

WHERE DO SEALS GO IN WINTER?

Ancient Mystery Remains Unsolved to This Day, Says a Writer.

HERDS ARE NOW SMALLER

Formerly the Annual Kill Was 100,000, but the Law Now Bars Wholesale Slaughter—Killing Done by Natives.

Washington.—With the growing popularity of fur coats the interest in their origin is also developing, and many an owner of a handsome seal skin coat mused idly over its history before reaching her and the phases of its production. But very few are aware of a real mystery attached to the garment which is so important to the smart woman's wardrobe—for there is indeed a mystery surrounding the seal and in all the years these animals have been put to commercial use and have been under such close observation no one has ever been able to discover where they go in winter. No one yet has been able to make a record of their hiding place, according to Gas Logic, which gives something of the history of the seal.

"In Alaska, the seals begin to appear on the islands of St. Paul and St. George about the end of April or the first of May," reads the article, "and toward the latter part of August or in the first weeks of September, they disappear as strangely and mysteriously as they came. This is one of Nature's secrets which she has kept most successfully hid from scientists as well as the prying eyes of the merely curious and inquisitive.

Seals Desert Islands.
"Even in the days, years ago, when the seals numbered five millions or more, apparently some signal unknown to man would be given and the next day the fog-wreathed rocks would be bare, the seals having deserted the islands. With their slipping off into Bering Sea, all trace of them was lost until their return the following spring. Then some morning they would suddenly reappear, dispersing themselves in the water or on the shore.

"When the United States bought Alaska from Russia in 1867, outsiders without any rights or privileges were in the habit of going there to kill as many seals as possible. In order to prevent what might prove the extinction of the sealing industry the United States government in 1870 stopped this

indiscriminate killing and leased the islands of St. Paul and St. George to the Alaska Commercial company, giving the company the right to kill 100,000 seals a year for 20 years. The islands were later leased by the government to another commercial company and the killing was cut so that it could not exceed 60,000 seals a year. In 1911 this figure was still further reduced to 15,000 a year, and since that time it has varied from 15,000 to 21,000 annually. In 1913 the United States assumed entire control of the sealing industry and it has conducted it since that time.

"In 1919 about 30,000 seals were taken for commercial use. There are now approximately 400,000 seals in Alaska and the government has taken strict measures to prevent this number from being depleted. No one not authorized by the government is allowed on the two principal seal islands except at the time of the killing, when the Aleuts or natives are permitted to go there to attend to the actual killing of the animals and the salting of their skins. The seals selected are driven slowly inshore for a mile or more, every care being taken not to alarm the rest of the herd. The process is similar to that of ambushing a company of soldiers, cutting them off completely from the rest of the regiment and disposing of them before they are missed from the lines.

Clubbed to Death.
"When the natives have arrived at the salting houses, near which they have driven the seals, they kill them by clubbing them on the head. After skinning them, the skins are heavily salted on the flesh side and put in piles

of six, being arranged in three pairs, the fleshy side of each skin against the fleshy side of another skin. Later they are rolled in packages of four and put into casks, then shipped to San Francisco, whence they are reshipped by rail to the Eastern fur centers.
"Seals weighing less than six pounds may not be killed, according to law. Experts say that the best skins come from those mammals between the ages of two and four years. For the first time this year some of the older seals—those from six to eight years—are to be killed as an experiment. The fur of these 'Wigs,' as the older ones are called, is coarser and not as long and soft as that of the 'pups' or youngsters. It takes from two to four skins for a coat, depending upon its size and style. Though it is not possible to set an exact price on the value of a seal-skin, it is now about \$70. Innumerable imitations of seal-skins are sold, the best known being 'Hudson seal,' which is dressed and dyed muskrat. Then there are numbers of near-seal varieties, which have such names as French, Siberian or Baltic seal, etc. All of the near-seal furs are simply dressed and dyed rabbit."

Twins Born Twenty Miles Apart Within Six Hours

Although they were born 20 miles apart and in different counties, Reuben and Ruth Walden are twins.
The stork visited the home of Mrs. Nancy Walden, wife of a farmer of Hill Top, Colo., and left a lusty boy. The attending physician placed Mrs. Walden in a motorcar and drove her to a Denver hospital, 20 miles distant, where a daughter was born to Mrs. Walden six hours later.

NEW PLANE HAS WINGS LIKE BIRD

Inventor Perfects Model After Exhaustive Study of Wild Goose and the Eagle.

U. S. EXPERTS APPROVE IT

Ninety-Six Miles an Hour With Eight Revolutions a Minute Claimed for New Machine—No Vacuum Required and Is Nonrigid.

Norfolk, Va.—An airplane with wings that flap like a bird has been patented by Thomas J. Bird, formerly of Johnson City, Tenn., now a resident of Hampton, Va. It can get up from the water as well as it can from land. It is different from the rigid winged airplane, which receives its impetus from a rapidly revolving propeller. In several tests the machine has proven that it can fly, and it is claimed by the inventor and government experts that it will probably prove a much better flyer than the present-day airplane.

Mr. Bird says his machine in the "take off" and flight through the air does not create or require a vacuum, as does the present-day airplane. Mr. Bird, who is a marine engineer, several years ago took a course in aviation at San Diego, Cal., and became a regular licensed aviator. His idea was to do away with the present propeller and construct a machine with moveable wings or planes that would flap like any winged creature of the air.

Studies Bird Flight.
To attain this end he made exhaustive studies of and observed the flights of wild fowls, especially the wild goose and the eagle. His observations of the sustained flight of the wild goose convinced him that that fowl is one of the swiftest of all winged creatures.

He then built a machine that he flew successfully at Santa Monica, Cal.
The motive power necessary for the propulsion of the mechanism of

this flying machine is a gasoline engine or engines. The most essential mechanism is, first, the universal joint bearing boxes, which connect the wings of the flying machine to the body, and wherewith the wings are caused to swing, flapping like those of a bird in the air; and, second, the wing guiding disk that causes the wings to move downward and upward in an oblong circular movement similar to that of an oarsman rowing a boat. This eliminates all jerking motion in the wing.

It is the constant aim of mechanical engineers in the construction of gasoline engines in operation to hold down the speed revolutions to keep the heat produced by gas combustion and friction at a temperature that will prevent distortion of the engines. For the type of airplane now in use the propellers must revolve very rapidly, and consequently, the engines are speeded up very near the danger point, as where a speed of ninety-six miles an hour is maintained continuously for many hours, which speed is that of the wild goose with its wings and by muscular energy alone. In Mr. Bird's flying machine, with wings likened to those of a wild goose, to attain this speed the wings will be propelled eight revolutions per minute, whereas the propeller airplane will require 1,400 per minute.

The wings or planes in this invention are formed from overlapping slats, and are so constructed as to automatically close on the downward and forward thrust of the wings and open as the wings rise or recover, thereby permitting the air or water, as the case may be, to pass through without retarding the movement of the wings.

The inventor claims that no difficulty will be experienced in developing an engine revolution of 160 to 200 per minute, and a speed of 175 to 200 miles per hour.
The aviation department of the United States government has signified its encouragement of the device by offering aid in the building of a machine this coming summer at its chief construction base at Cleveland, O.

TEETH PROVE DOCTOR FALSE

He Blamed Them for Neuritis, So Patient Calmly Removes the Set.

Winsted, Conn.—Charles S. Warner, a commercial salesman, loves a joke and likes to tell one.

Getting no relief from a doctor's treatment for neuritis he said he visited another doctor and received a thorough examination, after which the second doctor told him his ailment resulted from poor teeth and that he could not expect any relief until the teeth had been taken out.

Mr. Warner protested, but when the doctor insisted, he yielded and removed his false teeth and lauded them to the surprised physician.

Mate Gold and Silver Fowls.
London.—Experiments in the department of genetics, at Cambridge, of mating domestic fowls, one sex of gold and the other of silver-marked plumage, brought interesting results.

When a silver hen was mated with a golden cock, all the sons were silver and all the daughters were gold. A silver cock transmitted the silver factor both to sons and daughters.

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

Blair will vote March 3 on a municipal ice plant.

William Koth, for over 50 years a resident of Pierce county, is dead.

H. R. Herrington, a Warnerville merchant, dropped dead of heart disease.

A community club of fifty charter members has been organized at Wood Lake.

Card parties are being given in Albia to raise funds to help pay for street paving.

Boys of the State Industrial School at Kearney contributed \$82.30 to the Chinese fund.

The State Retail Jewelers' association will convene at Omaha February 23 and 24.

The price of eggs at Norfolk stores dropped to 23 cents per dozen one day last week.

Approximately 20,000 acres have been leased in Thayer county for oil drilling purposes.

More than half the townships of Hall county have completed farm bureau organization.

Beatrice will vote on a proposition to return to the old mayor and council system of government.

The state biennial session of the Woodmen of the World will be held at Columbus April 18 and 19.

The \$9,000 bond issue for the erection of a new school at Morrill has been approved by the state.

The Nebraska Retail Jewelers' association will hold the annual convention in Omaha Feb. 23-24.

Ninety conversions resulted from the revival meetings just closed at the M. E. church at Franklin.

Callaway authorities are fighting the most violent snailpox epidemic in the history of that section.

Farmers in Thayer county have bought thousands of dollars' worth of surplus army harness and saddles.

Airplanes will be added to the auto exhibits at the annual automobile show at Holdrege the first week in April.

The printing of the Nebraska supreme court records has been awarded to a Columbia, Mo., printing house.

Ashland will vote in the spring on the questions of pool halls or no pool halls, Sunday baseball and card clubs.

Fire of undetermined origin at Thurston totally destroyed the building and stock of the Thurston grocery.

A pipe organ, said to be the largest outside Omaha and Lincoln, will be installed in the Temple theater at McCook.

Michael Schaefer, a Platte county pioneer, is dead at his home at St. Bernard. He was the father of twenty-two children.

Seven hundred and fifty-one carload shipments of freight were handled by the Union Pacific from Lodge Pole during 1920.

An epidemic of mange has broken out among horses on the Indian reservation in Burt county, in the vicinity of Decatur.

Broken Bow is agitating a Rotary club. If organized, it will be the smallest club in the United States to boast a club.

The Waterloo Presbyterian church, erected at a cost of \$11,000 by the joint efforts of the community, was dedicated last Sunday.

Reports sent out from Beatrice to the effect that there is an epidemic of smallpox there is strenuously denied by the board of health.

The Peru post of the American Legion raised money to furnish headquarters by presenting the war drama, "The Camouflage of Shirley."

Mrs. Nine Huff of Nebraska City was seriously injured when she forced a pair of scissors into her body as she fell to the floor in a fainting spell.

The price of eggs in Norfolk and other towns in the vicinity dropped to 23 cents a dozen in the stores. This is a decrease of 17 cents in a week.

Burglars entered the sleeping room of two young ladies—Misses Josephine Eckert and Katie Bayel—at Falls City, and cut off their hair while they slept.

Burglars last week raided nearly every business house in Guide Rock, including stores, pool halls and garages, carrying away cash and other goods of value.

Edward J. Crowley, private at the Fort Omaha balloon school, is dead from injuries received when he collided with another skater while skating at a local park. His skull was fractured.

Hogs hit the \$8 a hundred mark Thursday at South Omaha, with a few selling as high as \$8.90. The run of hogs reached a total of 13,500 head, making a total of the four days of the week of 59,805 head as compared with 62,089 for the same days last week and 31,022 head for the same period last year, showing a gain in receipts this year of 31,622 for the four days.

Ed Bolton, a well driller of Bloomfield, has discovered a "steel vein" in Nebraska, he has notified Governor McKelvie. He says a test of the steel proved it to be of the highest quality.

Dr. R. H. Kerr of Alma and Dr. F. A. Brewster, of Beaver City, made a trip by airplane to Fallsade, a distance of 120 miles, to consult with other physicians in the case of the critical illness of patient at the latter place.

Minden High school students presented the members of last year's basketball team, champions of western Nebraska, with watch fobs mounted with gold basketballs.

A five-day week has been begun at Fairbury for section employes of all railroads.

Citizens of Millford have voted bonds for the erection of a municipal electric lighting plant.

Ponca will continue the county seat of Dixon county, having won over the town of Allen, at an election held last week.

Jefferson county schools are engaging in elimination contests prior to the county spelling contest to be held at Fairbury April 9.

Roy C. Pulver, 17, is dead at Albia as a result of illness brought on by an attack of hemorrhoids which began a short time ago.

Mrs. Charlotte Lyons, 101 years old, is dead at Seward, following a peculiar illness of several weeks, during which time she lay in a stupor.

A twenty-piece band has been formed at Lodge Pole under the direction of Louis DeBrunner, well known throughout the state as a director.

Forty-seven carloads of hogs, purchased from Buffalo county farmers and stockmen on the Callaway line, were shipped from Kearney last week.

Rev. Father Lynch, 75, pastor of the Catholic church of Wood River for 36 years, is dead. He held pastorates at Plattsburgh and North Platte.

A new record for a day's freight shipments from Cozad was established last week when sixty cars of sheep, hogs and alfalfa were started to market.

Plans to relieve unemployment by the construction of several new business blocks and many residences have been made by the Sidney Chamber of Commerce.

A contract for a new court house at Schuyler to cost \$148,000, upon which construction will be started a year from March 1, has been let by the county commissioners.

Forty citizens of Wabash have petitioned the Nebraska railway commission to require the Missouri Pacific and the Western Union Telephone company to reinstate its telegraph instruments removed February 3.

The Congress of Surgeons will be held in Omaha March 3-4. This is expected to be one of the largest meetings of the year and will bring surgeons from all parts of the United States.

Lieut. Gov. P. A. Barrows has been excused for two weeks by a unanimous vote of the senate to take an official trip east as commander-in-chief of the National Sons of Veterans' association.

S. F. Heckman, president of the First State bank of Hickman, was found dead in his barn, with a shotgun lying beside him, circumstances indicating an act of suicide, but no cause is known.

Fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the Harbin block, the best structure in Nelson, causing a loss of \$25,000. The Masonic lodge, occupying the upper story, lost its entire paraphernalia.

The State Board of Control has just purchased 200 pairs of work shoes for the Nebraska penitentiary at \$3.05 a pair, which the board says is about \$1.50 lower a pair than at the peak of prices, wholesale.

In a communication to the Creighton university at Omaha the State Bar association has announced the addition of a second collegiate year to the requirement for entrance to law schools.

The Omaha-Chicago division of the air mail service lost one of its pioneer flyers when Pilot H. H. Rowe, with Pilot W. L. Carroll and Mechanician R. B. Hill, was cremated Wednesday evening in a German junker plane, which crashed to earth and burst into flames at La Crosse, Wis.

The oldest sheriff in Nebraska, and perhaps in the United States, is L. A. Williams of Loup City, who is eighty years old and has been guarding the public peace and order in one capacity or another for nearly half that time.

Dr. Wilson of the state board of health, investigating the epidemic which has placed over fifty homes at Blair under quarantine, pronounces the disease a form of smallpox. Schools and churches may be closed.

The Nebraska college of agriculture mails out an average of 10,000 free copies of agricultural bulletins each month to persons requesting them.

The publications deal with practically every phase of agriculture. Copies of these publications also are distributed through county farm bureaus. They consist of circulars and bulletins issued by the Nebraska agricultural experiment station, the agricultural extension service and the United States department of agriculture at Washington.

The smallest complete airplane in America made a non-stop flight from Grand Island to Omaha, Tuesday. It weighs only 135 pounds, has a wing span of 24 feet and measures 16½ feet from front to rear. It was built by A. H. Fetters and E. N. Greedy of Omaha.

The official board of the Presbyterian church at Steele City has extended a call to the Rev. Frederick Knauer, who is at present a teacher in the Hastings college. The other churches at Steele City have disbanded and the church-going people have united in supporting but one church.

Stockmen of Arthur have shipped more cattle and hogs in the past two weeks than for many months before. Nearly all has gone to South Omaha.

Holding him over a sixty-foot trestle and threatening to drop him into space and crush out his life, a highwayman robbed Carl Hartmann, coal heaver for the Northwestern railroad at Norfolk.

The Ashland volunteer fire department, since the receipt of its new chemical ladders, hose and other apparatus, is said to be the best equipped force of any town of similar size in the state.

MAY CUT SALARIES

MEMBERS OF HOUSE VOTE TO REDUCE PAY OF SEVERAL STATE OFFICERS

GOVERNOR INCLUDED IN LIST

Bill Is Placed on General File and Lively Contest Is Expected When Measure Is Introduced for Final Action

Lincoln—There is now on general file in the lower branch of the legislature a bill proposing to scale down the salaries of Nebraska's state officers and judges below the amounts tentatively fixed in the new constitution, as follows:

Governor and supreme court judges, from \$7,500 a year each to \$6,000.

Attorney general and state treasurer, from \$5,000 to \$4,500.

Secretary of state, auditor, land commissioner, railway commissioners, state superintendent, and district court judges, from \$5,000 to \$4,000.

This bill was the center of a hot fight in the house when majority and minority reports upon it were presented by the committee on fees and salaries.

Following a half hour's discussion and maneuvering by supporters and opponents of the bill, a roll call was ordered on the question of adopting the minority report. The motion was defeated after a call of the house had been declared and several absentees brought in. This action placed the bill on general file.

Another bill reported in by the fees and salaries committee for the general file is one fixing the pay of deputy state officers, the governor's secretary and the secretaries of the state railway commission and the board of control. This bill was prepared and introduced at the instance of some of the officials benefitted. It fixed the pay of all of them at \$3,600 a year. The committee trimmed this amount to \$2,500.

The secretary of the railway commission already received \$2,500, so that the amended bill allows him no raise. The board of control secretary and most of the deputy state officers have been drawing \$1,800, but the attorney general's deputy got \$2,000. The governor's secretary has also been getting \$2,000.

Will Support Railway Commission
Full moral support and such financial aid as is necessary to carry thru the struggle by the Nebraska state railway commission with the interstate commerce commission, is extended in a resolution presented in the lower house by Representatives Williams and Snow.

It is further resolved that the Nebraska delegates in the national congress be urged to give their support to amendments which will restore to the state supervision of railroad rates within its boundaries in the event that the courts sustain the interstate commission.

Appoint Immigration Committee
As the result of inquiries by national organization interested in the adoption of some definite immigration policy by the United States government, which came to Governor McKelvie and were referred by him to the legislature, a special committee was appointed in the house by Speaker Anderson to consider the matter and submit recommendations.

Messrs. Douglas, Davis and Hascall were named on this committee. Mr. Davis is the introducer of the Japanese land bill.

Anti-Jap Bill Passes House
The house refused to back-track on its stand against Japanese agriculturists in Nebraska when it passed the Davis anti-Asiatic measure. This bill excludes Japanese, Chinese and low caste Hindus from owning real estate in this state. It does not designate the groups, but does designate all aliens who are ineligible to become citizens of the United States, and these Asiatics are the ineligible.

Will Consider Rural Credits Plan
What is known as the South Dakota plan of rural credits, based on the issuance and sale of bonds by the state and loaning the proceeds direct to farmers on land mortgage security, will soon come before the Nebraska legislature for consideration. The Lynn bill, providing for a system of this kind, has been reported by the finance committee for passage in the house and will be considered when it is reached on the general file.

Kill Standard Loaf Bill
The senate indefinitely postponed a bill introduced by Smith of Douglas, to require bakers to sell standard sized loaves of bread, or loaves of one pound and one and one-half pounds.

Arguments against the bill were that there was no particular demand for it, and that it would work a hardship on the smaller bakers out in the state.

Return From Inspection Trip
Representatives Sandquist and Wallace, members of the house finance committee, have returned from an inspection trip to Hastings, Kearney and Grand Island. They inspected the state hospital at Hastings, the industrial school and the tubercular hospital at Kearney and the soldiers' home at Grand Island.

While they were not disposed to make public their deductions, both members indicated that they may have something strong and certain to say in regard to the soldiers' home.

Rebecca Was Late, Pastor Was Merciless

Washington, N. C.—A certain young and devout church woman of this city, whose name is Rebecca, never misses divine services, but often is late.

Last Sunday she arrived just as the pastor was reading from the Scriptures the story of Rebecca at the well. As the intercomer tripped up the aisle the minister read:

"And behold, Rebecca came forth."

Broad smiles played over the faces of the worshippers. Blushes flooded the face of Rebecca. Courageously she went on, quickening her steps.

"And she made haste," continued the clergyman.

Snickers from the youngsters, broader smiles from the grown-ups and half-suppressed giggles from the half-grown were the response.

By that time Miss Rebecca had reached her pew. She stumbled in and sank down as if she hoped the cushions would swallow her.

"Let the damsel abide with us," said the minister, closing his book and ending the reading, much to the relief of Rebecca.

"Baby Congressman" Gets Pointers



"Uncle Joe" Cannon, the oldest member of the house of representatives in point of service, was snapped recently while visiting with Representative Clarence J. McLeod, the newly elected "baby congressman" from Michigan. "Uncle Joe" was battling on the floor of the house long before McLeod was born. McLeod was twenty-five years old last July 3.