

C.S.

Whaling & Sealing So Georgia
No. 518/21

2421

Magistrate So Georgia  1921  21st January Previous Paper.  553/20	SUBJECT.  Remarks on the Report of the Inter- departmental Committee regarding the Whaling Industry.  S. of S. No. 45 of 28/4/21. C.S. No. 553/20.
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MINUTES.

Letter from Robert Cary Magistrate  
 South Georgia Encl (1)

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted.

2. Mr. Binnie is at present in Stanley, and Your Excellency may  
 like to see him with this paper.

*A. C. S.*  
 A. C. S. 13/7/21.

H.C.S.

I should be grateful if you could see Mr Binnie  
 with reference to any points which you do not  
 understand to be clear & report later.

*A. C. S.*  
 15 July 1921.

Hon: Col: Sec;

Subsequent Paper.

I have seen Mr. Binnie with this, as instructed.

2. The enclose comments from the Magistrate South Georgia

(Mr. Binnie) was asked for in the 10th Par: of Lord Milner's  
despatch No. 45 of the 28th April 1920 (C.S. 553/20).

3. I regret not having reported this sooner.

*H. W. Thompson*

Colonial Treasurer  
13th September 1921.

*J.S.*

*Submitted  
The observations appear to be valuable  
and interesting*

*H.W.T. 22/9/21*

*H.C.S.*

*Will you please refer these papers (with 553/1920) to  
Mr. Hamilton for any observation he may have to  
offer on the report of the Committee & in particular  
any corrections or additions which he may have to  
suggest to the information contained in the report.*

*J.S.*

*25 Sept 1921*

*Mr. Hamilton*

*Accordingly*

*H.W.T. 26/9/21*

*Hon. Col. Sec.*

*Observations herewith submitted please*

*J.S. Hamilton.*

*For. Naturalist*

*Encl (2)*

*12? Oct. 1921*

y.s.

Mr. Hamilton's report submitted

14/10/21

Despatch No 95 to S of S. 15 Oct 1921.  
Encl (3)

y.s.

Despatch submitted

17/10/21

17 Oct 1921

518/21

The Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia,

20th, January 1921.

Sir,

I beg to submit the following in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Secretary of State's Despatch No 45 of the 28th. April 1920, a copy of which was sent direct to me under cover of Colonial Office Letter No 20924/20 of the same date.

2. The report of the Committee is so full of information that it leaves but little to be said by me, but I would take this opportunity to draw attention to one or more points that seem to me might receive attention.

3. In paragraph 25 of the Report the Committee state that most of the special articles required for whaling, were of Norwegian manufacture before the war; I may state that a considerable quantity of imports required for whaling, including "Whale lines and "Foregoers" were, before the war, imported from the United States of America and Great Britain. Without doubt "Whaling Guns" "Harpoons" and a few other necessaries were imported from Norway.

4. With regard to the statement contained in the same paragraph that "British Personnel does not possess the special skill and experience required for the capture of whales and the utilization of the Carcass", I venture to think that this, as regards the special skill required, this can only be acquired through practice, and I would point out that as regards Norwegian Gunners, that these men have more or less, all commenced as sailors or firemen, in the first two seasons, and when allowed by a trial shot they shew aptitude, they are placed in charge of a Whale catcher during the winter months, and in consequence some maintain the position so acquired while others fail. I feel confident that the average Britisher who is

is, capable of making use of his powers of observation and does not mind starting as an ordinary sailor on a whale catcher would in time acquire all the skill necessary for the capture of whales, provided he was given the same opportunities and facilities granted to the Norwegian sailors and firemen by the various companies operating.

5. At the same time, I would point out that before a Harpoon gun can be used, there are certain alterations necessary with its being put in its proper position on a Whale catcher. This is a matter in which I have no knowledge, as the Norwegians are very reticent regarding this operation which is only undertaken by very experienced Gunners.

6. The utilization of the whale carcass is purely mechanical, and is carried out with the aid of sharp knives and a steam winch. As a matter of fact the winch may be said to be the most important part; the man with the knife only assisting the winch by cutting the carcass as near as possible to where the joints are situated. In the process the meat is dragged away to the Pressure boilers and cut into smaller pieces; the bones are sawed in lengths and placed into Bone (Pressure boilers), the boilers are screwed down and placed under steam pressure for, from 12 to 15 hours, and this may be said to end the so called skilled operation in regard to the utilization of the carcass.

7. The crews of the Whale Catchers are not by any means all skilled workmen, when first engaged. Each season a fairly large number of raw farm hands from round about the country in Norway are engaged, some of which after a season or two become quite expert. It is therefore my opinion, that if given the same opportunities, Britishers would prove in the end greater experts in the capture of the whale and also the utilization of the carcass, than the Norwegian

8. Reference is made in paragraph 27 of the report to the effort made to minimise waste, both as regards Land stations and Floating Factories. The regulation forcing Floating Factories to provide adequate plant, is not in my opinion a sufficient guarantee against such waste inasmuch when whales

are plentiful.

these Pressure boilers can easily be utilized for blubber and I am sure in many cases are or at least were up till 1912 from the early beginning in 1906.

9. 28. The taking of female whales accompanied by calves is quite out of control, although the Gunners have this season reported females accompanied by young to be quite numerous they tell me that they have never observed so many at any time, they do not say if they have taken any of the mothers.
10. 31. It is said by experienced men who have carried on whaling both in Africa and in the South that the whales taken in the South are in many cases proven to be identical with those seen in Africa.
11. 36. Not much is generally known of the breeding and migration of the Blue and Fin whale, or the time of migration, as in some years they can be seen up till July and August in the South, while in other years they leave earlier, I take it, on their northerly migration. It is remarkable that Fin whales have so far, proved the greater part of the catch in South Georgia this present season, Humpbacks have been fairly numerous again and a considerable number of Sperm have been observed. Whereas in former years the Blue was in abundance during the earlier months of <sup>the season</sup> December and January. I have already mentioned the reports that have reached me concerning the numbers of females accompanied with young, particularly Finners. It has also been reported that many young whales have been seen unaccompanied probably old enough to care for themselves.

12. 40. With regard to the marking of whales, This would need to be done by someone not directly interested in the catch from a monetary point. I doubt if it would be possible to find a single Gunner who would not sooner kill a whale if he got near enough to it, than mark it, though this could be more easily accomplished by using one of the small non-catchers, while they are fishing, which they often do during the season in the open sea.

13. 41. It has been observed at South Georgia that there are two distinct species of whale food, commonly known as "Krill" one is Grey and the other Pink, the Grey is mostly sought after by the Blue whale while the Pink by the Finner, Sei, and Humpback, the Right whale usually, as far as one can gather from the whalers themselves, feeds on a small Medusæ of which there is usually an abundant supply throughout the season in the harbours and near the outer shores where the Right whale is generally taken. Whale food in warm weather is generally on the surface of the water, and in cold sinks to a depth of 14 fathoms, both Shrimps and Medusæ, this has been determined by examination of the stomach contents of the fish taken at that depth. In one day when a large catch was made, below 14 fthms. and (above the fish were not biting) all those that were examined were quite filled with the Medusæ. KRILL.

14 42. I doubt very much if the baleen is so constructed as to allow the smallest object to escape except water, I think quite small organisms would be retained. It would of course be helpful to have samples of the water in which the Krill abounds. This I intend sending to British Museum by first

first opportunity.

15. 42. It has been observed in the case of Fin whales, <sup>in the South</sup> that when the common food is scarce they will feed on herrings, there were two Finners taken at the Grytviken station and the stomachs contained only Herrings. In another case quite recently two Fin whales were examined on the platform and the stomach in both cases was quite empty, at this time food was in abundance, The whales were both in very poor condition, so it would seem that they had come from feeding grounds where food was scarce.

16. 45. The stomach contents of the Sperm whales captured in South Georgia are always examined, and in some cases the food is only slightly decomposed, but nearly always consists of Cuttlefish, and sometimes fishes. Two female Sperms were taken at the Grytviken station during the month of November 1920 this is, as far as I know, the first female Sperms captured in the South. From enquiries which I have made from one of the oldest Gunners in South Georgia. There is a bank situated about 50 miles NE of S.G. where nearly all Sperm whales are taken, and the most peculiar thing is that they are only seen there at New Moon for a few days, at no other time are they <sup>observed</sup> seen.

17. 51. From observations made one is led to believe that whales to a certain extent, travel in schools of the same sex, though there are days when males and females have been taken from the same school. Fin whales and Blue never go together but Blue whales and Humpbacks are often observed in the same schools. Sperms usually by themselves as also Right.



18. 52. I am inclined to think that the whales frequenting the waters of the Dependencies are identical with those of the Northern Hemisphere, at least as regards Finners, as Fin whales captured in African waters are found to have Barnacles growing on them along the upper and lower jaw. These barnacles appear to form rapidly in temperate waters if the same whale migrates southwards into colder waters these barnacles drop off, and only leave the mark on the whale where they have existed. On the other hand whales coming up from South into African waters are said to be quite free from any barnacles, with perhaps the exception of the Right whale where the insect grows under the skin. I have been informed by Gunners of long standing in Africa and the Dependencies that "It is easy to tell when a whale has come from the South, they are absolutely clean" <sup>and free of</sup> *Barnacles*.
19. 54. Whales on the feeding grounds where food is plentiful may ascend up to from 20 to 30 times before finally going down for a long dive of from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, Blue whales have been timed to 28 minutes. Considering that in warm weather the food is on the surface or at no greater depth than 2 inches, it would seem that, unless the whale had had sufficient to eat, or was aware of his being hunted, it would not be necessary to go to any great depth for food, it has been observed that when the food is on the surface the Blue and Fin, in coming to the surface turn over on the side in order to receive the Krill more easily into the mouth. It is problematical as to what depth a whale will go, as the wake can never be traced after 2 to 3 minutes after he goes down.

If as is suggested that the Sperm whale lives mostly on Cctopus, there scarcity in South Georgia may be accounted for by the lack of food, and yet the Sperm whales captured in some cases show that they have obtained food at no great distance from the island. I have noticed that the Albatross which feeds its young for about 10 months of the year, while yet on the nest, always carries up to it, small specimens of Cctopus.

20. 55. It is not often that Killer whales are seen to attack living whales except in cases where the whale is wounded it has not been observed that they even attack the young. When towing a dead whale to the station they invariably attack the carcass and tear off long strips of blubber and take out the tongue. It has been said that at the time of shooting a whale, no killers were in sight, but as soon as the whale is taken alongside and towing commenced, the killers have arrived quickly in large numbers.

There have been a few killers taken at various times in South Georgia but no attention has been paid to the amount of oil it would render, though it is said from 5 to 6 barrels.

21. 56. So far there appears only two methods of hunting whales put into actual practice and both prove equally effective.

(1) As soon as the whale scunds the boat makes all speed to the spot, and stops and awaits another scunding, when it proceeds in that direction at about  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  speed, the whale if not shy will scund up to about 30 times before making the final dive, the ~~space~~ interval between each blow varies from 30 secs. to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes, on the last scunding and supposing the whale to be steering a definite course, the

the, Catcher will be within shooting distance, if the chance is then missed, they must wait at least 20 minutes to  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour

(2) The other method is to go full speed direct on to the whale making an allowance for the distance he may have run, the only advantage gained is a little time saved, some of the older hunters are quite successful adopting this method. In winter time, a whale will seldom sound more than 3 times before going down for a long time, if shy he will only sound once every 20 minutes.

22. 57. It is undoubtedly necessary to endow the Magistrate with power to stop catching when he is of opinion that a sufficient number of whales have been taken to keep the station going for 2 or 3 days, in order that full advantage can be taken of the time to use up all flesh while it is fresh. I agree with the theory put forward by Dr Hjort and Captain Larsen, that the losses of whales in the Dependency are replaced from the Antarctic circumpolar waters. The movements of the whale in the waters of South Georgia lead one to believe that they are only visitors searching for food or passing on their northerly migration.

23. 58. In 1918-19, orders were issued to the whaling vessels, not to take Humpbacks. This was done merely to give the H'Back a chance and to observe if possible at the close of the season if he took the opportunity given him of coming back. At this period I could gain little information from the gunners regarding this point, and as I had no approval of my action from Headquarters, I permitted the catching of H'Backs to continue, though I would liked to have forbidden the catch for at least 2 years.

years, however the close season from June to September is a good innovation. I am pleased to say that the H'Backs are appearing in large schools again, from September to December as many as 55 were taken all in good condition. The Gunners report large schools at sea.

24. 59. I quite concur that when the whaling leases expire they should not be renewed for a longer period than five years.

25. 60. The number of whale catchers that each company is permitted to use in South Georgia seems to be adequate as no company should be allowed more than 4 catchers no matter what the plant consists of.

26. 61. The enforcement of economy in utilization is of first importance and every effort is being made to ensure a minimum waste. With regard to the average number of barrels per whale in output, it must be remembered that, when weather does not permit whaling being carried on, on the N.E. side of the island, the catchers always hunt on the S.W. the distance from the station is then so great, that they usually stay out for a week at a time and take as many as 5 and 6 whales back, which necessitates a tow of from 24 to 36 hours according to weather conditions, in the meantime the whales captured first ~~xxx~~ have become badly decomposed and very little of the carcass is worth using and again the average depends more on the condition of the whales than the number caught, as the average can be quite high with a small catch supposing them to be in good condition. Humpbacks are usually in better condition than

than Fin whales. In the month of January 1921 a Sperm whale was captured and taken into Grytviken station and had every appearance of being in good condition, but after the whale had been boiled down it rendered only 19 barrels of oil and 3 Sperm.

27. 62. My experience of Flensing Factories in South Shetlands and South Georgia is that they have an equal chance of making a good average, it is true that there is a small portion that cannot be taken on board, but it is usually the part of least value, all the best portions such as, Head, Jawbones, In fat, Tongue, Ribs, and the body from the Tail to the Vent, can all be used on Flensing Factories, and where they operate in Belgica Straits is an ideal whaling centre as regards weather bad weather being almost unknown, the only danger is ice.

28. 82. There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding whale meat, as the meat after being taken off the body is not good for consumption for at least 3 or 4 days, it must hang and allow the blood to be freed, the blood and milk of the whale both have a peculiar offensive smell and flavour which would take many years to acquire. The Meat if taken from the body within 24 hours will keep well for 14 days and be quite fit for consumption. I have not observed any characteristic flavour in the meat except that given it by the use of spices which is common amongst Norwegians. Whale meat roasted in the ordinary way with sauce made from the gravy is equal to the best. The part of the whale which is considered the best for food is that part between the tail and the Vent commonly called Rump Steak.

29. 86. A central Canning Factory would be very practicable in my opinion, but a vessel for carrying the meat from the stations to the Factory would be required, the meat could be cut off as soon as the whales were brought in and the vessel could make daily rounds and gather all the meat in to the central station, unless each company preferred to have its own Canning Factory. The export however would I think be better canned and smoked, as the smoked meat is quite good and keeps very well.

#### RE- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "FUR SEAL".

It appears that not much is known of the former breeding places of the Fur Seal in South Georgia, but it is the general opinion that the whole island at one time was one vast rookery. This of course is open to doubt, the places most frequently frequented by the American vessels according to existing traces are, Wilsons Harbour, Bay of Isles, King Ed. Cove, and the harbours in Sealing Division & 1. Undine, Coaling, Etc. In Wilsons hbr, there still remains a heap of Bricks, a few old pots and a ships anchor, also pieces of Boats. To introduce Fur Seals to the Dependency a place would need to be chosen as near to the Govt Qtrs as possible, in order to safeguard them from the whalers, as nothing is safe from the class of men employed on whale catchers, and the local environment does not tend to improve them.

#### ACCLIMATIZATION OF ANIMALS.

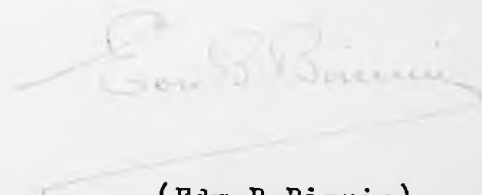
The Reindeer is now well established beginning in 1911 with 11 animals, the last count of them was 131 in Decbr. 1920, when at the same time a number of calves were seen.

There are among them a good many stags that require killing  
 off, on each occasion that permission is given to kill any  
 it is always the Stags that are chosen, as in the breeding  
 time they are always fighting and their antlers become  
 locked and if not separated die of starvation. In 1917  
 Rabbits were introduced to Larsen Point Island, these seem  
 to have thrived and survived the winters, the last occasion  
 on which the island was visited several were seen but were  
 very shy. The Imported Geese from the Falkland Islands ~~xxxxx~~  
 are also fairly numerous, as well as the wild duck, the  
 latter being a native of South Georgia. During the past  
 winter I saw several flocks of the Geese and Wild duck  
 on King Edward Point.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



(Edw. B. Binnie)

Magistrate.

(2)

378/21

OBSERVATIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL  
COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPENDENCIES  
OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Part II(a) Description of the whaling industry.

25. (Personnel).

From my observations there seems to be no major function in the industry which could not be learned by a person of reasonable intelligence in one or two seasons, apart from the seamanship.

Persons engaged in whaling require to be capable of enduring long hours of hard and often very dirty work in places where no recreations are available, but the earnings are good.

(d) Breeding and migrations of whales.

40. For marking whales it would probably be necessary to engage a special vessel since it seems unlikely that while hunting the gunners would spend the time requisite for getting up to the animals in order to mark them and then permit them to escape, particularly when gunners are paid a bonus for every whale brought in to the factories.

(e) Whale food.

41. I have examined the stomach contents of a considerable number of whalebone whales in Ireland and in South Shetland and except in one case have never found anything except krill. The species examined were for the most part Blue and Fin Whales but included at least one Sei Whale and a few Humpbacks.

The exception was a very small Blue Whale at Deception last season; its stomach contained a little greenish fluid and no trace of krill or fish. I have not observed the faeces (which are usually expelled after the death of a whale and during decomposition) to be of any colour other than that which indicates a diet of krill.

42. The baleen must enable almost the whole of the finer plankton forms to escape.

(f) Researches required.

46. Information as to the precise locality of capture of the whales could be obtained from the whalers if they took a little more trouble and if they were willing to give the information which



which is open to question.

The finding of foetuses is a matter of difficulty for the following reasons a. they are sometimes expelled when the whale is shot or while it is being towed in.

b. they often escape from the flensed carcass into the water.

c. unless the carcass is cut up on a land station in a particular manner which was practised at the Blacksod Whaling Station, Ireland it is difficult to find the uterus and still more so to examine it thoroughly.

For this work experience is necessary.

51. It is certainly the case that the fin whales brought in often show a preponderance of one sex over the other. Some of the whalers believe that shoals are composed of single sexes..

53. Satisfactory investigations can only be conducted on a land station and there only if the investigator can control the methods of cutting up and is provided with adequate means of handling his specimens: use of winches &c.

55. Killer whales. I usually saw a few of this species when out in whale catches but they were only a small proportion of the whales observed

(g) Danger of depletion of the stock.

57. The ice conditions appear to be of first importance among the natural causes affecting the catch.

58. It is open to question whether the whalers regarded the Winter fishing at South Georgia as of any real importance.

(i) Introduction of British personnel.

69. It seems reasonable to suppose that the Norwegians would obstruct the introduction of foreign competition from motives of self preservation.

An instructor would require to be an experienced gunner and would presumably desire pay equal to the usual gunner's income for the same time and locality.

I consider that there is a tendency to ~~fix~~ present whale hunting as if it had some peculiar mystery attached to it, where-

as I am unable to acquire any information which would lead me to agree ~~xx~~ with this; as Mr. Binnie states men quite suddenly attain the post of gunner and therein are satisfactory.

71. Nekp continues to have a crew composed with few exceptions of non-British nationalities.

(j) Whale oil.

74. I understand that oil from the Sperm Whale cannot be hardened. Even in its refined state, as sold retail, it has a pungent and very disagreeable odour.

(k) Whale meat.

80. I consider that the flavour of whale meat is appetising, it closely resembles that of beef particularly when fried.

82. The meat must be allowed to become cold within 18 hours of the death of the animal since whales decompose with great rapidity.

When cold the meat will keep for many days in South Shetland where the temperature is low.

Soaking for a few hours in salt water and vinegar will reduce the oiliness of whale meat.

83. The whalers take their meat from the "rump" i.e. that part of the dorsal aspect just behind the anus.

Fin whale meat is most generally used but that of the Blue whale is good and the Sei Whale is supposed to be the best, but my single experience of that species did not support this because the meat was tough, the same applied to Humpback which I ate on board one of the catchers, but in this case the fault may have been the cook's. I once mistook the flesh of a very small Blue Whale for pork.

Part III.

The sealing industry.

(a) Species of seals

87. Fur Seal in South Shetland. One of the gunners of Hektor 60 informed me that about six years ago he had seen a single specimen of this species at the South East end of Macfarlane Strait.

I had also a report of several being seen in the Biscoe Islands some years ago. In both cases the identifications appear to have been correct from the descriptions given to me.

(c) Reestablishment of the fur seal.

94. A small stock could probably be collected in Falkland for transmission to South Georgia.

96. The Falkland Island Fur Seal has a harem of only two females. this may be due to ~~an excess~~ <sup>an excess</sup> of males owing possibly to the five years protection resultant on the war, and (or) the indiscriminate killing which used to take place before that, *or it may be characteristic of the species.*

There are indications that the breeding herd is separated from the non-breeding

It is essential for the development of the herd that pelagic sealing be abolished in these latitudes.

#### IV. Other animals.

111. The introduction of alien forms except on very small islands where they can be easily exterminated if necessary is most strongly to be deprecated; it has proved most pernicious on other occasions. The rat in South Georgia destroys the eggs of the Burrowing Petrel ("Shoemaker")

#### V. Hydrography.

116. The South Shetland whaling area lies to the North of 65° 30' S latitude.

#### Appendix II.

##### Interview with Dr. Bruce.

5. The Admiralty Chart no. 3205 (1910) gives Foster as the surveyor of Deception.

I presume that the survey of Admiralty Bay to which reference is made is that by Mr. Ferguson, a geologist at one time in the employ of Messrs. Salvesen.

#### Appendix III.

Report of a visit by Dr. Bruce to the Norwegian Whalers at Liverpool.

Captain Johanessen's chart of which I have a copy differs in many respects from the Admiralty Chart 3205.

13 Nelson Strait is not the only passage by which the whalers enter Bransfield Strait, they use also Boyd Strait and the passage between King George Island and Bridgeman Island.

## Appendix IV.

Report of an interview with Dr. Rudmose Brown.

3. I saw when on board Neko a small fragment of what I took to be copper ore: it had come from Admiralty Bay: I was not able to secure it.

## Appendix VI.

Uses of the products of the whaling industry.

2. (Spermaceti) The bulk of the spermaceti from each Sperm Whale is obtained from the head, where there is an enormous mass of white connective tissue of very dense substance and enclosing cavities in which the spermaceti is contained in a liquid state during life.

The head is separated from the body and holes cut through the connective tissue into the cavities and through them the spermaceti runs out as a slightly clouded greenish fluid. It is boiled and skimmed in carefully cleaned open boilers and run into casks where it sets hard on cooling: a large Sperm Whale may produce 20-30 barrels of spermaceti from this source.

5. (Other products) B. Ambergris is derived from the Sperm Whale and possibly, the "Bottlenose", It only occurs in toothed whales.

## Appendix XI.

Interview with Captains C.A. Larsen and T. Sörille.

1c. (Size of floating factories) Seven of the eight factories operating in South Shetland in the 1920-21 season were of less than 5,000 tons (30,000 barrels) capacity, the eighth (Hektor Co.) has a maximum capacity of 7,000 tons (42,000 barrels) and is very much the largest floating factory in existence.

10. The Humpbacks taken last season in South Shetland were almost without exception small specimens under 40 feet in length. Captain Øre was of the opinion that they averaged 20 barrels of oil.

In connection with these small Humpbacks, <sup>it may be well to remember</sup> Lord Rothschild's statement that a marked decrease of size in any series of individuals of a species ~~which~~ may be taken ~~as xxxxxx~~ an indication that the species is in danger.

12. I have no records whatever of the occurrence in the South Shetland whaling area of any Dolphins or similar small Cetacea.

13. (Measurement) If the rail of a floating factory is marked off in lengths of 5 feet the lengths of the whales returned should

6.

be reasonably accurate: this was done on board SOlstreif last season.

Two persons by means of a steel tape should be able accurately to measure the total length of a whale on a land station in 3 minutes.

#### Appendix XII.

##### Views of Capt. C. A. Larsen.

It is unfortunate that no mention is made by this gentleman of the year in which he saw so many Humpbacks in the neighbourhood of South Georgia, since it may have been before the great decrease in the Humpback catch. Captain Larsen has not been in South Georgia since July 1914, and the season 1913-14 was the first in which the falling off of Humpbacks was very marked.

Some proof is desirable of the statement that there are localities where "thousands of humpbacks seek coasts where no whaling is done" It is strange if such places are known and not fished.

#### Appendix XIV.

##### On sealing in the Dependencies.

I find it impossible to agree with the statement that 10,000 hair seal might be taken annually in the South Shetland whaling area.

*J. Hamilton.*

*Foot. Naturalist*

*12<sup>th</sup> Dec 1921*

3

518/21

518/21.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 95.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY,

15th October, 1921.

Sir,

With reference to Viscount Milner's despatch, No. 45 of the 23th of April, 1920, I have the honour to transmit, for your information, copies of the observations of Mr. E. B. Binnie, Magistrate of South Georgia, and Mr. J. E. Hamilton, Government Naturalist, on the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands.

In duplicate

2. Mr. Binnie and Mr. Hamilton, with whom I have discussed the matter and with whose view I concur, are strongly of opinion that scientific and economic researches of the nature recommended by the Committee should be undertaken with as little delay as possible. In order to provide the necessary funds special taxation has been imposed on the whaling industry, but the low prices at present obtaining for its products has necessitated a temporary reduction in the rate of taxation and a longer period than was anticipated will elapse before adequate funds are available.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

3.

3. The estimates, which are given in the report of the Committee, of the first cost and maintenance of the vessels, which it is proposed to employ, were prepared in June, 1919, and I would suggest that with a view to determining the period within which it may be financially practicable to begin the research work, which is contemplated, revised estimates of the first cost and maintenance of the vessels should be obtained.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. Middleton.