

Strikes.

1920.

So: Georgia.

No. 691

Secretary of State No: 74

SUBJECT.

1920

21st June

Previous Paper.

538/20

Question in the House of Commons regarding the strike of the employees of the Compania Argentina de Pesca at South Georgia.

MINUTES.

H. E.

Submitted with Magistrate's Report of the Court Proceedings obtained from the file of the Stipendiary Magistrate, Stanley.

G.H.B.
for C. S.
14/9/20.

Dispatch sent to Sec. of State No. 99 of 15/9/20.

J. S. Scott -
for P. S.
15/9/20.

Subsequent Paper.

686/21

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 74.

Downing Street,

21st June, 1920.

Sir,

With reference to Colonel Johnston's despatch No. 15 of the 9th February, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a Question and Answer in the House of Commons on the 19th May, regarding the strike of the employees of the Compania Argentina de Pesca at S. Georgia in January last.

2. I should be glad if you would obtain a report from the Resident Magistrate with regard to the amount of the fines or deductions from wages imposed on the strikers.

I have etc.,

(Sgd.) Milner.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

C O P Y.

WHALING, SOUTH GEORGIA.

(LABOUR DISPUTE)

MR. N. MACLEAN asked the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Compania Argentina de Pesca holds a lease in South Georgia for whaling purposes; whether a strike of their employes took place on 12th January, and that on 13th January a new agreement was entered into and witnessed by Mr. E. B. Binnie, resident magistrate, and stamped with the police seal; whether on the 16th January H.M.S. "Dartmouth" visited the port on her annual tour of inspection; whether a body of armed sailors was brought ashore and the workmen called before the manager of the company and the resident magistrate and told that the new agreements were annulled and the old agreements remained in force, and that the company now had the whip-hand and intended to enforce it; whether the men refused to accept this and, in spite of the display of armed force, stopped work; whether they were each fined £5 by the British resident magistrate and some of the men fined in addition, half their wages and all their bonuses; whether five of the men were given passports endorsed "Deported from South Georgia", by Mr. E. B. Binney, the resident magistrate; whether the statement on their wages sheet says "Deduction of 50 per cent for being instigator of a strike" whether this statement is signed E. B. Binney, and stamped with the official police stamp; what steps he proposes to take to deal with the Compania Argentina de Pesca; and if he proposes to take any disciplinary action with regard to this resident magistrate?

COLONEL WILSON:

COLONEL WILSON: The *Compania Argentina de Pesca* hold a lease in South Georgia for whaling purposes. Thirty six Russian labourers employed by them struck work on the 11th January and on the following day nearly all their other labourers also struck. The magistrate agreed to assist in drawing up new contracts of employment, but these contracts were never concluded. His Majesty's Ship "Dartford" arrived on the 15th January and landed an armed party. About sixteen aliens were fined under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance and deported under the Peace Preservation, South Georgia (Aliens) Ordinance. I have no information as to the amount of the fines or deductions from wages. I will, however, make further enquiry with regard to this particular question.