

and Nett [sic] Rock where the whales were caught in nets' and another photo, reproduced in *Way Up North* by Harold Thomas,¹⁶ also shows a good view of the scene at the turn of the century, the heavy nets supported by a line of buoys between the rocks and a whale in contact with a section of the net. The Cook brothers' whaleboat can be seen in the background coming in for the kill.

Comment has already been made on the official silence of the Secretary for Marine about this extensive and unique whaling operation at Whangamumu—a silence which is all the more curious as it was the particular responsibility of the Marine Department not only to approve the use of the foreshore for wharves and fishery activity but also to promulgate by means of 'Notices to Mariners' information on any obstruction to navigation on the coast. No record has been discovered of any such action by the department in respect to the Cook brothers' business at Whangamumu, an omission which suggests that Bert Cook and his brothers, in establishing the station, did so without obtaining the formal blessing of that department.

However, from his report of 1909 onwards the Secretary for Marine, apparently turning a blind eye to this lack of official sanction, continued to report upon progress at Whangamumu; indeed in his report of the following year (1910), he reported at some length, noting:

The whaling-stations in New Zealand are at Whangamumu, Tory Channel, Kaikoura and Campbell Island.¹⁷ Hump-backed whales are caught at Whangamumu, and all their products are utilised. Last season sixteen whales were taken [at Whangamumu], which produced 80 tons of oil, 20 tons of manure and 10 tons of bonedust.

Right and humpbacked whales are taken at Tory Channel from which the oil and whalebone are the only parts utilised. No more than two or three whales are usually obtained at this station.

At Kaikoura a few right whales are usually taken during the season, of which the oil and the whalebone are the only portions utilised.¹⁸

By 1910 Cook brothers had been whaling at Whangamumu for 20 years; Bert Cook the founder of the station was 83 years old and approaching the end. The years 1910 and 1911 marked a period of considerable change and expansion at Whangamumu and much of this change appears to have been associated with a change in ownership at the station. Something of that change was forecast by the Secretary for Marine who also observed in the 1910 report that:

Messrs Cook Bros., who own the station at Whangamumu are procuring an up-to-date whaling-vessel, built by Smith's Dock Company at North Shields. They propose to use it at Whanga-