GRAHAM LAND, (b) THE SOUTH ORKNEYS FOR THE 1914-15 SEASON; AND (c) FOR THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS FOR THE 1912-13 SEASON.

(a) *South Shetlands and Graham Land, 1914-15.*

1. Hektor Whaling Co. (N. Bugge), Tönsberg, Norway.\*
2. Odd Whaling Co. (Haldor Virik), Sandefjord, Norway.
3. Sociedad Ballenera de Magallanes, Punta Arenas, Chile.
4. Laboremus Whaling Co. (T. Dennevig & Company), Sandefjord, Norway.
5. Aktieselskabet "Hvalen" (Andersen & Neumann), Christiania, Norway.
6. Southern Whaling Co. (P. Bogen), Sandefjord, Norway.
7. Norge Whaling Co. (C. Nielsen & Company), Larvik, Norway.
8. Salvesen & Co., Leith.
9. Ornen Whaling Co., Kamfjord pr. Sandefjord, Norway.
10. Nor Whaling Co., Kamfjord, Sandefjord, Norway.

\* A floating factory and two catchers were also used under the terms of this Company's lease at Deception Island.

(b) *South Orkneys, 1914-15.*

1. Rethval and Thule Whaling Cos. (H. Fredriksen), Christiania, Norway.
2. Hektor Whaling Co. (N. Bugge), Tönsberg, Norway.
3. Normanna Whaling Co. (Haldor Virik), Sandefjord, Norway.
4. Haugesund Whaling Co. (Erich Lindoe), Haugesund, Norway.

(c) *South Sandwich Islands, 1912-13.*

1. Thule Co.
2. Albatros Co.
3. A. Nilsen, Sandefjord.
4. Normanna Co.
5. Kosmos Co.
6. Lars Christensen, Sandefjord.

## APPENDIX III.

(1) *Laws.*

ORDINANCE No. 5 of 1908 (as amended by subsequent Ordinances No. 5 of 1912, No. 5 of 1915, and No. 9 of 1915) forbids the killing, taking, or hunting of whales in Colonial waters without a licence. Subject to any regulations made by the Governor in Council the Governor is empowered to settle in regard to each licence:

- (a) The period;
- (b) The number and tonnage of vessels to be employed in the taking of whales;
- (c) The limits of colonial waters within which whales may be taken;
- (d) In which of the Dependencies the licensee may use the harbours by virtue of his licence.

The Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Government may appoint, is empowered to grant whaling licences and licences to utilise whale carcasses by means of a floating factory. The fees payable are:--

- (1) For a whaling licence, £100;
- (2) For a floating factory: not less than £100, and not more than £200, as the Governor in Council may approve.

The penalty for taking whales without a licence is £300 for each offence in the case of the master or owner, and £100 in the case of other offenders. The penalty payable by an owner or master may be recovered by the arrest and sale of the vessel.

The Governor in Council may make regulations for:—

- (a) Fixing the conditions of licences;
- (b) Regulating the number of licences to be granted in any one year;
- (c) Defining the limits within which a licence-holder may take whales;
- (d) Regulating the number of whales to be taken;
- (e) Regulating the disposal of forfeited whales, oil, etc., and the conditions generally for carrying out the Ordinance.

The owner or lessee of any land may take possession of a derelict whale with permission of the Governor in Council and on payment of a royalty. Provision is made for taking whales for scientific purposes.

During the War Ordinances have also been passed requiring the products of the whaling industry to be brought to, and sold in, the United Kingdom.

(2) *Regulations.*(a) *South Georgia.*—The regulations

- (1) Prohibit leaseholders from killing or shooting any whale calf or any female whale which is accompanied by a calf;
- (2) Reserve to the Crown any dead whale abandoned or thrown up on the seashore;
- (3) Prescribe penalties for breaches of the regulations.

(b) *Other Dependencies.*—The regulations

- (1) Provide for the issue of annual licences (October to September);
- (2) Prohibit licensed vessels from catching whales for a Company other than that mentioned in the licence;
- (3) Authorize the use of (a) two floating factories, in conjunction with two whale catchers—fee £200; and (b) a third whale catcher—fee £100;
- (4) Require the provision of pressure boilers for dealing with the residue of the carcass;
- (5) Prescribe that separate licences shall be issued for:
  - (a) The South Shetlands and Graham Land;
  - (b) The South Orkneys;
  - (c) The Falkland Islands;
  - (d) The South Sandwich Islands;

but that no further licence or lease for whaling purposes shall be issued, with the exception of renewals of existing annual licences for two floating factories and two whale catchers, or for a third whale catcher, without the permission of the Governor in Council;

- (6) Require every licensed vessel at the end of the season to proceed direct to a port of entry and to report full particulars of the catch, including the number of barrels of oil and the quantity of baleen and guano obtained;
- (7) Prohibit licensees from killing or shooting any whale calf or any female whale which is accompanied by a calf;

(8) Reserve to the Crown any dead whale abandoned or thrown up on the sea-shore;

(9) Prescribe penalties for breach of the regulations.

(c) In consequence of the War and the necessity for obtaining a maximum output of oil, the Governor was empowered by regulations made on the 13th September, 1916, to authorize, during the continuance of the War, the departure from any or all of the provisions of the above-mentioned regulations as to him may seem fit and expedient.

(3) *Leases and Licences.*

(a) *Form of Lease.*—Some particulars of the whaling leases already granted in South Georgia will be found in Appendix I. In addition, the lessees are prohibited from taking, removing, appropriating, killing, or in any way using for their own benefit or for the benefit of any other person or persons, any product or animal whatsoever on the island of South Georgia or any island adjacent thereto. The right to win and take mineral oil is reserved to the Crown. The lease also specifies the number of vessels which may be employed, and, in the case of the later leases, requires the utilisation, without waste, of the whole carcass of all whales taken. The lessees are required (a) to keep an accurate record of meteorological observations and to furnish full particulars of such observations to the Governor of the Falkland Islands; (b) to keep in stock a reasonable quantity of coal and provisions to be supplied at cost price to any ship requiring coal or provisions; (c) to establish and maintain and exhibit two leading beacon lights as guides to shipping; (d) to give certain facilities of access to the shore on which the site leased is situate; and (e) to furnish to the Governor of the Falkland Islands an annual report respecting their operations.

(b) *Form of Licence.*—The licences issued under the Ordinance provide for the payment of the fee either at the Colonial Treasury or to the Crown Agents. It specifies the names of the vessels to be employed in taking whales; the limits within which they may be taken (i.e., in the territorial waters of a specified Dependency) and the harbours to be used; and it requires the licensee to render an accurate account of the number and description of the whales taken and the quantity of oil, bone, and guano obtained.

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APPENDIX IV.

Statistics of Catch of Whales at each of the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands and the number of Whale Catchers employed.

Season. (October— September.)	Dependency.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Humpback.	Other.	Total.	No. of Whale Catchers employed.	Notes.
1909-10	South Georgia*	37	4	26	58	3,391	—	3,516	17	* Complete statistics for the other Dependencies not available.
1910-11	South Georgia*	79	—	85	168	6,197	—	6,529	19	
1911-12	South Georgia ...	82	4	298	516	5,635	—	6,535	21	
	South Shetlands...	17	—	892	1,727	2,174	3†	4,813	30	† Bottlenose.
	South Orkneys ...	—	—	67	67	114	—	248	2(?)	
	South Sandwich‡	—	—	4	11	18	—	28	2(?)	‡ No whaling has taken place at the South Sandwich Islands since 1911-12.
1912-13	South Georgia ...	6	9	817	2,157	2,360	1†	4,850	21	
	South Shetlands...	3	—	1,761	2,300	976	4†	5,044	32	
	South Orkneys ...	—	—	199	442	188	—	779	8(?)	§ Sci.
1913-14	South Georgia ...	66	21	940	1,716	512	94§	3,349	21	
	South Shetlands...	[8]	—	[1,472]	[2,092]	[977]	—	5,259	32	[ ] Details not furnished by two Companies whose total catch amounted to 715 whales.
	South Orkneys ...	3	—	29	480	109	—	621	6(?)	
1914-15	South Georgia ...	20	1	2,318	1,940	823	—	5,097	22	
	South Shetlands...	2	—	1,796	1,679	656	—	4,133	32	
	South Orkneys ¶	—	—	94	275	10	2†	381	3	¶ No whaling operations have taken place at the South Orkneys since 1914-15.
1915-16	South Georgia ...	12	1	3,026	2,744	1,578	—	7,361	28**	** 22 to 15th February; 25 from that date to 15th March, and 28 thereafter till the winter.
	South Shetlands...	6	3	1,845	2,358	219	—	4,431	29	
1916-17	South Georgia ...	12	35	2,440	1,606	378	—	4,471	32	
	South Shetlands...	—	—	1,380	602	21	—	2,003	12(?)	

## APPENDIX V.

*Statistics of Catch at South Georgia.*

Season. (October— September.)	Period.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Humpback	Other.	Total.
1910-11*	October—March	49	—	76	97	5,299	—	5,521
	April—September	30	—	9	71	898	—	1,008
1911-12*	October—March	71	3	208	299	5,100	—	5,681
	April—September	11	1	90	217	535	—	854
1912-13*	October—March	2	7	212	1,724	2,251	Bottlenose, 1	4,197
	April—September	4	2	105	433	109	—	653
1913-14	October—December	1	11	140	700	204	—	1,056
	January—March	62	4	511	717	270	Sei, 90	1,654
	April—June	2	5	143	275	37	Sei, 4	466
	July—September	1	1	146	24	1	—	173
1914-15	October—December	—	1	498	777	344	—	1,620
	January—March	4	—	1,438	699	287	—	2,428
	April—June	16	—	288	415	192	—	911
	July—September	—	—	89	49	—	—	138
1915-16	October—December	1	1	851	876	680	—	2,409
	January—March	5	—	1,547	976	580	—	3,108
	April—June	5	—	487	771	314	—	1,577
	July—September	1	—	141	121	4	—	267
1916-17	October—December	1	18	643	586	217	—	1,465
	January—March	2	8	1,277	759	118	—	2,164
	April—June	7	2	365	228	43	—	645
	July—September	2	7	155	33	—	—	197

\* Separate figures for each quarter are not available in respect of the seasons 1910-11, 1911-12, and 1912-13.

APPENDIX VI.  
*Statistics of Production of Whale Oil, Baleen, and Guano, in each of the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands.*

Season. (October— September.)	Dependency.	Oil.		Baleen.		Guano.		Total Value.	Notes.
		Barrels.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Bags.	Value. £		
1909-10	South Georgia*	104,516	289,842	63	9,670	3,130	1,565	251,077	*Complete statistics for the other Dependencies not available.
1910-11	South Georgia*	189,368	508,526	104	21,277	16,050	9,912	534,715	
1911-12	South Georgia	212,262	496,951	173	19,905	48,787	23,056	539,912	
	South Shetlands	148,770	413,622	388	13,360	—	—	426,982	
	South Orkneys	7,000	18,656	20	400	—	—	19,056	
	South Sandwich†	1,000	2,500	—	—	—	—	2,500	†No whaling has taken place at the South Sandwich Islands since 1911-12.
1912-13	South Georgia	212,992	551,062	284	5,436	77,187	33,388	589,881	
	South Shetlands	198,410	599,886	309	8,100	950	570	608,556	
	South Orkneys‡	26,031	not stated.	—	—	—	—	—	
1913-14	South Georgia	176,487	464,320	148	11,060	85,775	37,480	512,860	
	South Shetlands	221,628	987,712	111	275	10,148	6,187	894,174	
	South Orkneys	21,750	87,000	20	30	—	—	87,030	
1914-15	South Georgia	270,507	731,926	21	1,470	85,393	87,321	770,717	
	South Shetlands	206,986	560,000	60	735	11,011	5,505	566,240	
	South Orkneys†	14,000	46,600	—	—	—	—	46,600	†No whaling operations have taken place at the South Orkneys since 1914-15.
1915-16	South Georgia	346,269	1,067,820	6	1,940	83,651	40,128	1,129,887	
	South Shetlands	212,536	778,564	117	1,530	18,952	13,266	793,360	
1916-17	South Georgia	268,327	1,010,740	31	1,750	9,705	2,601	1,015,091	
	South Shetlands	92,760	479,260	—	—	Nil.	Nil.	479,260	

NOTE.—In general the figures are taken from the periodical returns, but in some cases from the Blue Book Report. The valuations are conventional customs valuations, and are usually much below market prices. As indicated on page 5 of the memorandum the statistics do not represent the full output of baleen.

## APPENDIX VII.

*Total Catch of Whales and Production of Oil and Guano therefrom at (1) South Georgia and (2) South Shetlands. The Average Production per Whale in each year is also shown.*

(1) *South Georgia.*

Season. (October— September.)	Whales.	Oil.	Guano.	Average per Whale.	
				Oil.	Guano.
		Barrels.	Bags.	Barrels.	Bags.
1909-10	3,516	104,316	3,130	29·7	0·9
1910-11	6,529	189,863	16,050	29·0	2·5
1911-12	6,535	212,262	48,737	32·5	7·5
1912-13	4,850	212,992	77,187	43·9	15·9
1913-14	3,349	176,487	85,775	52·7	25·6
1914-15	5,097	270,507	85,393	53·1	16·8
1915-16	7,361	346,269	83,651	47·0	11·4
1916-17	4,471	268,327	9,705	60·0	2·2

(2) *South Shetlands.*

1911-12	4,813	148,770	—	30·9	—
1912-13	5,044	198,410	950	39·3	0·2
1913-14	5,259	221,628	10,148	42·1	1·9
1914-15	4,133	206,936	11,011	50·1	2·7
1915-16	4,431	212,536	18,952	48·0	4·3
1916-17	2,003	92,760	Nil.	46·3	Nil.

344/18

23th October, 18

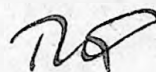
Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to forward to you the attached copy of the Secretary of State's despatch No 42 of the 17th July, 1918, together with a copy of a Memorandum prepared in the Colonial Office on the whaling industry of the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands.

2. I am to ask you whether you can favour His Excellency with any additions or suggestions, and to request that in replying to this letter you will be good enough to return the copy of the Memorandum enclosed herewith.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

J. Innes Wilson Esq., J.P.,

For Lay.

H.P.844/I8.



Fox Bay, West Falkland,

30th. November, 1918.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th. October last with an attached copy of the Secretary of State's despatch No.42 of the 17th. July, 1918, together with a copy of a memorandum prepared in the Colonial Office on the Whaling Industry of the Dependencies of this Colony.

2. In reply to paragraph 2 of your letter. There does not appear to be much to add to what has already been so well summarised in the memo. in question. In so far as I can recollect, the local statistics with regard to the early days of the industry are very meagre and certainly as regards South Georgia there was no definite system of recording such statistics previously to my arrival there in 1909. In September, 1912, I wrote and sent up a short general report on the whaling industry up to that time, and beg to suggest that perhaps some useful information may be found therein. I regret that I have not a copy of this report at hand, otherwise I would have attached it to this letter.

3. With regard to the South Orkney Islands. While the disadvantages to good whaling as set forth on page 3 C- of the memorandum are strictly correct, I am strongly of the opinion that these <sup>dis</sup>advantages could be mitigated by permitting the licence holder in that dependency

The Hon.,

The Colonial Treasurer,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

*Secretary*

*CSO  
316/12*

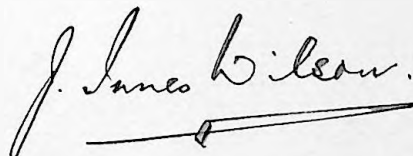
dependency to have at least four or six whale-catching vessels if he so desires, as well as a general modification of the whaling regulations as enforced in the other dependencies. As shown in the memorandum, the conditions both in the South Orkneys and South Sandwich Islands are very much different to either the South Shetlands or South Georgia, and I therefore firmly believe that by acting under the foregoing suggestion, more particularly with regard to the South Orkneys, there would be, at any-rate, a greater possibility of deriving some benefit from that ice-bound dependency.

4. I return the memorandum herewith as requested.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. James Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the printed name below.

J.P.

884/18

844/13

10th February, 19

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to request you to be so good as to furnish, in duplicate, a copy of Mr J. I. Wilson's Notes on Whaling in South Georgia, a copy of which was enclosed in his letter No S.G. 94/1912 of the 14th September, 1912, but which cannot now be found on record in this Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Colonial Secretary.

E. B. Finnie Esq.,  
Stipendiary Magistrate,  
South Georgia.



884/18.

844/18.

12th February, 1919.

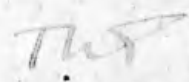
Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt on the 3rd instant of your letter of the 30th November, 1918, on the subject of the Colonial Office Memorandum on the Whaling Industry in the Falkland Islands' Dependencies, and to thank you for the information contained therein.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

J.I. Wilson, Esq., J.P.,

For Bay,

West Falkland.

884/18.



S.G. 32/19

The Magistrate's Office,  
South Georgia.

5th March, 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 844/19 of the 10th February, 1919, asking for a copy in duplicate of Mr J. I. Wilson's Notes on Whaling.

2. I enclose herewith two copies for His Excellency's information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*E. B. Binnie*

Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.