

(F)

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
OF SOUTH AFRICA.

No.

5

/ 153

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL

From

3 of 3

No. 3.

1927

10 January

SUBJECT

SEA
FISHERIES : WHALE

Extract from Report of British Delegates to the Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Copenhagen, 1926, with regard to whaling : reported formation in Hamburg, of a company to fit out an expedition for pelagic whaling in the Antarctic.

Whaling industry in Norway.

PREVIOUS PAPERS

MINUTES

! Min for information.

[Signature]
2/27

[Signature]
2/27

SUBSEQUENT PAPERS

No.

5

/ 153

British Legation,

OSLO.

No. 348.

23rd July 1928.

Sir,

Some weeks ago I saw in the "Tidens Tegn" an article on the development of the whaling industry in Norway. Since this question is of considerable interest to the Colonial Authorities at home and the subject of the possibility of exterminating the stock of whales is under such constant discussion in this country, I have had the article translated and have the honour to transmit a copy herewith. At the same time I asked the Commercial Secretary to this Legation to find out whether the list of whaling companies and the description of their activities given in the article was complete. Mr. Paus has now received a letter from Mr. Rasmussen, Chairman of the Norwegian Whalers' Association, who informs him that, in addition to the companies named by the newspaper, the following enterprises are also under preparation:

An expedition by Cia. Argentina de Pesca with the floating factory "Ernesto Tornquist" and four whale catchers.

The "Isahavet" Company will probably fit out the floating factory "Haugar" with two whale catchers in order to fish in the Antarctic.

Another floating factory and possibly two, will be working in cooperation on whale carcasses caught by other companies.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect,
Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sd.) F.O. LINDLEY.

The Right Honourable
Sir Austen Chamberlain, K.C., M.P.,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary
of State for Foreign Affairs,
etc., etc., etc.

PM 46/35

DUPLICATE



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

No. 263

4- SEP 1928, 1928.

GA
29/9

RECD G
28 SEP 1928

...the whale, and ... the "Fitted Tonn" ...
...the whaling industry in
... Since this ... considerable interest
... the whaling industry ... the subject of

Sir, ...
With reference to Lord Lovat's despatch No. 17
of the 17th January, I have the honour to transmit, for
the information of His Majesty's Government in the Union
of South Africa, the accompanying copy of a despatch from
His Majesty's Minister at Oslo on the subject of the
development of the whaling industry in Norway.

23rd July

I have the honour to be,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,

... expedition by the Argentine in 1924 with
the floating factory "Erna" ... L. S. AMERY

The "Lindber" Company will probably fit out the floating
factory "Langer" with two whale catchers in order
to fish in the Antarctic.
... floating factory and possibly two, will
be having in competition on whale catches caught by
other companies.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

(Sd.) J. O. LINDECK

17.1.28. Despatch from G. of S. No. 17.

4.9.28 -do- 263.

British Legation,

Oslo,

11th December, 1926.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that I learn from Professor Hjort that a Norwegian whaler who has recently been in Hamburg stated that a company is being formed in that town with a capital of half a million Marks, in order to fit out an expedition for pelagic whaling in the Antarctic. It may be that this information is incorrect or premature, but, since the Germans have recently sent a scientific expedition to Antarctic waters, the report is inherently probable. Professor Hjort is seriously concerned as to the future of the whole whaling industry if measures are not taken to preserve the stock, and he thinks that the above information may be of interest to Mr. Darnley at the Colonial Office, with whom he has had some unofficial conversations. These have dealt mainly with the question of the renewal of licences for Norwegian whalers in the British dependencies in the Antarctic, but the Professor is now inclined to think that the most important question in the immediate future is the protection of the whales, and he seems to attach considerable importance to measures being taken towards that end before other countries become interested in the industry.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) F.O.Lindley.

The Right Honourable
 Sir Austen Chamberlain, K.G., M.P.,
 etc., etc., etc.

We were careful to insist upon the purely scientific character of the reference, pointing out that the question of an international convention to secure the rational exploitation of whales, to which reference was made in the discussion of the subject, was one to be dealt with by representatives directly appointed for the purpose by the Governments concerned, if and when the scientific information was acquired which alone could form an adequate basis for the discussion of a convention.

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The Department for Foreign Affairs in the United Kingdom is interested in the progress of the work of the Commission and the Bureau and recently had a meeting to discuss the matter. The report of the Commission is very interesting and shows that the work of the Commission is very valuable and that the Commission is very active in its work. The Commission is very active in its work and is very interested in the progress of the work of the Commission and the Bureau and recently had a meeting to discuss the matter. The report of the Commission is very interesting and shows that the work of the Commission is very valuable and that the Commission is very active in its work.

I have the honor to be,
Yours faithfully,
Hugh F. A. Stewart

Extract from the Report of British Delegates to the
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea of the
Meeting of the Council at Copenhagen, September 1926.

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Whaling.

The proposal advanced by the Spanish delegates last year that the Council should appoint a Committee to consider problems affecting the whaling industry was postponed at our request to this year's meeting. As we explained in our last report, we wished to have an opportunity of discussing the question with the Colonial Office before expressing any views on the subject in the Council. In the interval we have had the opportunity of an exchange of views with that Department, and we were accordingly prepared to deal with the question.

It was obvious to us that the International Council was not a body competent to deal with the problems of whaling in all parts of the world, but we felt that it might be able usefully to supplement the work of the "Discovery" based on the Falkland Islands and of Dr. Hjort in northern latitudes. Both the French and the Spanish Delegates were extremely anxious that a committee should be formed to study certain aspects of the question in connection particularly with whaling operations in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar and off the west coast of Africa. We accordingly supported the proposal, ultimately adopted by the Council, to appoint a committee containing representatives of Denmark, England, France, Norway, Portugal, Scotland and Spain, with the following terms of reference:-

"To consider to what extent and by what means the International Council can contribute to the biological investigations of whales at present being conducted, and especially those of the 'Discovery' Expedition in the south and of Dr. Hjort in the north, and to organise such contributory work as seems practicable."

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

No. 3

Downing Street,

10 January, 1927.

RECD. G.G.O.

31 JAN 1927

5/153

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, for the information of your Ministers, the accompanying copy of an extract from the Report of the British Delegates to the Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, held at Copenhagen in September, 1926, with regard to whaling.

2. I enclose also a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Representative at Oslo regarding the reported formation in Hamburg of a company to fit out an expedition for pelagic whaling in the Antarctic.

11th Dec.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

J. S. Amery

GOVERNOR GENERAL,

HIS EXCELLENCY,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

THE EARL OF ATHLONE, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

etc.,

etc.,

etc.

Copy sent to *Ministers*
For *Information*
Minute No. *5/153*
Date *2nd February, 1927*
ATHLONE

D.O.T. 24327/1927.

NEW NORWEGIAN WHALING COMPANY.

According to "Aftenposten" of the 26th November, 1927, a new whaling company, to be known as The Antarctic Whaling Company, has been formed with a share capital of one million kroner. The first general meeting of shareholders was held on the 26th November.

The object of the new company is pelagic whaling in the Ross and Weddel Seas. The managers are said to be Bruun and von der Lippe of Tonsberg.

In the newspaper report in question it is stated that negotiations are in progress for the purchase of a new vessel of 14,000 tons to be fitted out as a floating cookery. The first expedition, which is to be sent out in August 1928, will consist of a floating cookery fitted up for pelagic whaling and four or five catchers burning oil fuel.

The share capital of the company is later to be increased to 3 million kroner.

It is not yet known whether the public will be invited to subscribe towards the share capital, and as both English and Spanish capital is said to be invested, the company will probably be registered outside Norway.

Interested in the formation of the new company are Mr. H.M. Wrangell, Mr. Rudolf Olsen, Mr. Sigurd Bruusgaard, all shipowners and Mr. Carl F. Herlofson, a whaling expert.

From - Department of Overseas Trade,
(Shipping & Transport Section),
73, Basinghall Street,
London, E.C.2.

9th December, 1927.

Pa 46/35

DUPLICATE



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

No. 17

17 January, 1928.

REC'D G.G.O.
7 FEB. 1928

1/11/28

5/15/3

9th December.

According to "Allgemeine Zeitung", a new whaling company, to be known as the "Norsk Hvalfangst Selskab", has been formed with a capital of 10 million kroner. The first general meeting of shareholders was held on the 20th December.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Amery's despatch to the Governor General No. 5 of the 10th January, 1927, I have the honour to transmit, for the information of His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa, the accompanying copy of a communication issued by the Department of Overseas Trade relative to a Norwegian Press report regarding the formation of a new Norwegian pelagic whaling company.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(For the Secretary of State)
(Signed) LOVAT.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
LONDON, E.C. 6.

The whaling fleet is to go south early this year, as last year's results showed how fortunate it was to begin the catch early at the edge of the ice. It is probable that nearly all the cockeries fitted out this year will do it. Most of the expeditions will leave here during the first half of August and the whaling will then be in full swing by the beginning of October. The signing on of crews for the enormous whaling fleet will proceed from the middle of October. This year there will be required considerably more men than last year. The "Antarctic" and "Pelagos" alone, for instance, will each require 300 men. In all there will probably be needed more than 5,000 men this season.

If one asks where the new expeditions are to catch, it is not easy to get precise information. The companies and their managers say that they do not know yet themselves, but this is no doubt due to the competition. They have, of course pretty well made up their minds where they are to go, but they won't admit it. The Weddell Sea seems, however, to be the part to which particularly great expectations are now attached.

"Times Telegram" 8/7/25.

Enclosure to Sir F. Lindley's despatch No. 348 of 23/7/28.

TRANSLATION.

The whaling towns are now busily engaged preparing for the new season, and Norwegian whalers will this year be operating with considerably increased and improved material. Tonsberg seems to be the town which has taken the lead this year so far as expansion is concerned. It is here that the two new whaling companies of the year have their head quarter, viz. "Antarctic" and "Pelagos", both managed by Bruun and von der Lippe. "Antarctic's" cookery has a capacity of 60,000 barrels and "Pelagos" is said to be able to take 70,000 barrels. Each of the cookeries is to catch with 5 catchers. In addition to these two large pelagic expeditions, Bruun and von der Lippe, have this year a smaller expedition to the Labrador coast, where they are to catch from a land station.

The whaling company "Africa", also at Tonsberg, is this year to make a trial in the South Atlantic - otherwise the company catches from a land station on the west coast of Africa. The company has purchased the wrecked floating cookery "Strombus" belonging to the Peru Company. Of the other Tonsberg companies it will be recollected that "Hektor" has purchased a large new transport ship. It will thus have three expeditions as compared with two before, none of the floating cookeries hereafter being bound to the land station. Both the "Ronald" and "Maudie" will therefore be able to work more on pelagic lines. The Tonsberg Whaling Company has, as previously, an expedition which is catching from a station at South Georgia, and one with a floating cookery at South Orkney. Finally, there is at Tonsberg the Anglo-Norse Company which had last year a so successful first season at the South Sandwich Islands.

The following expeditions are being fitted out from Sandefjord: A/S Sydhavet "Svend Foyn" with 3 catchers, A/S Ornen "Falk" and "Orn II", each with 3 catchers. A/S Odd (Lars Christensen) is sending out the new floating cookery "Torodd" of about 11,000 tons d.w. with a tank capacity of 50,000 barrels. It is fitted at the stern with slip way for hauling whales and is to carry on pelagic fishing with 3 catchers.

Bryde & Dahl have also a large new floating cookery. It is "Torshammar" ex "San Nazario" of 17,000 tons d.w. and a loading capacity of 70,000 barrels. The "Torshammar" is to carry on pelagic whaling without a licence with the 4 catchers which catch for the Norwegian Bay Whaling Company on the west coast of Australia. Bryde & Dahl have further, as before, an expedition to South Georgia.

A/S Vestfold has the same. The expeditions of A/S Rosshavet will be the same as before with "Sir James Clark Ross" and "C. A. Larsen". From Larvik, too, the same expeditions are being fitted out as last year, viz. for A/S Globus "Lancing" and for Polaris "N. T. Nielsen Alonso" for pelagic fishing and for A/S Norge the cookery "Solstreif" which is to go to South Shetland.

The/