

C.S.

Whaling. Reports.
No. 700.

1919.

S. W. South Georgia

SUBJECT.

1919.

22nd April

*Whaling Report, South Georgia,
Season ended 31st March, 1919.*

Previous Paper.

88/19.

MINUTES.

*Report forwarded to Sec. of State under
cover of despatch L= 121 of 19/9/19.*

*AD.
19-9-19*

Subsequent Paper.

250/20

700/19

15 FEB 1919
FALKLAND

The Magistrate's Office,
South Georgia.

22nd April, 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith my report on the Whaling Industry of South Georgia for the season ended 31st March, 1919, for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

2. During the season under review a total catch of 2476 whales was made, yielding 131,794 barrels of oil including Sperm (vide Schedule B attached), and valued approximately at £700,000, after deducting expenses, though the value given by the Companies is £572,304, which of course is very much underestimated.

3. Comparing these figures with the catch of 1917-18, a decrease is shown of 275 whales, 50,516 barrels of oil and 5 3/4 tons of Right whale bone, or a total decrease in valuation of £311,748. The Compania Argentina de Pesca manufactured 5,930 bags of Guano and Bone meal while the Ocean Whaling Company manufactured 746 bags.

4. The following Statement shows the catch of whales and production for the past four seasons for comparative purposes.

Year.	Whales. No.	Oil. Barrels.	Bone. Tons.	Guano. Bags.	Total value. £.
1915-16	5517	258,782	6 1/4	70,663	863,064
1916-17	3629	197,213	3/4	8,640	715,312
1917-18	2751	182,310	6	-	1,011,748
1918-19	2476	131,794	3/8	6,676	572,304 ?

Honourable
The Colonial
Secretary,
Falkland Islands

2.

During the Season the following Companies operated:

South Georgia	Leith Harbour	10	Catchers	
Tonsberg	Husvik "	4	"	& 1 towing.
Stn. Whaling &c.	Stromness & Prince Clafs	5	"	" 1 "
Arg. de Pesca.	Grytviken	4	"	" 1 "
Ocean.	New Fortune Bay	4	"	" 1 "

A total of 27 catchers and 4 tow boats as against 34 catchers employed last year.

5. For comparative purposes the average No. of barrels extracted per whale is here shown, for the past four seasons.

Company.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Sc. Georgia.	46.5	55.4	67.3	46.4
Tonsberg.	46.5	53.3	70.0	56.6
S. Whaling &c.	-	-	53.0	51.7
Arg. de Pesca	37.5	53.0	72.0	56.9
Ocean.	49.5	60.0	75.0	66.4

Average for the total catch.

1915-16	46.9
1916-17	54.3
1917-18	66.0
1918-19	53.2

The poor production is caused by the marked scarcity of Blue whales and the poor condition of Finners.

Guano and Bone Meal.

6. Since the outbreak of war in 1914, very little time has been given to the manufacture of Guano, except by the Compañia Argentina de Pesca who in the meantime had erected a Drier and Guano Mill and during the bad weather made several trials

with a produce

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produce of 5930 bags. In view of the removal of restrictions after the war, the Stations are getting into working order their Guano Plants, so that at the beginning of next season they should all be in a position to use every particle of whale matter from the catch of the whalers held in pre-war times.

Whale Baleen.

7. During the season only four Right whales were taken, yielding nearly one ton of Baleen, though the return shows only 3/8 of a ton the Tonsberg Company omitted to include this item.

Observations.

8. The non success of the season's output is of course due to the scarcity of Blue whales; there were plenty of Finners but the quality of this specie, as a rule, is so poor that it requires about three to equal a Blue whale in ordinary good condition. Humpbacks in number were about the same as last year and though I asked the Companies to refrain from taking them as far as possible, 64 were taken probably on account of the others being so scarce. The weather conditions throughout the season were abnormal; for weeks at a time the whale catchers were unable to do any catching, though generally during the stormy weather many whales were seen. The Gunners pronounce the summer to be the worst on record. The month of January was really the saviour of the season and though weather conditions were bad and much gear was destroyed and lost, a good catch was made. In February the Blue whale again left the vicinity and was only

taken

4.

taken at about a distance of 70-80 miles off shore. Occasionally schools were seen near land but chiefly in bad weather. Labour troubles were rife, each Station in turn being affected. Catching and boiling down was stopped and was the cause of, to a considerable extent, the decrease in the average number of barrels per whale. The two Stations not so badly affected were the Argentina de Pesca and Ocean, hence the good average output per whale of 56 and 66 respectively. If the men were only engaged for the season from October to April as in South Shetlands, I am sure it would have a good effect for the men, knowing that at the end of the season they were free to go home, would work better and give less trouble. The competition among the different Stations is naturally strong and each tries to keep going as long as possible. Therefore I am of the opinion, and I am not alone in this, that if a 'close season' were adopted during the winter months, it would force the Companies to adopt the South Shetland regime of sending the men away after the summer season and at the same time it would give the whales a chance to recover after the increased number of catchers used since the outbreak of war. During my periodical visits to the Stations I have scented the feeling of the Managers in this respect and one and all agree that there should be 'some months taken off each year' say from the middle of May to the 30th September.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. Binnie

Stipendiary Magistrate

Whaling

Schedule A.

Scuth Georgia.

Statement shewing the number and kind of Whales captured by each Company during the period 1st October to 31st March, 1919.

Company.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	H'back.	Sei.	Total.
Sc. Georgia	-	6	322	526	18	1	873
Tonsberg	1	1	220	197	16	-	435
Sthn. Whlg. &c.	1	3	237	262	12	1	516
Arg. de Pesca	-	3	205	133	10	-	351
Ocean.	2	-	176	114	8	1	301
	4	13	1160	1232	64	3	2476
Same period 1917-18	25	30	1816	780	58	42	2751

Statement shewing Number and kind of Whales captured during each month.

Month.	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	H'back.	Sei.	Total.
October, '18	-	3	116	256	-	-	375
November, "	-	2	182	181	10	-	375
December, "		3	294	143	23	-	463
January, '19	3	3	396	296	20	1	719
February, "			113	222	6		341
March, "	1	2	59	134	5	2	203
	4	13	1160	1232	64	3	2476

E. B. B. B. B.

Schedule B.

Statement shewing the total output of oil etc, by each Company during the period.

Company.	No of Whales.	Barrels Cil.	Tons. Baleen.	Bags Guanc.	£. Value.
Sc. Georgia	873	40517	-	-	162068
Tonsberg Co.	435	24607	-	-	73821
S.W. & Sealing	516	26695	$\frac{1}{8}$		133475
Cia. de Pesca	351	19985	-	5930	102890
Ocean Co. y	301	19990	$\frac{1}{2}$	746	100250
	2476.	131794	$\frac{3}{8}$	6676	572504

Statement shewing various grades of oil produced:

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Sperm & Cil.
Sc. Georgia	21790	2652	15803	272
Tonsberg Co.	9405	2893	6141	44
S.W. & Seal.		13284	1231	-
Cia. de Pesca	5307	2246	4869	116
Ocean Co. y	2900	6429	1476	-
	39402	24852	16369	432

E. B. B. B.
Magistrate.

W H A L I N G.
 South Georgia.

1918- 1919-.

The South Georgia Company Limited.

The following statement shews the number and kind of whale captured by the above company with the quantity of the various grades of oil etc, extracted therefrom, during the period from 1st. October 1918 to 31st. March 1919. -

No. and kind of whale:

	<u>Right:</u>	<u>Sperm:</u>	<u>Blue:</u>	<u>Fin:</u>	<u>H'Back:</u>	<u>Sei:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
1918:							
October:	0	1	26	158	0	0	185
November:	0	0	60	61	3	0	124
December:	0	1	80	48	9	0	138
1919:							
January:	0	3	112	114	3	0	232
February:	0	0	31	92	3	0	126
March:	0	1	13	53	0	1	68
	0	6	322	526	18	1	873

O I L etc.:

<u>Quality:</u>	<u>No. of Barrels:</u>	<u>Right Whale Bone:</u>	<u>Guano:</u>
No: 0.	21790	0	0
" 1.	0		
" 2.	2652		
" 3/4.	15803		
Sperm & Sp. Oil.	272		

Estimated value of total production: £ 162068- 0- 0.
 Amount of Oil produced during the period: 40517 Barrels.
 Amount of Oil exported " " " 36511 Barrels.
 Amount awaiting shipment on 31st. March: 6341 Barrels.

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate. -

Date 31/3/19

Henri N. Henriksen
 Manager.

W H A L I N G 1 9 1 8 / 1 9 1 9

SOUTH GEORGIA.

Period from 1st of Octobre 1918 to 31st March 1919.

The following statement shows the number and kind of whales captured with the amount of oil of various grade, guano etc., obtained therefrom by the Tönsbergs Whaling Company during the above period.

Whales, No. and kind.

	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	H'back.	Total
Octobre,	0	0	16	41	0	57
November,	0	0	41	32	5	78
December,	0	1	64	22	3	90
January,	1	0	68	50	3	122
February,	0	0	19	44	2	65
March,	0	0	12	8	3	23
Total:	1	1	220	197	16	435

Oil etc.

	Oil brls.	Guano, bags.	Whale-bone, tons.
No.	0	9405	
"	I	2893	
"	II	6141	
"	III/IV	6124	0
Sperm	10		
Sperm Oil	34		
	24,607		Total Value: £ 73,821-0-0

Total output of oil during the above period..... 24,607 brls
 Amount of oil exported - " - 26,200 "
 Amount of oil awaiting shipment 9,264 "
 No. of whalecatchers employed..... 4 .

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

Husvik Harbour 31st of March 1919.

Harald Bernitsen
 Manager.

W H A L I N G .

South Georgia

1918-1919.

THE SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING CO LTD.

The following statement shows the number and kind of whales captured with the quantity of the various grades of oil extracted therefrom by the above Company during the period from 1st October 1918 to 31st March 1919.

No and kind of whale :

	<u>Right</u>	<u>Sperm</u>	<u>Blue</u>	<u>Fin</u>	<u>H'Back</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
October		2	25	29		56
November		1	34	44	2	81
December			66	42	4	112
January			78	66	(6 - 1 Sei	151
February			25	45		70
March	1		9	36		46
	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>262</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>516</u>

OIL ETC.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Quantity	Barrels	Right whale bone	Guano
No. 0	13284	300 lbs.	NIL.
No. 1	13284		
No. 2	1231		
No. 3/4	12180		
Sperm & Sperm oil			
TOTAL :	<u>26695 Barrels.</u>	<u>300 lbs.</u>	<u>NIL</u>

Total estimated value of production: £ 133475.---

Amount of oil Produced during the period 26695 Barls.
 Amount of Oil exported during the period 9279 "-
 Amount awaiting shipment on 31st March 22884 "-

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

THE SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING CO LTD

S. J. Anderson
 Manager.

W H A L I N G.

South Georgia 1919 COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA.

The following statement shews the number and kind of Whale captured by the above named company with the quantity of the various grades of oil etc. obtained from during the period from:

	No and kind of whale.					TOTAL		
	RIGHT	SPERM	BLUE	FIN	H.BACK		SEI	
October			33	22			55	
November		1	30	18			49	
December		1	39	16	4		60	
January			77	32	4		113	
February			11	26	1		38	
March		1	15	19	1		36.	
			<u>3</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>351</u>
	O I L etc.							

Quantity. No of barrels. Right whale bone Guano bags

No 0. 5307

No. 1 2246

No. 2. 4869

No. 3/4 7447

Sperm & oil 116.

5930

Estimated value of total production £ 102890

Amount of oil produced during the period 19985 barrels

Amount of oil exported during the period 3985 barrels

Amount awaiting shipment on 31st March 17825 do.

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

31st March 1919

COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA
SOCIEDAD ANONIMA

Walter H. ...

Manager.

W H A L I N G.

South Georgia.

1919. Ocean Whaling Co.

The statement shews the number and kind of whale captured by the above named company with the quantity of the various grades of oil etc, obtained therefrom during the period from:

No and kind of whale.

	Right	Sperm	Blue	Fin	H.back	Sei	Total.
1918							
October			16	6			22
November			17	26			43
December			45	15	3		63
1919							
January	2		61	34	4		101
February			27	15			42
March			10	18	1	1	30
	2		176	114	8	1	301

O I L etc.

Quality	No of barrels.	Right whale bone	Guano Bags.
No. 0.	2900	300 kilos	746
No. 1.	6429		
No. 2.	1476		
No. 3/4.	9185		

Sperm & Oil.

Estimated value of total production	£	<u>100250</u>
Amount of oil produced during the period		<u>19990 barrels</u>
do exported	do	<u> </u>
Amount awaiting shipment on 31st March		<u>25619 barrels</u>

I solemnly declare that the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

1 - 4 - 1919. date

 Manager