

1917.

Confidential

No.

23.

Governor

(SUBJECT).

1917

24th August

Previous Papers.

Fur Seal - Annual Report concerning,
required by Sec. of State -

ml. 806/17

(MINUTES).

Enclosed S/S's Conf. despatch of 9th May, 1917.

H.S. / With regard to the Annual Report on the Fur Seal
asked for by the S/S. I would recommend that

- (a) Mr. Binnie be asked to send in an Annual
Report for Sth Georgia
- (b) Mr. Wilson be asked to send in a report annually
for the Sth Shetlands, etc., on his return from those
latitudes
- (c) Mr. Wilson be asked to investigate and send in
an Annual Report for the West Falkland &
adjacent islands, to be prepared during the
period he passes at Fox Bay
- (d) a special officer be charged annually to
investigate and send in a report for the
East Falkland & adjacent islands, and
for this work I would suggest Customs
Officer Bennett.

With regard to the general question I think it

Subsequent Papers.

is clearly shown by past despatches and
Minute Papers that no proper protection can
be given the Fur Seal industry unless,
and until, this Government has a
Revenue boat at its constant disposition.
Seal poaching appears to have existed
here from the days of Governor Moody,
and the preventive service to have
decreased rather than increased in
efficacy since then.

C.S.
/cs.
27.8.17.

Hon^{ble} Col Sec.

Please instruct Magistrates
South Georgia, and West Falkland and South
Shetland, as you suggest.

31.8.17
C.S.
/cs.

Letters sent as instructed

vide open ltr. 806/17

C.S.
/cs.

C 47/17.

Confidential.

Honourable Colonial Secretary,

Copy of Secretary of States Confidential
despatch of the 9th May, 1917, attached for your
information.

What action do you advise to give effect
to the Secretary of States directions in the matter
of an annual report on the fur seal.



Governor.

24th August, 1917.

COPY.

C.47/17.

Falkland Islands.

Confidential.

Downing Street,

9th May, 1917.

Sir,

With reference to my predecessor's confidential despatch of the 15th December, 1915, and to my despatch No.34 of the 16th April, I have the honour to inform you that I shall be obliged if you will in future furnish an annual report giving all particulars obtainable in regard to the condition of the fur seal rookeries in, and adjacent to the Falkland Islands.

2. You no doubt realise that in these rookeries the Colony possesses an asset which might acquire great value. I take this opportunity of expressing the opinion that, should it prove impracticable to carry out the formation of a Company such as that contemplated by Sir Ernest Shackleton, it will be incumbent on the Colonial Government after the war to undertake the protection of the fur seals even although considerable expense should be involved.

3. It might in the future be possible to re-establish the fur seals in localities where they formerly abounded but where they have long since been exterminated.

I have etc.....

(Sgd.) Walter H.Long.

GOVERNOR

W.D.YOUNG, ESQR, C.M.G.

&c. &c. &c.