

Resident Magistrate's Office.

Ascension Island.

Oct 8th 1925.

No.8.

Sir,

TURTLE CONCESSION.

I beg to enclose a list submitted by The Eastern Telegraph Company Ascension, showing the Turtle return for 1924/1925.

Twentyone Turtle were captured and disposed of as follows:-

TO St Helena for H.R.H. The Prince of Wales	1
Shipped to England per "Norman"	14
Died	1
Balance	5
TOTAL.....	<u>21</u>

Presumably Royalties are payable on 14 turtle, equal to £7.

The small number captured is due to want of experience and also to a bad season.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

  
Resident Magistrate.

His Excellency  
The Governor of St Helena & Ascension  
St Helena.

A S C E N S I O N .

30th October 1928.

The Officer-in-Charge,  
The Secretariat,  
S T. H E L E N A.

Sir,

SHIPPING TURTLES.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your 180/864 of October 17th.

2. Experimental raft crates for the purpose of shipping turtles were made locally about three years ago and found after trial unsuitable in that;
  - (a) The ship complained of delay.
  - (b) The turtles themselves suffered damage.
  - (c) Injury occurred to the labourers.
  - (d) Eight men were required to put the turtle on crate.
3. The chief difficulty in devising schemes for more convenient shipment is in preventing the turtle from damaging itself. They weigh anything up to 800 lbs, and undergo three mechanical hoists i.e. at Turtle pond, pierhead and ship. It will be appreciated that in any confined space whether crate, bag or net, where they can get movement on their flippers, damage is likely to happen.
4. The occasional abrasions near the shoulders of these turtles are not due originally to shipping operations but to the bull turtle. They are quite apparent when turtles are brought to the pond and consequently more noticeable in the earlier shipments.

(2)

5. Kindly assure His Excellency that we will do all possible to prevent injury or cruelty of any kind and also thoroughly explore other methods of shipping.

I am,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) Fred Wood.

Superintendent.

No. 180/959.

Secretariat,

St. Helena,

16th November, 1928.

The Superintendent.

Eastern Telegraph Co., Ltd.

Ascension Island.

Sir,

I thank you for your letter of 30th October in reply to my 180/864. I am to say that His Excellency is confident that everything that is humanly possible will be done by the Eastern Telegraph Company to avoid needless cruelty in the shipping of these turtles.

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Secretary.

A S C E N S I O N .

18th January 1929.

The Officer-in-Charge,  
The Secretariat,  
S T. H E L E N A .

Sir,

INJURIES TO TURTLES.

I thank you for your letter 180/959 of November 16th and beg to assure you that care will continue to be exercised in the shipment of turtles.

The following is an extract of a letter from the King's Turtle Merchants, London on the subject of disembarking turtles at docks:-

"On some occasions the turtle are unloaded by rope cradles suspended on a crane and lowered into the vans, and on others the method followed is that ropes are fixed on the turtle's front fins."

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) Fred Wood.

Superintendent.

*I have been unable to find letter mentioned above*