

EAST AFR. PROT

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Cont
59

Date
1912

June

Previous Paper

135

WINEING INDUSTRY

Does not think that there would be any profit attaching to such an enterprise as Mr Whitworth proposes to undertake. Sends memo. by the Game Warden on the general question.

~~Mr Butler~~

~~Mr [unclear]~~

Mr Read

Have discussed this with Mr [unclear]
Mr [unclear]'s description is wholly
so interesting, but his recommendation
come rather late in the day!
The matter does not seem to have
advanced far, and we shall be quite
lucky if it goes no further.
It would be interesting to read what
Mr [unclear] said to Mr [unclear], but

Subsequent Paper

It has not sent us a copy of the letter
I send to Whittaker the substance
of pages 2 & 3. And ask him
if he desires to pursue his application

WJH
18th

I would say that my Banning reports had
he has communicated with him direct
then for a time give the substance of
pages 2 & 3 omitting the last few words
of par. 3. If he wants more he will say so.
WJH

July 2.

Letter of 3/17

WJH for answer
at once
H. J. R.
20/VII

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE
CONFIDENTIAL No. 59.

18th June 1912.

Sir,

In continuation of my Confidential despatch No. 43 of the 9th ultimo I have the honour to report as follows on the prospects of the establishment of a whaling industry on the Protectorate Coast.

2. It appears from the information which I have been able to gather that whales are but rarely observed. This may, however, be due to the fact that the Swahili fishermen seldom venture far from the shore. Captain Piddock, Port Officer at Mombasa, states that he has occasionally seen whales when travelling in the S.S. "Juba", and four have been stranded at various points on the Coast during the last six years, the most recent being two years ago.

3. I do not think that there would be any great profit attaching to such an enterprise as that which Mr Whitworth proposes to undertake, but there may of course be more whales than we imagine.

4. I attach a Memorandum by the Game Warden on the general question.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,


ACTING GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LEWIS HARCOURT, F.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWLING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Y. *Conf* ENCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 59 of 18th June 1912 Same Warden's Office,

155/12.

Nairobi.

May 4th 1912.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. G. 2426 of April 22nd 1912, with enclosure referring to Mr M. Whitworth's application to establish a whaling station at Mombasa.

It appears to me that the importance of this subject lies altogether outside the interests of this Protectorate. Because in the first place the animals which constitute the source of this industry are not inhabitants of, nor have any connection with Africa. And in the second place the establishment of a whaling station at Mombasa would have little or no effect upon the Protectorate, because the whaling industry is not one which employs a large amount of labour and the labour which would be employed is largely skilled labour and would be drawn from sources external to the Protectorate to a great extent. The only points which would affect this Protectorate would be the imposition of an export duty upon the products, which have their market in Europe and other civilized countries, and the supply of the staff of the industry with food; an insignificant consideration.

Other than the question of granting a monopoly to one firm, which is a custom already overwhelmingly condemned by modern commerce, I am of opinion that the question is one of world-wide importance and can only be approached from two aspects -

(1)

Hon'ble Ag. Chief Secretary,

Nairobi.

...the point of view of the Naturalist.
 ...the International point of view.
 Now with regard to the prospects of a whaling station
 on the Coast of British East Africa or indeed for any
 information, which will assist in arriving at a decision
 upon this question, it is necessary to refer to Naturalists,
 who alone collect information on such subjects and among
 whom, in the present instance, the foremost are the whalers
 themselves.
 Whales, (the mammalian order Cetacea of Naturalists)
 are essentially inhabitants of the sea, only a few of the
 smaller members of the order frequenting the largest rivers,
 and with the exception of the territorial zones they are
 the property of and under the care of the Nations of the
 whole world, and on this account the subject particularly
 calls for International Law and Co-operation.
 In the past whales existed in great abundance, but
 have been greatly reduced in numbers, in some instances
 almost to the verge of extermination by the constant
 persecutions of man, for the valuable products which are
 obtained from them.
 Until comparatively recently only the bulkier and less
 active species of whales were hunted, but the application
 of modern fire arms to the whaling industry, and more
 particularly the invention of the explosive harpoon gun,
 has now rendered possible the capture of several of the
 more active and swifter whales which had formerly been left
 unmolested by whalers, owing to the difficulty of capturing
 them. The possibility of hunting new species of whales
 has of course opened up new fields for whaling.
 Therefore before any idea can be gained as to what the
 prospects of a whaling station at Mombasa are likely to be,
 it is necessary to know something of the different species

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(ii) The International point of view.

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 them. The possibility of hunting new species of whales
 has of course opened up new fields for whaling.

Therefore before any idea can be gained as to what the
 prospects of a whaling station at Mombasa are likely to be,
 it is necessary to know something of the different species

of whales and their distribution, in order to find out what whales are likely to be met with by whalers from Bombay.

The whales have been divided by Naturalists into two great divisions -

(a) The true whales, or whalebone whales, in which the plates of teeth is taken by baleens.

(b) The toothed whales, which have no baleens.

From both these divisions of whales valuable oil is obtained, but whalebone only from division (a).

(a) The whalebone whales constitute one family, containing five genera -

- (i) The Right Whales.
- (ii) The Pigmy Whales.
- (iii) The Grey Whales.
- (iv) The Humpbacks.
- (v) The Fin-Whales or Porquals.

(i) Of the Right Whales the best known species and probably the most valuable of any of the whales is the Greenland Whale, which attains a length of 60 ft. and more, and produces the longest and finest whalebone, but is confined to the Polar Seas.

(ii) The Pigmy Whale is a rare whale and is known only from Australian, and South American Seas, but it is of small size and little importance compared with the two preceding species.

(iii) The Grey Whale, an allied species to the Greenland Whale, is also found in the Northern Seas, but the whalebone is brittle and of less value than the Greenland species.

The above whales, therefore, are not likely to be captured by whalers from Bombay, and may be left out of consideration in the present case.

(iv) Of the Humpbacks, one species only is recognised.

(i) The point of view of the whaler.

(ii) The instructions of the whaler.

Now with regard to the process of a whaling station on the coast of British East Africa or India for whaling information which will be useful in making a decision upon this subject, it is necessary to refer to the instructions of the whaler on the subject of whaling, and also to the present instance, the instructions of the whaler.

The instructions of the whaler on the subject of whaling are generally of the nature of a list of the names of the whales which are to be taken, and the instructions of the whaler on the subject of whaling are generally of the nature of a list of the names of the whales which are to be taken, and the instructions of the whaler on the subject of whaling are generally of the nature of a list of the names of the whales which are to be taken.

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How with regard to the prospects of a whaling station

on the Coast of British East Africa or India for whaling information, which will be useful in deciding as to whether or not this question is to be proposed to the Government, and also to collect information on each subject and to make in the present instance, the Government and the whaling industry.

(iii) The Grey Whale.

are generally distributed in the sea, only a few of the smaller members of the order frequenting the largest rivers and with the exception of the Humpbacks they are the property of and under the care of the Nations of the world, and on this account the subject of whaling is for the most part a local one.

In the past whaling has been carried on in great numbers, but has been almost entirely abandoned in some instances, and in others it is being revived by the Government of the various countries which are engaged in whaling.

It is completely necessary to the whaling industry and the welfare of the whaling industry, but the whaling industry is the foundation of the whaling industry, and the whaling industry is the foundation of the whaling industry.

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Therefore before any whaling station is established in any part of the world, it is necessary to know something of the whaling industry.

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They are found in nearly all seas and would probably be one of the whales hunted from a station at Mombasa. The whalebone, however, is not so valuable, being shorter, nor the return of oil so great, in the Right-Whales.

(v) The Fin-Whales or Porquals, are the most common and widely distributed of the whales, and are found in nearly all seas, except the Antarctic. They attain a length of 60 to 70 fms., but the whalebone is short and of poor quality, as compared with the Right-Whales, and they contain a smaller quantity of oil.

There are four well-defined species of Fin-Whales and possibly there are another two species, probably confined to the Indian Ocean. Stibbalds Whale, the largest known whale, is said to attain a length of over 90 ft. The Fin-Whales would, therefore, also be some of the whales hunted from a station at Mombasa, and probably the ones most often obtained. Before the invention of the explosive harpoon gun the Fin-Whales were seldom captured, but of late years they have been regularly hunted. I believe the average value of a common Fin-Whale is about \$60, and the smaller species about \$30. While the bulkier Greenland Whale may produce as much as \$2,000 worth of whalebone, besides about 150 barrels of oil.

(b) The other great division of whales the "Toothed Whales" constitute numerous families, the most important of which from the commercial point of view are the Sperm Whales and their allies which include four genera -

- (i) The Sperm Whales.
- (ii) The Lesser Sperm Whales.
- (iii) The Bottlenose Whale.
- (iv) The Beaked Whales.

(i) Of the Sperm Whales, which include several extinct genera, the only well known and important species is the common

common Sperm Whale, an animal of great size and quite equal to the gigantic Greenland Whale.

The Sperm Whale is an inhabitant of all the warm seas, and does not range into the polar regions and is largely an Equatorial species. It is, therefore, one of the whales which would probably be obtained by whalers from Mozambique and probably the most valuable. It was formerly numerous in the Bay of Bengal and around Ceylon, but has been so much hunted that it is now rare in these regions of the Indian Ocean. This whale was also once very numerous in the South Pacific, but has now been greatly reduced in numbers. The Sperm Whale, unlike the whalebone whales are essentially inhabitants of the open Ocean, feeding at great depth. If by chance they approach the land they appear invariably to become stranded.

The Sperm Whale produces no whalebone, but large quantities of valuable oil, are obtained. Sperm oil from the blubber, and spermaceti from the oil in the head. Also the curious substance "Ambergris" is discharged by this whale.

(11) The Lesser Sperm Whale, which is a much smaller animal than the Sperm Whale is widely distributed and is known from the Indian Ocean, but it is such a rare and little known species that it is of no interest on the present occasion.

(12) The Bottlenose Whale, a smaller species than the large Sperm Whale, but also producing valuable oil, is apparently confined to the North Atlantic, where they are regularly hunted. It is, therefore, not one of the whales likely to be obtained from Mozambique.

(13) The Beaked Whales, including two or three species are widely distributed and apparently found in most seas. They are, however, rare animals or little known, and not being

They are found in nearly all seas and would probably be one of the whales hunted from a station at Mozambique. The whalebone, however, is not so valuable, being shorter, not so heavy, and the return of oil so great in the Sperm Whale. The Sperm Whale is the most common whale distributed to the whalers, and the largest nearly all seas, except the Antarctic. The Sperm Whale is found in the Bay of Bengal and around Ceylon, but has been so much hunted that it is now rare in these regions of the Indian Ocean. This whale was also once very numerous in the South Pacific, but has now been greatly reduced in numbers. The Sperm Whale, unlike the whalebone whales are essentially inhabitants of the open Ocean, feeding at great depth. If by chance they approach the land they appear invariably to become stranded. The Sperm Whale produces no whalebone, but large quantities of valuable oil, are obtained. Sperm oil from the blubber, and spermaceti from the oil in the head. Also the curious substance "Ambergris" is discharged by this whale. (11) The Lesser Sperm Whale, which is a much smaller animal than the Sperm Whale is widely distributed and is known from the Indian Ocean, but it is such a rare and little known species that it is of no interest on the present occasion. (12) The Bottlenose Whale, a smaller species than the large Sperm Whale, but also producing valuable oil, is apparently confined to the North Atlantic, where they are regularly hunted. It is, therefore, not one of the whales likely to be obtained from Mozambique. (13) The Beaked Whales, including two or three species are widely distributed and apparently found in most seas. They are, however, rare animals or little known, and not being

being hunted, are of no commercial interest.

The remaining toothed whales comprise numerous genera of comparatively small animals, most commonly known as Dolphins and Porpoises. They are widely distributed and some species are inhabitants of the large Indian and South American rivers. All contain small quantities of valuable oil, but probably the only species which are regularly hunted are the "Harporhynchus" and the "White Whale" which are hunted for the sake of their oil, ivory, flesh and blubber. However these two species are confined to the polar seas and are, therefore, not of interest in the present instance.

It will be seen from the above summary, which is taken principally from the works of Lydekker, that there are several whales which might be captured from a whaling station at Bombay, i. e. -

- The Humpbacks.
- The Fin Whales.
- The Sperm Whales.

With regard to the numbers of these whales which are likely to be obtained there is probably little or nothing known, but it is reasonably to be expected that Mr. Whitworth has thoroughly investigated the prospects of such an industry, and has satisfied himself that the prospects are promising or he would obviously not have applied for permission to set up a whaling station at Bombay.

Whales are animals which are not likely to be of much interest to the general public, but they are nevertheless some of the most remarkable and interesting, as well as the largest mammals at present existing on the world, and their utter extermination would be a matter of profound regret. And it must be remembered that modern methods of navigation and modern fire arms have greatly increased the possibilities

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Their complete extermination will of course be prevented to some extent by the fact that, as soon as their numbers are reduced to a point when so few are captured that the industry ceases to be a profitable one, their pursuit will be performed sparingly to a great extent. But like all the large mammals of the world they are slow breeders, seldom giving birth to more than one young at a time, and if their numbers are reduced below a certain point it is very doubtful whether they will ever be able to recover.

I would, therefore, make the following recommendations -

(1) That the Zoological Society of London, and the British Museum of Natural History, should be asked to make a report upon the subject of the "Preservation of Whales".

(2) And that after this report has been submitted to the Secretary of State; the matter should be referred to "International Arbitration" for the purpose of determining what measures are necessary for the protection of whales, the number and position of whaling stations to be allowed, and the conditions under which whales may be hunted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

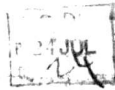
Your most obedient servant,

Ed. R.B. WOODHAM,

Game Warden.

OK 22290 12

EAP



28 July 1902

Sir

With reference to the letter

from your Office of the 19th of March,

I have the honor to inform you that the

report of the OAG of the EAP has reported

that he has communicated

with you direct regarding your

application for a whaling licence

for a licence to exist at a

Whaling Station at Mombasa.

It happens that whales

are rarely observed off the coast

of the EAP, which may however

be due to the fact that Swahili

Copy to Comd 20/8/02

M. Anderson

22/7

Mr Butler 23

Rec'd 23

J. Anderson

7/7

possibilities of the whaling industry. Their work was examination with of course be provided. he would take up the fact that as soon as the whaling industry began to decline in the early part of the century. But like all the other whaling nations of the world they also have a certain amount of whalebone which is used as a drug, and it has been found that the whalebone is used in various ways. For example they will give it as a food. I would therefore give the following recommendations: (1) That the Geological Survey, London, and the British Museum of Natural History, should be asked to make a report upon the subject of the "Preservation of Whales." (2) And that after this report has been submitted to the Secretary of State, the same should be referred to the International Arbitration Commission of the International Whaling Commission. It is necessary for the Commission of the International Whaling Commission to hold regular sessions in the most convenient place and the conditions under which they may be held. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, J. Anderson

24 JUL 1902

OK 22290 12

CAP

28 August

Sir

With ref to the letter

from the Office of the 19th of March,

I am to inform you that the

OK of the CAP ^{reports} has reported

that he has communicated

with you direct regarding your

applⁿ for a whaling license

for a license to be issued

whaling station at Monrovia

It happens that whales

are rarely observed off the coast

of the CAP, which may however

be due to the fact that Iwahide

field on en

Mintworth

Ep 227

Mr Butler 23

Recd 23

J. Anderson

Copy to Capt 20 Dec

500/3
27 7

Investigation of the whaling industry.

Their complete examination will be conducted by the
The fact that the whaling industry is a very important
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far from the shore. ~~It is~~

~~have occurred from the~~
~~from the coast of the island~~

four have been stranded at
various points on the coast

during the last six years, the
most recent being two years ago.

~~The City of the Dale~~

thinks there would not be
much profit attaching to an

entirely fresh one from

propos

Port of New
Montana states that
he has personally
seen whales when
travelling in the S.S.
which had to fly
at night from the
west.

Handwritten scribbles and faint text at the bottom of the page.