

C.S.

LIVE STOCK.
(Miscellaneous.)

NAT/FAU/2 # 25

19 40.

No. 136/40.

Govt. Naturalist.

SUBJECT.

19 40.

22nd July.

INTRODUCTION OF WILD ANIMALS AND
BIRDS INTO THE COLONY.

Previous Paper.

See 436/30

MINUTES.

Letter from Government Naturalist of 22. 7. 40.

A.C.S.,

Please arrange an interview with Govt. Naturalist and bring up this file. It seems to me however that the introduction of 'new' animals might have a file to itself. The experiment has been made in the past, possibly a long time ago - if so, are there any previous papers ?

(Inltd.) A. W. C.
27. 7. 40.

2. Minute from Agricultural Adviser of 6. 8. 40.
- 3-4. Minute from Government Naturalist of 4. 9. 40.
5. Excerpt from Minute from H.E. the Governor to Hon. C.S. of 23.12.40.

P.A.

Subsequent Paper.

H.C.S.

I would bring to your notice the matter of the introduction of assorted wild animals by Mr. James Miller. So far as I am aware he has introduced, on Sedge Island guanacos, rheas, foxes and skunks and on Weddell Island foxes. Foxes and skunks are both carnivores and I am deeply concerned at the destruction of the native fauna which must inevitably result from the presence of these creatures.

2. I am informed that the liberation of foxes on Weddell Id. has been disastrous not only as regards the birds but also as regards the sheep, lambs in particular. It is further stated that foxes have been liberated on small islands of the Weddell group. There is no information regarding the two outer Passage Ids. which, when I visited them in 1935, had never been used for sheep and might properly be regarded as virgin islands.

3. It is true that the species of fox introduced has no name for sheep killing in Patagonia but there is there a large population of small mammals.

4. Mr. C. Robertson, overseer of Weddell, is expected to arrive in Stanley shortly and I propose to interview him.

5. Meanwhile, I would state that the Live Stock Ordinance (1901) and the Consolidated Regulations made thereunder (1923) are specifically directed towards the prevention of disease in domestic animals and can scarcely be stretched to cover the general principle that the introduction of alien animals should be controlled.

6. I would venture to suggest that a short ordinance

See Red 84.
in 436/30.

giving general control over the importation of wild animals(in the widest sense) and control over those already introduced but now at large will be necessary and is urgently needed.

7. The Preservation of Wild Animals and Birds Ordinance (1912) is aimed solely against direct action by man and in any case this ordinance requires to be ~~xxx~~ brought up to date.

J. E. Hamilton

(J.E.Hamilton)

Govt.Naturalist

22-vll-40

No.

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

MINUTE.

6th August, 1940.

From Director of Agriculture

To The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

STANLEY.

The following is an extract from a report by Mr T. Beaty, Stock Inspector, on a tour of the West Falkland on s.s. "Fitzroy", July 15th-26th.

"As much information as possible was collected about the alleged lamb-worrying by foxes on Weddell Island. The subject was discussed with several people who had recently been on the island, and also with the manager and shepherds of the farm. All agreed that the foxes have multiplied rapidly and are now very numerous, and also that there is no doubt at all that the foxes do worry lambs, and have been seen to take them very near to the settlement. Apart from the lambs actually worried the shepherds seem to think that many more are probably driven into ditches when being chased by a fox. This may be somewhat exaggerated as a fox does not normally chase his food but stalks it. An instance was given by Mr McGill, manager, of one flock of 1,700 ewes which formerly used to give a lambing of between 70% and 80% where only about 400 lambs were marked last spring and he attributed this drop very largely to losses due to the foxes. Accounts of grown sheep being pulled down and worried by foxes are somewhat exaggerated but hoggets are known to have been attacked, and certainly any sheep which gets cast stands an extremely poor chance of escaping."

Director of Agriculture.

Does this apply to the ...

REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE LIVE STOCK ORDINANCE, 1922.

This Regulation may be cited as the Importation of Wild Animals Regulations, 1940.

1. For the purpose of this Regulation "Wild Animals" means any member of the animal kingdom other than the following domestic animals :-
Horses, Oxen, Sheep, Goats, Cats, Dogs, Guinea Pigs, Poultry, Ducks, Geese, Cage Birds, Fancy Rats and Mice, Asses, Mules and Swine.
2. The importation into the Colony of the Falkland Islands or its Dependencies of any wild animal except under licence issued by the Government is prohibited.
3. The liberation of any wild animal except under licence issued by the Government is prohibited.
4. Wild animals which have been imported prior to the date of this Regulation, may not be moved from one place (island) to another without licence from the Government.
5. Persons and/or their accredited agents who have imported wild animals, whether prior to the date of this regulation or under its authority, shall capture or destroy wild animals which have been liberated and/or their offspring and descendants where ever they may be found if required to do so by the Government. Such recapture or destruction may be required within a specified time.
6. Licences to permit the importation, liberation or movement of wild animals may be refused without reason being given.

? Penalties.

(? Are not liberated wild animals the property of the Crown - being "Ferae naturae" cf. reindeer in South Georgia).

Noted: A of Live Stock Regulations (Cons.) 1923 in (1) has been brought into line with schedule.

Query: Does "licence" transfer responsibility for losses to Stock or damage to pasture or fences that might be attrib. to wild animals from importer to Govt. - Sd. such be safeguarded,

(Inltd.) JGG.

(Sgd.) J. E. Hamilton.
Govt. Nat.
4. 9. 40.

A. G. S.

att^d submitted in
accordance with
verbal instructions
to Ag. At. and myself

J. H.

7. Nov.

48-117-60

Excerpt from Minute from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

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Mr. Miller refuses to believe that Foxes kill the lambs or sheep and says that there are no similar complaints from Beaver Island where foxes have been for the same length of time.

Mr. Miller also said that if the foxes kill lambs he would cease to breed at Weddell and would stock by dry sheep bought from the West Falkland farms !!

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(Inltd.) H. H. H.
23. 12. 40.