

SUMMER RESORT OF SEALS

How the Grower of the Seal Skin Scares Lives at Home.

SINGLE BLESSEDNESS IS NO SNAP

Only the Bachelors Are Killed for the Fur They Wear—Scenes at the Pribyloff Islands' Rookeries.

Nobody can go to the Pribyloff islands, the home of the fur seal, except on a government ship or on the one steamer which the company that goes to spear-run the seal farm. That ship goes to take supplies and bring away the skins; the government ships—revenue cutters—come and go as they please.

The two islands of St. Paul and St. George, which compose the group, lie about 250 miles northeast of Dutch Harbor, the chief port and coal station of the Alaskan peninsula. St. Paul, the larger, lies about forty miles to the west and north of St. George, and much the larger number of seals are found there. It is about sixteen by twenty-five miles, while St. George is only about six by nine. Just how many seals are on the islands in the season cannot be definitely ascertained, but possibly 150,000, which compared with the 5,000,000 that were estimated to have been there before seal skin became such a fashionable fabric for feminine apparel, is small enough, though numerous as compared with the half dozen ordinarily found in an aquarium.

Occasionally Beautiful. St. George at first sight isn't a bad island to look at on one of the rare days of sunshine that visit it, and when we first saw its green hills from the deck of the revenue cutter McCullough it was quite easy to imagine it a garden spot. Not a tree grows on it, however, and what we thought was soft green grass was chiefly coarse moss. We skirted the island around to the little village of St. George, where

Thou not the heads of families, are killed for their fur and meat. The killing is simple enough. Armed with heavy hickory clubs made in Connecticut, the killers, to the beating of tin pans and other noises to which the seals bunched, go among them and with a tap on the head the seal is knocked insensible and his throat is cut before he recovers consciousness. The skins are removed and packed away to salt, and the meat is used by the natives and for fox feed in the winter. We saw some of the most and found it very delicate, though a little bluer in color than was attractive. Seal liver is finer than the finest cod liver.

Family Life of the Seal. The family life of the seal is remarkable, and shows intelligence that cannot be accounted for in any animal, which is said



A SURPRISED LOT OF SLEEPERS

to be absolutely unteachable, as the fur-bearing seal is. During the winter the rookeries are deserted, the seals being off to the warmer waters of the south, but from May 15 to 15 the bulls seal make their appearance and take up positions on the rocks, selecting locations as near the water as they can get them and fiercely fighting any others who seek to dispossess them. The weaker brethren must take their places further back and so on till the bachelor seals are reached and they are driven entirely off the rookery proper. These bachelor seals are young fellows four or five years old who have not yet grown sufficiently strong to fight the old ones and take a family, but if they escape the killers they will dispossess the old bulls in time, to be driven forth themselves when they have grown old.

On each plot of space selected, say a rod or more square, the bull seal maintains



A SEAL SETTLEMENT—PRIBYLOFFS

six white people and 100 Aleuts live in small frame houses getting their spiritual supplies from a Greek church and their physical from the company store. Anchoring a mile or more from shore for lack of a harbor, we landed in boats. The only white woman on the island was the wife of Major Clark, the government agent, and as she was to see no visitors from October until the following June, as ships only come in the summer time, it was fair to suppose she was not anticipating a very brilliant social season.

Accompanied by Mr. Jett, deputy agent, we went along the shore for about a mile until we came to the rocks where the seals make their home. These seal grounds are called rookeries and to further complicate the use of terms a male seal is called a bull, a female a cow and a little one a puppy seal, a combination of birds and beavers and canines that the language makers ought to be called to account for. We could hear a good deal of a racket as we approached the rookery, under the cliff sounding something like the barking of dogs and the bellowing of cattle and the grunting of pigs, but we were not prepared for the sight that met our eyes as we looked down on the rocks and the sea at the foot of the cliff. There were great bull seals on high points lifting themselves up on their flippers and roaring; there were cow seals, howling mournfully, and the sea was actually alive with seals of all sizes, from the smallest and youngest seal in line or limb. This discordant din continued night and day from July to November or later and in foggy weather is the only signal for mariners who are getting too close to the rocky and dangerous coast.

Next of Puppy Seals. We went down on the rocks to get a closer view of the animals and there came in actual touch with the puppy seals. Those of them that were not playing were curled up asleep in the nooks and crannies of the rocks, piled up in a row on top of each other. They slept so soundly that we could stroke their fur. Usually they did not awake until we would pick up one by its tail, or what passes for a tail, and then it would wake up with a bark and a great spluttering and spluttering somewhat as a cat might. It would try to bite, too, and when it was let loose would go wobbling over the rocks with its companions, bounding around like rubber and apparently reckless of bumps and bruises. A young seal is about eighteen inches or two feet long, not much bigger than a puppy and quite black. These youngsters cannot swim and have so little desire for water that their mothers have to push them into the sea to take their first lesson. The older seals are as a rule gentle, and what is more, they are not afraid of a human hand. They can be approached within a few hundred feet without disturbing them. Occasionally an old fellow is ugly and I saw a very large one, provoked by one of the cutter officers, give chase to him and with such evident purpose of fight that the officer indignantly turned his back and ran as best he could over the rocks, the seal lumbering awkwardly after him and giving him a close race.

A cow seal is as vain as a woman and she never tires of preening herself. The sight of one of them floating serenely on the waves fanning herself with her flippers is as funny as it is womanly. Her day before our arrival the puppy seals had been counted and in this rookery there were 6,000 of them, which would give about fifteen thousand in all, bulls, cows, and bachelors, or killable seals. The last killing day of the season is August 10th. On killing day the seals are driven to the killing grounds, and the bachelors, that is,

himself by his valor alone and he "holds the fort" in a constant succession of battles, in which both contestants are not infrequently slain. About June 1, the cow seals appear and then the battle of the bulls rages more fiercely than ever, until the households are all made up. The bull seals do not again return to the water after they have come out on the rocks, until the families begin to break up in the autumn, and they neither eat nor drink during that time. They come out as fast as they can roll, weighing sometimes as high as 400 pounds, and when they return to the sea they are so thin and weak that they can scarcely get about. In pleasing contrast with the disagreeable displays of temper and jealousy on the part of the male members of the various families is the delightfully amiable disposition of the mild-eyed, sweet-faced, females. They never complain or quarrel or fight, and even when they are severely injured in the battles over them they submit to it all in a perfect spirit of gentleness and resignation. The family life of these interesting animals begins with the appearance of the puppy seals. Thousands of little fellows chase over the rocks and play, quite neglected by their parents as soon as they get beyond the limit of their affection for her baby if it gets beyond the home limits and it may be killed by either father or mother will fight for it to the death within the limits of its birth-place. At the same time a mother seal will

select her own puppy from among 15,000 when she comes in from the sea all nursing time, and she will not permit a strange puppy near her. She recognizes her own by its voice, and if she calls and gets no answer she will lie down to sleep for awhile and wake to call again. When she hears its voice among the thousands she pushes her way through the throng until she reaches it, and then gives it the care it needs. She will sometimes be away for two or more days feeding out at sea, but the puppy doesn't seem to miss its mother for any ordinary length of time. Neither is it so particular as she is, and it will lunch with any mother seal that will invite it, only, as before stated, the mother wants her own. A puppy seal does not like the water at first, and, though the mother

teaches it to swim in several weeks, it is nearly half grown before it becomes an expert. As soon as they have mastered the art, however, seals are the most graceful of swimmers, and they can have more fun dashing through the surf and riding the waves than a dozen small boys. I saw numbers of them far out of sight of land in Bering sea, quite as much at home as a fish would be. The bachelor seal is really a pathetic individual. He has no home to go to nor has he any social recognition in seal society and he is compelled to live away back in the suburbs of the rookery. A narrow street is left open for him to get down to the sea through the rookery and he is not disturbed as long as he keeps in that narrow path, but woe to him if he gets off it. The old seals thump him and beat him and drive him forth in utter disgrace. In addition to his hard domestic life he is "killable" and at any moment after the first of July and until August 15 he may be driven to the slaughtering grounds and be knocked in the head. Single blessedness is no snap for the seal. As the season advances the family relations and regulations are gradually relaxed. The husband grows less jealous, the wives go further out to sea seeking food and stay away longer, and the seals are not fought so fiercely by the old fellows and by the middle of August the rookeries present a scene of general disorganization and breaking up as if the entire community were about to move out. The husbands and fathers now desert their homes and take to the water or herd to themselves away from the rookeries and begin to eat and drink. During the autumn the departure of the seals is gradual, the puppies in some instances not getting away until late as January, but by that time all are gone and the rookeries are still, save for the cries of the innumerable sea fowl that have their homes in the cliffs.

Where the seals go in winter I do not know, nor do I know why they have selected these two islands in the Bering sea for making their abiding place, almost to the exclusion of all others. A seal doesn't like sunshine if it brings a temperature above forty-five degrees, neither can he endure the lead mud on his living grounds, but there are other places where it is cold and where rocks abound and yet on these two little islands more seals live for half the year than are in all other parts of the world together.

WILLIAM J. LAMPSON.

BIG BOOST FOR WESTBERG

City Comptroller Builds a Pretty Annex to His Salary.

While in Lincoln Tuesday City Comptroller John N. Westberg appeared before the senate committee on metropolitan affairs and explained to the committee members why his salary should be raised from \$1,500 to \$2,500. The committee approved the bill making this change in salary and also approved a measure which increased the salary of the city prosecutor from \$900 to \$1,500.

The Trust Problem.

To a thoughtful mind the trust problem is one of serious import. It must be firmly grappled with, for it creeps upon society before you are aware of its existence, in this respect much resembling the various disorders which attack the stomach such as constipation, indigestion, dyspepsia and biliousness. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will cure all such ailments, and prevent it to give it a trial.

Advertising Comment

How to Make Advertising Pay. "What is so rare as a day in June?" asked the sentimentalist, and the practical man answers, "Why an underdone beef-steak." I am persuaded, however, that there is something more rare than either of these. I refer to that quality in a man which enables him to see a thing through to the end. The persistency which does not let go until that which is sought is accomplished, how few of us possess it. Every successful man, every wealthy man of today is a persistent man.

There are no paved streets, no royal road leading to success. Hills, valleys, rocks and ruts are on every side, and then there are the long, level stretches which try a man's soul more than the rocks and the hills. Many a daring and successful mountain climber "peters out" in crossing the plain. It is too slow for him, too monotonous, too tiresome, all he sees is the seemingly interminable dead level and dry sand, the glare of the sun, and so growing weary, he

RUSHING OMAHA JOBBERS

Spring Buyers More Numerous and Better Pleased Than Ever Before.

STOCKS IN THIS CITY ARE COMPLETE

Country Merchants Express Themselves as Being Satisfied to Buy Their Goods in This Market.

The country merchants own the wholesale district this week. For a month or more they will be in evidence while purchasing their goods for spring and summer trade. The fame of Omaha as a wholesale center has spread during the winter in a manner never known before, and salesmen on the floors of the various houses declare they have ten customers this season to one at this time in any previous year.

Yesterday morning the Diers Bros. syndicate was on the market. Five syndicate controls stores at Ulysses, Fullerton, Greasman, Rising and Cedar Rapids. The representatives each year make a tour of the jobbing centers, including St. Louis, Chicago and New York, and after an inspection of the various stocks and terms place their orders where they can do so to the best advantage. This year they concluded their trip at Omaha, which they will supply their five stores the coming season. In the party this morning were Harry Diers of Ulysses, John Diers of Fullerton, William Diers of Greasman, William Tower of Rising City and Gid Baum of Cedar Rapids. Speaking of their trip this season, John Diers said:

"We have visited the principal markets of the country and have inspected all of the stocks. As we passed through Omaha on our way east we stopped off for a day. When we reached the eastern centers we found nothing that we could not purchase in Omaha, and as the terms, free on board cars, were practically the same, the short haul saved the day for Omaha and we returned here to place our orders. We save money on freights and the wholesalers here always give us a royal good time. The stocks in this city are better than they were than ever before, and we all feel confident that Omaha will be one of the principal dry goods jobbing centers in a few years."

Iowa Merchant Talks. M. F. Shafer of the firm of M. F. Shafer & Co. of Villisca, Ia., is on the market making his first purchases in Omaha. He has been in business at Villisca for several years and his trade generally went to Missouri towns. "I am surprised," he said, "at the display of goods in Omaha. I believe that I will save at least \$150 on my purchases this season by buying in Omaha, and I am sure that I will open up with one of the brightest and best stocks ever placed in my store. Villisca is going to enjoy a season of unrivalled business prospects this season. The Burlington is going to place a double track on its western Iowa division and much of the work will be done near our town. There is one cut which will require the work of 100 men two years, and as this cut is only a mile and a half from our town, we expect to do much trade from this source. Consequently we are increasing our lines, and in my case, at least, Omaha wholesalers are to reap the benefit."

F. H. Kernahan of Comstock, Neb., one of the dealers on the market, said: "Omaha is destined to become the leading dry goods distributing point in the west, as this year dealers who came here are finding out that they can buy to good advantage in Omaha, and are beginning to select from us in any part of the country. Freight rates out an important figure with the retail dealer, and they are in favor of Omaha in the western territory, because of the geographical position of the city."

Milliners Are Pleased. In the millinery line the difference in the state of the market is as marked as in the other lines. Mrs. A. C. Heath of Dow City, Ia., expressed the ideas and position of many of the visitors when she remarked: "I can hardly be called a dealer in Omaha stocks at this time, for I have only come to see what Omaha is doing. I have been in the house but five minutes, and if my present belief is borne out by my investigations I will go no further, for I have never seen more money in any city."

Mrs. J. D. Edwards of Stronburg said: "I am glad that Omaha is getting into the millinery trade, for it will be of great advantage to the milliners of the state. Excuse me, but I have an important item in the millinery trade, and I have only come to see what Omaha is doing. I have been in the house but five minutes, and if my present belief is borne out by my investigations I will go no further, for I have never seen more money in any city."

PETERSON INQUEST DELAYED

Meanwhile Detectives Make Renewed Efforts to Solve the Mystery.

Several detectives are at work upon the mysterious case of Mary Peterson, the domestic who was found dead Monday morning in the home of J. S. Collins, 1211 Burlington street, where she was employed, and pending a report from them the inquest was postponed until today. It is understood that they are now looking for a young man who wrote the woman several letters, in which significant admissions were made. "If we can find him," one of the detectives said yesterday, "we may be able to get some light on the case. The fact of his questionable relations with her does not necessarily imply that he killed her, but it might be in a position to testify on several material points. For instance, he might know whether or not she had ever threatened to commit suicide."

Walker March Over French.

General French is quite the hero of the hour on Pall Mall, though, of course, General Kitchener's controlling hand is recognized under every circumstance. It is felt by Mr. Broderick and Lord Roberts that so long as the British forces are doing something to diminish the Boers' supply of men, mounts and ammunition, they are achieving the only possible objective at present in sight. It is not believed to be at all likely that General Kitchener will grant any armistice as a preliminary to peace, or if he does he will not let the War office know of it until he learns of the result. In fact, small reliance is placed in such an offer, for even if General Botha gave in, the War office is inclined to think that his action would only affect the force under his immediate individual command, and the same policy which is now being pursued would have to be continued against the other forces far removed from the commander-in-chief.

Ex-Senator Evans Is Better.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Ex-Senator William M. Evans, a member of the cabinet, was said at his home today that he was some better than yesterday.

IT'S EASY TO TELL WHICH IS THE BEST. TELL BY THE NAME. GEO. W. CHILDS. GENEROUSLY GOOD 5¢ CIGAR. Harburger, Homan & Co., Manufacturers. McCord, Brady Co., Distributors.

WOMEN MARTYRS. Wine of Cardui has done me a world of good. I have been afflicted ten years with irregular and painful menstruation. My monthly periods would come on with great pain and I had to lie down to be ease. I had heart and nervous trouble. I have taken Wine of Cardui and Theodor's Black-Draught and find them to be the best medicines women can take for such troubles. Mrs. L. L. LINDSAY.

BELIEVE WAR'S END NEAR. Englishmen Conclude from Recent Captures That Enemy Weakens. GENERAL FRENCH IS THE HERO NOW. Kitchener Shares in Praise Only as Controlling General—Roberts Still Has Doubts About Botha.

THE FIRST BORN. It is naturally a subject of wonder and worriment to the young mother. Happy and easy will she be if some kind friend tells her of the marvels of relief to be obtained by the use of "Mother's Friend".

EVERY WOMAN. It is interested and should know about the wonderful MARVEL WHIRLING. The new Vaginal Syringe. It is clean, convenient, it cleanses lastingly.

STRONG AGAIN. You who once possessed sturdy physique and steady nerves, but now have insufficient physical force to properly attend to ordinary duties, you who have a sense of "physical weakness" after the slightest exertion, you who are dull, sluggish and old in spirit at so young an age when you should be full of physical fire, you who may feel that your life is not worth the struggle—there is a scientific means of redeeming all the precious powers which seem to be entirely lost.

MEN. NO CURE, NO PAY. If you have small, weak organs, lost power or weakness, drain, and all manner of ailments, we will restore you without charge or cost, unless you are cured. Write for our circulars. LOCAL APPLICANCE CO., 414 Charles Bldg., Denver, Colo.

CALIFORNIA. FIRST CLASS PULLMAN SLEEPERS. OMAHA AND SAN FRANCISCO Without Change. GREAT ROCK ISLAND ROUTE.

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