

WHALING

SGA/WHA/2 # 10

(Reports)

1921

C.S.

No. 879/21

Magistrate,
South Georgia.

SUBJECT.

192 1

20th June,

Previous Paper.

532/20

SOUTH GEORGIA.

Report on the Whaling Season
ended 31st May, 1921.

MINUTES.

Letter from Magistrate dated 20th June, 1921...Encl...(1)

Y.E.

Submitted.

2. A later report from the Tonsberg Company in
C.S. 874/21 sent with this shews that:

(a) 28 more barrels of grade 3/4 oil were produced
during the season viz: 7219 in all.

(b) 24 ^{less} ~~more~~ bags of Guano were produced viz: 2290.

(c) 701 [^] less barrels of oil were exported viz: 24334

(d) 649 less barrels of oil are awaiting shipment
viz: 9875

3. Should the corrections be given in the
covering despatch to the S.G. please?

Yes please J.P.

H.H.H. 20/9/21

H.C.S.

(with 874/21)

*Will you please send this report to your
Honorables for examination + comment.*

*J.M.
27 Sept 1921*

Subsequent Paper.

195/22

569/22

Govt. Naturalist

Accordingly

Hottt 23/9/21

Hon. Col. Sec.

This season appears to have been an uneventful one, but very successful according to the statement of the Inspector (page 6. Observations).

2. Under the same head are recorded the captures of two female Sperm Whales and a "Bottenore" which are interesting on account of their rarity.

The size of these female Sperm Whales is very remarkable, 60 feet is regarded as a nearly maximum length for a male specimen and the female is always described as being much less in size. Mr. Binnie assures me that he has no doubt as to the accuracy of the sex determination although he did not see the animals himself, in spite of this I find it difficult to place complete faith in his report.

Encl (2)

3. I attach a graph of the Blue and Fin Whale catches and of the combined oil production for these species; the Blue-Fin oil has been arrived at by allowing 20 barrels for each Humpback (as I did in my S. Sheppard Report for 1920-21) 60 barrels for each Right Whale; a figure taken from the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Dependencies p 60.

This figure is taken because as a rule the S. George's Right Whales are not very large; but since I understand that Sei Whales are

of good size I have taken from the same place the highest value for them 15 barrels, Mr. Binnie said they may be "as good as a fin".

4. It will be observed that the Blue Whale curve shows a double peak, and that for the fin whales a single one.

The period, ~~December~~ - January, when Blue Whales were scarce in South Georgia corresponds with that of their maximum in S. Shepland, but there is ^{at present} no evidence to show that the herds are the same.

5. The Oil curve deserves attention in ~~December~~, December and January. From November to January. Fin Whales were rapidly becoming more abundant while Blue Whales were becoming less so, in spite of this the oil average increases by 10 barrels (approx.) during December but during January while the Fin Whales were at their maximum and Blue Whales were not varying in numbers the average oil production fell by about 20 barrels per whale. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that excessive catching led to waste.

6. In this connection it would be interesting to know to what extent evisceration of the carcasses is practised and also if a disembowelled carcass will float.

The magistrate states in his paper 6. that eviscerated carcasses do not decompose and lose value to any appreciable extent, but I do not feel that there is any assurance that this is so, since my ob-

observations lead me to believe that the mass of a whale carcass is sufficient to retain the heat generated by decomposition for a long time, which thermal capacity in turn favours further decomposition.

The Norwegian whaling times of December 1920 states "Very soon after the whale is killed the well known decomposition process begins - the whale "burns" as the whalers say. The further the decomposition is advanced when the whale comes under treatment at the station the less and more indifferent oil is produced.

During the winter hunting in South Georgia it often happens that the whale is caught very far from the stations and not seldom on the other side of the island. The whale becomes old before it arrives at the station.

7. The guano production does not compare favourably with that of the earlier years - being only 11,511 bags against an average of 82,951 bags for the four seasons 1912-16.

I was informed last season that there is no profit in the manufacture of this substance which is at any rate a by-product.

8. The catch of whales per boat (catcher) is 33.55 per month, against 40.66 per month in South Shetland; but it should be remembered that in the beginning and end of the South Georgia season operations are very liable to be hampered by bad weather.

The catches in September and October were very low and that for May just over half that for April.

J. G. Hamilton.

Govt. Naturalist

5th October 1921.

P. S. Mr. Binnie informs me that eviscerated carcasses will float and

5

the practice of disembowelling them
is in general use, and further that it
is only the "middle of the back" i.e. the region
above the viscera which is kept back, after the
head and tail have been used when the
animal is new.

A piece of such relatively small
size would cool much more quickly and
therefore would not decompose as
rapidly as a complete carcass (even
if it had been eviscerated) and it was to
the entire carcass that my remarks in para
6 were and are intended to apply.

D. Hamilton

Y.S.

Submitted

~~10/2/21~~ 7/2/21

Repts + D.S. Hamiltons Minute to go to S of S with
(and graph)
formal covering despatch.

D.H.

7 Oct 1921

Mr. Hamilton,

Will you be kind enough to let me have
two copies of your Minute and the paper for
the Sec. of State

~~10/2/21~~ 10/2/21

Hon. Col. Sec.

of minute, two of graph
Three copies, herewith please. I have embodied the
p.s. in para. 6. and added the sentence "but sometimes the
tail is also left attached)" and therefore add a new copy
12-10-21
D. Hamilton Port. Naturalist

Typed copy of Mr. Hamilton's minute

Encl (3)

Despatch No 89 to S of S. 14 Oct 1921

Encl (3)

Yr. Despatch submitted

14 Oct. 1921

(1)

CB. 879/21

S.G. 75/21.

Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia.

20th. June, 1921.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Report on the Whaling Industry in South Georgia for the season 1920 - 21 ending 31st. May 1921, for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

2. The Regulations providing for a Whaling Open Season and Closed Season came into force in 1920 and in accordance with the Regulations the whaling commenced on the 15th. September 1920.

3. During the season, 15th. September 1920 to 31st. May 1921 a total catch of 3705 whales was made, yielding 176,997 barrels of oil and 11,811 bags of Guano, the total value of which production being £890,980; (Oil £884,985 and Guano £5995), an average value of a little over £240 per whale.

4. The following table shows the number of Companies operating, their situation and nationality, and the number of whale-catchers used.

<u>Company.</u>	<u>Nationality.</u>	<u>Situation.</u>	<u>No. of boats.</u>
South Georgia Co. Ltd.	British.	Leith Hbr.	4.
S. Whaling & Sealing Co.	"	Prince Claf's Hr.	4.
Vesfeld Coy.	Norwegian.	Stranness Hbr.	5.
Tonsberg Coy.	"	Husvik Hbr.	3.
Cia. Argentina de Pesca.	Argentine.	Grytviken.	4.

showing a total of 20 catchers as against 27 in the

(2).

in the

preceding season.

5. The average cut-out of oil in barrels per whale during the season was 47.8 as against 49.8 in the 1919 - 20 season (October to March), a decrease of two barrels per whale. However, taking the months October to March this season and comparing the average with the corresponding months in 1919-20 there is a decrease of 6.2 barrels, showing that the months of April and May have been the only months in which a good average has been obtained. In September only 54 whales were caught which does not materially affect the averages.

5. The decrease has been mainly due to the Fin whales being in very poor condition throughout the whole season but it is difficult to say whether waste has not contributed to a certain extent. On several occasions on visits to stations I have noticed a considerable number of whales lying flensed at buoys, but I do not think there has been any deliberate waste of matter as in no month has any one company caught more whales than it could reasonably dispose of. At times there is bound to be more whales caught than can be worked up at once but this is counteracted by the times when few are obtained, and whales with the viscera removed do not decompose and lose value to any appreciable extent.

6. THE SOUTH GEORGIA COY. LTD.

During the season the above company operated with four whalers as against six last season. The total catch made by the company was 843 whales from which 40,206

(5).

from which 40,206

barrels of oil were produced, giving an average of 47.7 barrels per whale. It was unfortunate that the "Cid" whaling station of this company was almost completely wrecked by an avalanche during the winter of 1920. This, however, did not interfere with the ordinary working of whales with regard to cut-put but the Guano mill was completely wrecked and in consequence no guano was manufactured. This season the company introduced British labour, about fifty men from the Shetland Islands being employed with success. There were no labour troubles during the season.

7. THE SCUTHERN WHALING & SEALING COY.

This company was considerably handicapped this year owing to the late arrival of its whalers and also to the closing down of the station a month before the expiration of the season. Notwithstanding the very short time this company operated the catch of whales was very good, and the production of oil per whale was the highest for the season. In all 628 whales were taken and the oil obtained 31,529 barrels, giving an average of 50.2 barrels per whale. The averages during the first three months were very poor, but in February, March, and April they obtained the highest average in each month. No whaling was done in May. No guano was manufactured by the company, probably owing to the plant being incomplete. I have not been able to see the Acting Manager to ascertain the reason.

The company operated with four catchers. There were no labour troubles during the working season. Some trouble

(4).

Some trouble

arose between the management and the men afterwards owing to the early closing down of the works.

8. VESTFOLD COMPANY.

The amalgamated Sandefjord and Ocean Whaling Companies operated for the first year under the name of the Vestfold Whaling Coy. at Stromness Bay. The company was unfortunate in having to make a late start as it was not until the 20th. November that their transport s.s. "PERTH" arrived with the whaling crew. The plant of the Ocean Whaling company's station was dismantled and transported to Stromness Harbour for re-erection. The s.s. "PERTH" brought the material from New Fortune Bay to Stromness Harb. early in February 1921 so that the company did not have the use of the additional plant until the end of the season.

The company operated with five whalers and a total catch of 877 whales was made, yielding 38,000 barrels of oil, an average of 44.47 barrels per whale, and 2687 bags of Guano. This oil average is the lowest for the season but it is considerably better than was expected, considering the company worked the catch of five whalers for at least half its period of operation with a limited boiler capacity. It is, at present, difficult to say whether the company's station is capable of working up the catch of five whalers, for this season's returns cannot be taken as a true index of its capacity. During the season I had

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I had occasion to visit the station several times and numbers of whale carcasses were to be observed at the buoys. These carcasses would be, eventually, worked up with a small percentage of loss only as the eviscerated carcass does not deteriorate rapidly. The company's greatest catch of whale was in January 1921 when 221 whales were taken making roughly an average of seven whales per day, a number which the company could easily dispose of, Vide C.S.No. 88/19. The returns for next season will provide more reliable data to determine whether or not the catch of five whalers can be worked up.

MCNSBERG COMPANY.

This company, as in previous years, has done remarkably well, and the total production is very nearly as good as some of the companies operating with four catchers. The station is a particularly well equipped one and the three whalers used are equal to the best in the Island.

During the season 33,645 barrels of oil were produced from a total catch of 695 whales, giving an average of 48.41 barrels per whale, and 2814 bags of guano were manufactured.

COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA.

During the season this company operated with four boats and a total catch of 662 whales was made, producing 32,617 barrels of oil; an average of 49.27 barrels per whale. There was also a production of 6815 bags of guano.

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The station is at present probably the most up-to-date and best equipped in the Dependency but the company are not too well off in the matter of whalers, two of those in use during the season being very old and of an obsolete type, and to this, no doubt, the small catch of whales made, is due. The company, however, have I believe, two new whalers building in Norway which are expected at the commencement of the 1921-1922 season.

OBSERVATIONS.

The season on the whole may be said to have been a very successful one. Whales were very numerous after December but in that month and the preceding months they were very scarce and those caught were in very poor condition and difficult to take. Several of the whales taken during these months were found to be empty, little or no food being found in the stomach when opened. This may explain the difficulty of catching. The whales were travelling very fast and probably were caught while passing to other seas because of the scarcity of whale food around the Island. In January the best catch was made with February the next best month, but the whales caught were practically all Fin whales and in very poor condition as the averages in the appended statements show. December had a very fair average but the other months from September to February all show poor averages. In March and April the Blue whales were much more numerous though the majority of whales taken were Fin whales. It was unfortunate

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was unfortunate that in May the weather was generally bad otherwise a good catch would have resulted, as whales, both Blue and Fin, were very numerous though a little shy. The gunners have reported on several occasions that whales have been more plentiful at times than at any period during the last five or six years, and this also applies in the case of Humpback whales which were very numerous throughout the season. Sperm whales were also fairly plentiful and the Compañia Argentina de Pesca report the taking of two females of this species, the first occasion on which females are known to have been taken. I am informed that the female Sperm is much smaller than the male but the two in question were 53 and 61 feet in length respectively, which is usually the length of the males caught here. I thought, therefore, that a mistake had been made but the Manager assures me that they were both females.

The capture of a Bottle-nose whale was also made by one of the Leith Harbcur whalers. It was about twentythree feet in length. This is, I believe, the second time one has been taken in South Georgia, the first occasion being many years ago. The blubber was very white but thin and the yield of oil must have been small.

The amount of guano manufactured is very meagre, no serious attempt having been made by any of the companies to work up the residue from the meat boilers, with the exception of the Compañia Argentina de Pesca to the which

(8).

to the which

company more than half the amount produced during the season is due. The South Georgia Coy. Ltd. were unable to manufacture through having the guano mill wrecked during the winter of 1920. The Southern Whaling & Sealing Coy. also produced no guano, having no mill. This company were unable to procure a guano plant owing to the war, I believe but though this excuse no longer holds good, nothing further has apparently been done in the matter. The Tonsberg company produced small quantities during three months of the season, totaling 2314 bags, and the Vestfold Company manufactured guano in May only - 2682 bags.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Barlas
(W. Barlas)

Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Honourable,
Colonial Secretary.

S t a n l e y.

(1).

The following statement shows the number and species of whales caught during the season 1920 - 1921 by each company.

	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	Hump.	Sei.	Total.
South Georgia Coy.	3.	4.	260.	536.	30.	8.	843.
S. Whaling & Sealing Co.	4.	3.	144.	443.	19.	15.	628.
Westfold Coy.	2.	3.	155.	622.	22.	7.	811.
Tensberg Coy.	3.	11.	167.	493.	17.	4.	695.
Cia. Argentina de Pesca.	0.	9.	146.	490.	14.	3.	662.
Totals.	12.	30.	872.	2652.	102.	37.	3706.

(11).

The following statement shows the amount of oil of various grades produced by each company during the season 1920 - 1921.

	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Sperm.	Spm. Oil.	Total
South Georgia Coy.	20926.	0.	1651.	17395.	90.	144.	40306.
S. Whaling & Sealing Co.	0.	12995.	1757.	16676.	0.	98.	31526.
Westfold Coy.	19062.	370.	1940.	17607.	121.	0.	39000.
Tensberg Coy.	12808.	1014.	12026.	7191.	526.	0.	33645.
Cia. Arg. de Pesca.	8281.	7686.	15802.	486.	133.	229.	32617.
Total	61157.	22065.	33176.	59258.	870.	471.	176997.

The following statement shows the number and class of whale caught in each month.

	Right.	Sperm.	Blue.	Fin.	H'back.	Sci.	Total.
September.	0.	0.	15.	19.	0.	0.	34.
October.	0.	5.	59.	35.	0.	0.	99.
November.	1.	10.	100.	176.	26.	0.	313.
December.	2.	6.	41.	223.	21.	1.	294.
January.	0.	3.	42.	736.	25.	0.	806.
February.	1.	0.	94.	617.	7.	6.	725.
March.	5.	6.	237.	365.	3.	29.	645.
April.	3.	0.	206.	330.	15.	1.	555.
May.	0.	0.	78.	151.	5.	0.	234.
	12.	30.	872.	2652.	102.	37.	3705.

(IV). The following statement shows the amount of oil of various grades produced during each month.

	No. 0.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3/4.	Sperm.	Sp. Oil.	Total.	Average.
September.	426.	181.	769.	100.	0.	0.	1496.	44.
October.	2235.	260.	1082.	1065.	222.	43.	4907.	49.6.
November.	5458.	1886.	3261.	3606.	217.	214.	13722.	43.8.
December.	4978.	1875.	3255.	5425.	201.	121.	15855.	53.9.
January.	8963.	3579.	4024.	8896.	74.	46.	25982.	31.5.
February.	10907.	3950.	5028.	10930.	0.	0.	30873.	42.6.
March.	11546.	4285.	5819.	11235.	156.	47.	33088.	51.3.
April.	11072.	4452.	6620.	11573.	0.	0.	33717.	60.8.
May. June.	5572.	1797.	4298.	6290.	0.	0.	17957.	76.7.
Totals.	61157.	22065.	33176.	59258.	870.	471.	176997.	

(V). The following statement shows the average number of barrels of oil per whale, produced in each month by each Co.

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.
Sc. Georgia Co.	20.6.	62.8.	46.4.	47.2.	35.1.	41.7.	53.2.	52.8.	70.7.
S. Whaling Co.			36.8.	49.2.	31.1.	52.8.	60.1.	27.8.	
Vesfeld Co.			34.1.	62.6.	27.4.	42.2.	46.3.	50.8.	79.4.
Tonsberg Co.	34.1.	45.5.	46.2.	60.7.	34.5.	37.3.	51.4.	60.4.	79.7.
Cia. Arg. de Pesca	74.5.	55.4.	45.2.	51.2.	31.5.	40.4.	48.5.	65.1.	78.7.

(VI).

The following statement shows the average number of barrels produced by each company.

South Georgia Coy.Ltd.	47.69.
Southern Whaling & Sealing Co.	50.20.
Vestfold Coy.	44.47.
Tonsberg Coy.	48.41.
Cia. Argentina de Pesca.	49.27.

(VII).

The following statement shows the number of bags of Guano produced by each Company.

South Georgia Coy.Ltd.	nil.
Southern Whaling & Sealing Co.	"
Vestfold Coy.	2682 bags.
Tonsberg Coy.	2314. "
Cia. Argentina de Pesca.	6815 "

The South Georgia Company Limited

Leith Harbour, S. G. 16th. of June 1921.

Number of whales captured by the above company and quantities of the various grades of oil produced the season 1920-1921:

	Right:	Sperm:	Blue:	Fin:	H'Back:	Sei:	Total:
September:	0	0	5	6	0	0	11
October:	0	0	23	10	0	0	33
November:	0	2	39	51	8	0	100
December:	2	1	7	39	7	0	56
January:	0	0	10	148	5	0	163
February:	0	0	17	156	3	1	157
March:	1	1	61	54	0	7	124
April:	0	0	66	57	6	0	129
May:	0	0	32	37	1	0	70
<u>Sum:</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>538</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>843</u>

Oil Production:

	C.	2%	3.	4.	Sperm:	Sp. Oil:	Total:
Septbr.:	98	23	100	0	0	0	221 m.
Octbr.:	1320	160	593	0	0	0	2073 "
Novbr.:	2800	120	1458	125	56	82	4641 "
Decbr.:	1399	237	556	394	23	32	2641 "
January:	2883	218	2617	0	0	0	5718 "
February:	3456	0	3084	10	0	0	6550 "
March:	3510	120	2924	5	11	30	6600 "
April:	3630	120	3038	0	0	0	6808 "
May:	1450	625	2030	150	0	0	4253 "
June:	360	24	260	51	0	0	695 "
<u>Sum:</u>	<u>20926</u>	<u>1651</u>	<u>16680</u>	<u>735</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>40266 r.</u>

Whale Oil exported during the season: 16350 Barrels

" " awaiting shipment the 16th. of June: 23856 "

We solemnly declare the foregoing particulars are to the best of our knowledge accurate. -

The South Georgia Company Limited

L. H. Hansen

Manager.

WHALING

SOUTH GEORGIA, PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1ST 1920 TO APRIL 30TH 1921.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT SHOWS THE NUMBER AND KIND OF WHALES CAPTURED BY THE SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING COMPANY LIMITED DURING THE ABOVE PERIOD, TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNT OF VARIOUS GRADES OF OIL ETC. OBTAINED THEREFROM:

W H A L E R S

	RIGHT.	SPEM.	BLUE.	FIN.	HUMBACK.	SEI.	TOTAL.
1920							
OCTOBER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOVEMBER	1	3	14	33	8	0	59
DECEMBER	0	0	10	64	7	0	81
1921							
JANUARY	0	0	11	162	3	0	176
FEBRUARY	0	0	23	100	1	3	127
MARCH	1	0	44	53	0	12	110
APRIL	2	0	42	31	0	0	75
TOTAL	4	3	144	443	19	15	628

O I L P R O D U C T I O N .

	(NIL)	NO. I	NO. II	NO. III	NO. IV	SPEM OIL	TOTAL.
OCTOBER							
NOVEMBER		1071	0	1001	0	98	2170
DECEMBER		1689	0	2294	0	0	3983
1921.							
JANUARY		2465	373	2640	0	0	5478
FEBRUARY		2782	559	3364	0	0	6705
MARCH		2674	365	3571	0	0	6610
APRIL		2314	460	3809	0	0	6583
TOTAL		12995	1757	16679	0	98	31529

AMOUNT OF OIL PRODUCED DURING PERIOD 31529 Brls
 AMOUNT OF OIL EXPORTED DURING PERIOD 22748 "
 AMOUNT OF OIL AWAITING SHIPMENT ON ~~APRIL 30TH~~ ^{MAY 31st} 12232 "
 AMOUNT OF WHALEBONE AWAITING SHIPMENT..... 1000 Lbs.

I SOLEMNLY DECLARE THE FOREGOING PARTICULARS ARE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE ACCURATE.

FOR THE SOUTHERN WHALING & SEALING CO. LTD.

..... *[Signature]* Manager.

WHALING

SOUTH GEORGIA. Period from 15th Sept. 1920 to 31st May 1921.

Name of Co.: "VESTFOLD" WHALING COMPANY.

The following statement shows the number and kind of whales captured with the amount of oil of various grades, guano etc. obtained therefrom by the above company.

	<u>RIGHT.</u>	<u>SPERM.</u>	<u>BLUE.</u>	<u>FIN.</u>	<u>H.Back.</u>	<u>SEI.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1920.							
Sept.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oktb.	0	0	7	3	0	0	10
Nvbr.	0	0	10	26	4	0	40
Dcbr	0	1	12	49	3	1	66
1921.							
Jan.	0	0	11	204	6	0	221
Febr.	0	0	21	142	2	1	166
March.	2	2	45	114	1	4	168
April	0	0	33	102	5	1	141
May.	0	0	16	48	1	0	65
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>688</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>877</u>

OIL PRODUKTION.

	<u>No.0.</u>	<u>No.1</u>	<u>No.2.</u>	<u>No.3/4.</u>	<u>Sperm.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Sept.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oktbr.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nvbr.	721	230	51	705	0	1707
Dcbr..	1803	0	1021	1259	47	4130
1921.						
Jan.	3232	0	171	2652	0	6055
Febr.	3652	140	142	3068	0	7002
March.	3896	0	156	3656	74	7782
April	3495	0	155	3514	0	7164
May.	1874	0	216	1911	"	4001
Juni	389	0	28	742	0	1159
Total	<u>19062</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>17507</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>39000</u>

GUANO.

No. of bags.

<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oktb.</u>	<u>Nvbr.</u>	<u>Dcbr.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Febr.</u>	<u>March.</u>	<u>April.</u>	<u>May.</u>
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2682

Amount of oil produced during the season 39000 barrels.
 Amount of guano " " " " 2682 bags.

Amount of oil exported during the season 36206 barrels.
 Amount of guano " " " " 2682 bags.
 Oil awaiting shipment on the 31st May 2794 barrels.
 Guano awaiting " " " " " 0 bags.

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

H. L. Morig.
 Manager.

SEALING

Period from 15th September to 5th of June
1920 - 1921.

SOUTH GEORGIA.

Name of Co. A/S THNSBERGS HVALFANGERI.

The following statement shows the number and kind of whales captured with the amount of oil of various grades, Guano etc. obtained therefrom by the above company.

	RIGHT.	SPERM.	BLUW.	FIN.	H. BACK.	SEI.	TOTAL
September	0	0	1	10	0	0	11
October	0	3	9	15	0	0	27
November	0	3	17	32	2	0	54
December	0	2	7	36	1	0	46
January	0	1	5	116	6	0	128
February	1	0	20	137	0	0	158
March	1	2	47	53	1	4	108
April	1	0	40	64	4	0	109
May	0	0	21	50	3	0	54
Total	3	11	167	493	17	4	695

OIL PRODUCTION.

	No. 0	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3/4	Sperm	TOTAL.
Septbr	224	0	151	0	0	375
Octbr	424	0	189	422	193	1228
Novbr	1009	109	924	312	139	2493
Decbr	1061	0	921	736	77	2795
Janr	1717	278	1446	927	51	4419
Febr	2311	235	1887	1462	0	5895
March	2131	78	2252	1040	66	5547
April	2512	235	2628	1212	0	6587
May	1321	76	1459	793	0	3649
June	178	3	189	287	0	657
Total	12888	1014	12026	7191	526	33645

GUANO.

No. of bags

Septbr.	Octbr.	Novbr.	Decbr.	Janr.	Febr.	March.	April.	May.	June.	Total
0	0	0	0	327	1112	0	875	0	0	2314

Amount of oil produced during the season	33645	barrels.
Amount of guano produced during -do-	2314	bags.
Amount of oil exported during the season	25035	barrels.
Amount of guano exported during -do-	2432	bags.
Oil awaiting shipment on the 5th of June	10424	barrels.
Guano awaiting shipment - do -	0	bags.

I solemnly ^{declare} the foregoing particulars are to the best of my knowledge accurate.

Harper Easton
Manager.

W H A L I N G.

South Georgia. Period from September 15th, 1920 to May 31st, 1921.

The following statement shows the number & kind of whales captured by the COMPANIA ARGENTINA DE PESCA S. A. during the above period. together with the amount of oil of various grades, guano &c. obtained.

-: W H A L E S :-

	Right Sperm	Blue Fin	Humpback	Sei	Total		
September		9	3		12		
October	2	20	7		29		
November	2	20	34	4	60		
December	2	5	35	3	45		
January	2	5	106	5	118		
February		13	102	1	117		
March	1	40	91	1	135		
April		25	76		101		
May		9	36		45		
Totals	-	9	146	490	14	3	662

-: O I L P R O D U C T I O N :-

	0	1	2	2E	3&4	Sperm	Sperm -oil	Totals
September	104	181	190	419				894
October	491	260	169	564	50	29	43	1606
November	328	476	462	704	85	22	34	2711
December	715	186	434	642	186	54	89	2306
January	1131	336	410	1406	60	23	46	3712
February	1488	793	481	1959				4721
March	2009	1533	297	2349	39	5	17	6549
April	1415	1903	623	2634				6575
May & June begin.		1435	187	1150	66			2848
		283	54	358				695
Totals	8231	7686	3307	12495	486	153	229	32617

-: G U A N O & W H A L E B O N E - P R O D U C T I O N :-

	Guano	Whale-bone
September		5220 kgs.
October	125 70-kg. bags	
November	1035 -"	
December	974 -"	4962 kgs.
January	697 -"	
February	1548 -"	
March		
April	1243 -"	
May	1193 -"	
Totals	6815 70-kg. bags	10182 kgs.

Continuation

W. H. S. I. N. G.

Georgia. Period from September 15th, 1920 to May 31st, 1921.

Amount of oil produced during the period	32617 barrels
-"- exported -"	25159 -"
Amount of guano produced during the period	6815 70-kg. bags
-"- exported -"	7525 -"
Amount of oil awaiting shipment on the 15 of June 1921.	23203 barrels
-"- guano -" -"	1787 70-kg. bags

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

Grytviken, June 13th, 1921.

p.p. Compañía Argentina de Pesca S. A.

Sgd. O. J. Ness.

Manager.

Observations on the Whaling Season 1920-21 in South Georgia.

This season appears to have been an uneventful one, but very successful according to the statement of the Magistrate (page 6, Observations)

2. Under the same head are recorded the captures of two female Sperm Whales and a "Bottle-nose" which are interesting on account of their rarity.

The size of these female Sperm Whales is very remarkable; 60 feet is regarded as a nearly maximum size for a male specimen and the female is always stated to be much less in size.

Mr. Binnie assures me that he has no doubt as to the accuracy of the sex determination although he did not see the animals himself. In spite of this I find it difficult to place complete faith in the report.

3. I attach a graph of the Blue and Fin Whale catches and of the combined oil production for these species.

The Blue-Fin oil has been arrived at by allowing 20 barrels for each Humpback, as I did in my South Shetland ^{Report} for 1920-21, 60 barrels for each Right Whale, a figure taken from the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Dependencies p. 60. This figure is taken because as a rule the South Georgia Right Whales are not very large; but since I understand that the Sei Whales are of good size I have taken from the same place the highest value for them - 15 barrels: Mr. Binnie said "they may be as good as Fin".

4. It will be observed that the Blue Whale curve on the graph shows a double peak and the Fin Whale curve a single one.

The period, December-January, when the Blue Whales were scarce in South Georgia corresponds with that of their maximum in South Shetland, but there is at present no evidence to show if the herds are the same in both places.

5. The oil curve deserves attention in December and January. From November to January Fin Whales were rapidly becoming more abundant while Blue Whales were becoming less so, in spite of this the oil average increases by 10 barrels (approximately) during December but during January while Fin Whales were at their maximum and Blue Whales were not varying in numbers the average oil production fell about 20 barrels per whale. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that excessive catching led to waste.

6. Mr. Binnie informs me that eviscerated carcasses will float and that the practise of disembowelling them is in general use, and further that it is only the "middle of the back" which is kept back as a rule. i.e. that region above the viscera, after the head and tail have been cut off (but sometimes the tail is also left attached).

A piece of such reduced size would cool much more rapidly than an entire carcass and would therefore not decompose so quickly, but even these portions must lose some of their oil producing value through being kept.

The Norwegian Whaling Times of December 1920 states "Very soon after the whale is killed the well known decomposition process begins--the whale "burns" as the whalers say. The further the decomposition is advanced when the whale comes under treatment at the station the less and more indifferent oil is produced.

"During the Winter fishing in South Georgia it often happens that the whale is caught very far from the station and not seldom on the other side of the island. The whale becomes old before it arrives at the station-----"

7. The guano production does not compare favourably with that of the earlier years, being only 11,811 bags against an average of 82,951 bags for the four seasons 1912-16.

I was informed last season that there is no profit in the manufacture of this substance which is at any rate a bye-product.

8. The catch of whales per catcher is 33.55 per month, against 40.66 per month in South Shetland; but it should be remembered that in the beginning and end of the South Georgia season operations are very liable to be hampered by bad weather. The catches in September and October were very low and that for May just over half that for April.

J. E. Hamilton

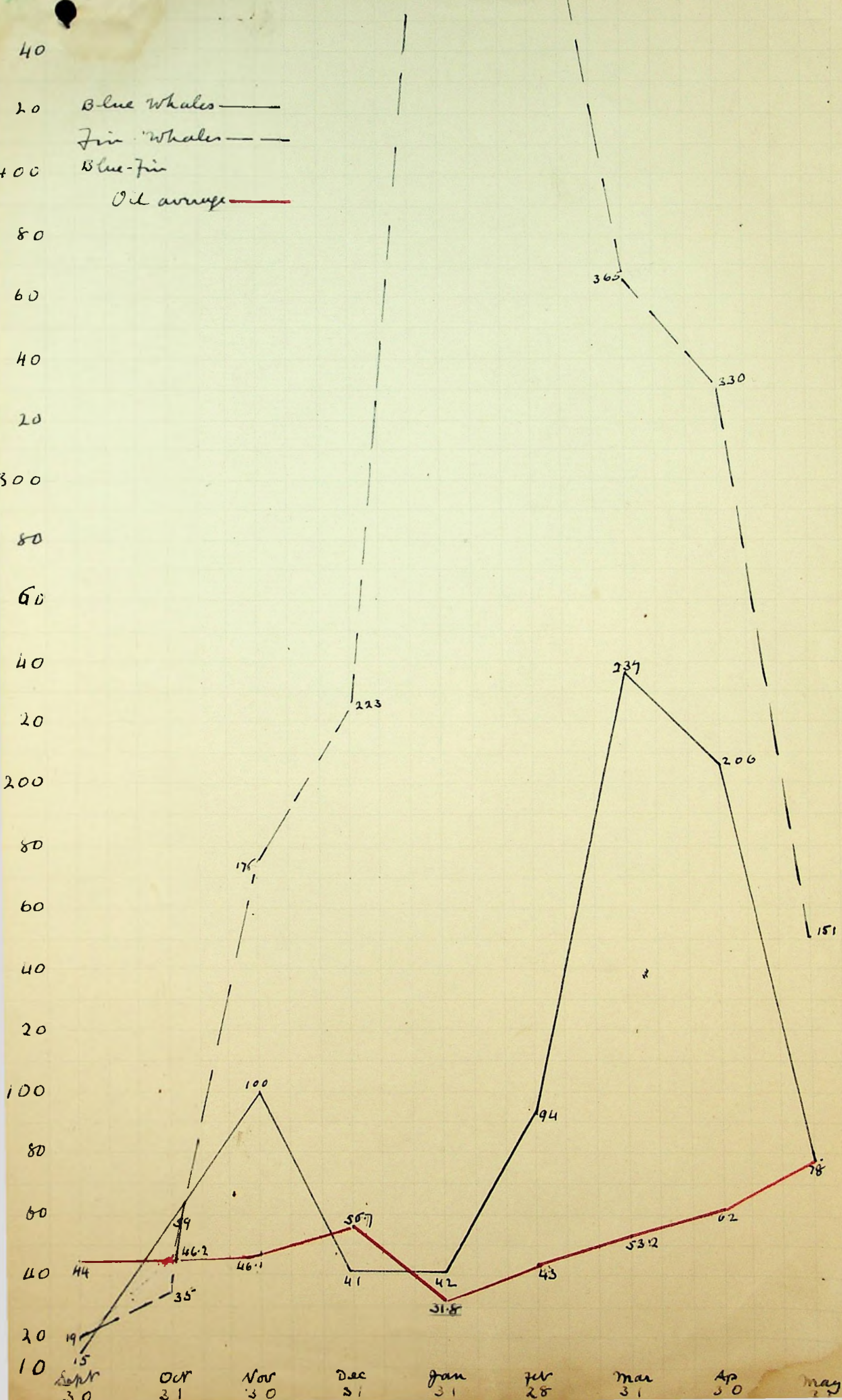
(J. E. Hamilton)

Government Naturalist.

5th. October 1921.

879/21

Sept 30	Oct 31	Nov 30	Dec 31	Jan 31	Feb 28	Mar 31	Apr 30	May 31
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Sept 30	Oct 31	Nov 30	Dec 31	Jan 31	Feb 28	Mar 31	Apr 30	May 31
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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 39.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY,

14th October, 1921.

Sir,

In duplicate.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report from Mr. E. B. Binnie, Magistrate, South Georgia on the whaling industry in the Dependency for the season ended on the 31st of May, 1921, together with a minute from Mr. J. E. Hamilton, Government Naturalist, commenting on the report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Middleton.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

W. L. S. CHURCHILL, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.