

ON THE FUR SEAL ISLANDS

Corner of the United States that Knows No Poverty.

TEN MILLION SEAL HERD

Alerts Up in the Arctic Well Housed, Well Cared for and Happy—New Lease of the Islands in 1910.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—The secretary of commerce and labor is now engaged in preparing an invitation to American companies and individuals to submit bids for the leasing of one of the most valuable and at the same time most troublesome possessions of the United States, the Fur Seal Islands.

The islands were acquired from Russia along with the rest of Alaska, in 1867, and in 1870 they were first leased, the Alaska Commercial company being the lessee. In 1890 the North American Commercial company made a better bid and secured the privilege of taking seals for the succeeding ten years. It is believed that the Alaska Commercial company, which has again become an aggressive competitor in the fur-busy industry in Alaska, will bid for the lease.

Under the present contract the lessee pays at the rate of \$10.25 for each skin taken. The secretary of commerce and labor determines the kind and number of seals to be taken each year and the method of killing. Under the regulations the animals are killed with clubs, and the kill is restricted to "bachelors" of 2 and 3 years old. The age is fixed by the weight of the skin, none weighing less than eight and a half pounds being legal. As the bachelors herd by themselves most of the killing season, it is an easy matter to see that only male seals being killed, although at the end of the mating season more care must be exercised.

Natives Well Furnished.

In addition to the sum paid the government for each skin the company furnishes free to the natives on the islands dried salmon and salt and sail barrels for preserving a supply of meat, eighty tons of coal annually, comfortable dwellings and necessary school houses, which it keeps in repair, competent teachers and a free school for the education of the children eight months of the year, competent physicians, medicines and medical supplies, and the necessary care for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands unable to provide for themselves. The company also employs the natives to perform such work on the islands as they are fitted to perform at a compensation fixed by the secretary of commerce and labor.

On its side the government employs an agent, Walter I. Lembeck, and three assistant agents to look after its interest upon the islands, and also furnishes revenue cutters and naval vessels to protect the islands from raids by marauding pelagic sealers.

The Pribilof Islands, which are the breeding grounds of the major herd of the Pacific fur seals, were discovered in 1786 by Gerassin Pribilof, a navigator in the employ of one of the Russian trading companies. They are situated in Bering sea, about 2,000 miles from Seattle, Wash. The group consists of St. Paul, St. George, Walrus and Otter islands and Sea Lion Rock. They are completely isolated from other islands of the Aleutian chain, which is 214 miles to the southward.

The islands are of volcanic origin and are desert to the extent that they produce nothing capable of sustaining man. They are remarkable for the profusion of wild flowers found upon them during the summer months.

IN FOGGY SOLITUDE.

During a large part of the year the islands and the surrounding sea are enveloped in a dense fog, which makes navigation difficult and hazardous. There are no vessels on the islands—practically the only kind of boat in use is the native bidark or skin canoe—capable of being navigated to the mainland or to the nearest port, and the only time the residents come in touch with the outside world is when the North American Commercial company's steamer calls there twice each year, and at irregular intervals when a revenue cutter chances to stop for a few hours.

These islands are the only breeding ground of the Pribilof or American fur seal herd, which even in its present depleted condition is the largest fur seal herd in the world. The seals of this herd breed upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George during the summer and annually in the fall leave them and proceed through Bering sea and the passes between the Aleutian islands into the Pacific ocean. Some of them go as far south as Santa Barbara channel, off southern California. Generally speaking, this annual migration of the herd begins in November, and by the latter part of December there are few if any animals left on the islands. They remain away until the following spring, the first arrivals usually appearing about May 1 and the last the latter part of June or July.

Wanted Killing Stopped.

At the time of the discovery of these islands by the Russians fur seal, sea otter,

walrus, sea lions and foxes were found in almost unlimited numbers. The killing of all these species of animals proceeded with wondrous prodigality from 1786 until 1882, when the fur seal herd was reduced to less than 200,000. A closed season was established on the islands from 1885 to 1890, during which period only such seals were killed as were necessary to furnish food and clothing for the natives, while the killing of females was prohibited entirely.

As a result of these drastic measures the herd was gradually reestablished, and during the first twenty years of American possession 100,000 young male seals were killed annually for commercial purposes. From 1786 to 1890, both inclusive, there have been killed in the islands, about 5,100,000 seals. Since 1870 over 2,300,000 skins yielding a revenue to the government of over \$10,000,000, have been killed and shipped from the islands.

The natives living upon the islands are not the least interesting of its inhabitants. They are Aleuts, being members of the race living upon the Aleutian chain, from which they were brought originally by the Russians to aid in killing the seals. They are a simple, kindly people, with whom the whites have never had any trouble. Police men are unknown on the islands, and would have no work to do if they were present. The people are exceedingly polite and civil, not only in their intercourse with the whites, but among themselves. There is no idleness or destitution among them, each family living in a snug, frame dwelling which is plainly but neatly furnished. The sanitary arrangements of the villages are carefully looked after by the officials of the government and the company.

American Dress in Vogue.

After the islands became a part of the United States, the natives gradually discarded the old Russian costumes and now all dress like ordinary Americans. Some of the women have developed into excellent seamstresses. A few of the islanders have substantial sums to their credit upon the company's books upon which they draw interest.

The women are great gossipers. Both women and men make and receive calls on their saints' days, and as these are numerous, social intercourse is generally active. Most of them give dinners on the anniversary of their birthday.

Seal meat is the principal food of all. They are passionately fond of butter and are also lovers of sweet crackers and canned fruits. A tremendous quantity of tea is brewed and drunk every year. The samovars and tea kettles of American make, are bubbling and boiling from the moment the housewife stirs herself at daybreak until the fire goes out when they are all dressed in handsome robes and all carry crosses, teans and banners.

They are practically all members of the Russian church and both St. Paul and St. George have churches of this faith and resident priests. Every year or so they are visited by Bishop Innocent, the Russian Bishop of Alaska, and during his visit but little work is done, all being busy feasting and attending services in the church or having processions along the shore street each village boasts. In these processions the priests, acolytes and singers are all dressed in handsome robes and all carry crosses, teans and banners. Weddings and christenings are occasions of especial significance in the church life and are also celebrated with feasting and merrymaking in the homes after the church portion is over with.

THE WOMAN AT THE PHONE

She Wasn't Communicative and the Company Profited Thereby.

"Occasionally," said the man as he left the telephone booth red-faced and angry, "the girls change in a way that cannot be explained. I just now had an experience with a woman over the telephone that would puzzle anyone."

"A man I know had a telephone at his home, but none in his office. I dropped my nickel in the box, called his home number and presently a woman's voice answered with the usual 'Hello.' I asked if this were Mr. So-and-so's home and the voice came back, 'You've got the wrong number.' I was about to ask what number I had when the woman rang off."

"I dropped another nickel in the slot and told central she had given me the wrong number, and so she tried again. After some waiting the same woman got on the wire again. Again she told me I had the wrong number, and at once rang off. That made 30 cents to the bad."

"Once more I got central and this time I went after her strong. She said she certainly had given me the number I asked for, and I was just as sure that she hadn't. Well, anyway, she promised to get it for me this time if I could be got."

"Much to my surprise, when I heard a voice at the other end next time it was that of the woman I had had twice before. I began differently this time. 'Is this number so-and-so?' I asked. 'Yes,' the woman replied. 'Isn't that Mr. Blank's number?' I demanded. 'No, it isn't,' she came back with. 'I told you that twice before.' 'I thought I detected signs that she was about to hang up again, and I got in hastily. I asked how it was that this number was in the book for the man I asked for, and I asked her whether the house number was not a certain street number in the Bronx."

"No," she answered, "that isn't the street number at all. This telephone number used to belong to the man you speak of, but he has no house telephone now and we got it. We live a couple of miles from where he did."

"And then she rang off once more. Just think of that! She made me pay 15 cents, when she might have told me that the first time."

WHITE PLAGUE AND RED MEN

Susceptibility of Indians to Infections of Civilization.

RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION

Recent Origin of Tuberculosis Among Various Tribes, the Cause and Cure—Preventive Measures Needed.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—(Special)—The very great activity that has prevailed during recent years in the study of preventive diseases and especially of tuberculosis, has been very widespread. The increased prevalence of the dread White Plague has been found to extend far beyond the confines of city life and investigation has shown its increase to a marked degree in its various forms among the Indians in the United States. This subject is naturally of very great importance and calls for vigorous attempts to limit the spread of the infection, unless we are willing that the red man shall follow the black and other aboriginal forms to extermination.

Dr. Alex. Hrdlicka of the scientific staff of the United States National Museum undertook during the summer of 1908, in the joint auspices of the office of Indian Affairs and the Smithsonian Institution, a study of the conditions with regard to tuberculosis among five selected tribes of Indians in the United States. He made an exhibit and presented a preliminary account of his studies before the Sixty-third International Tuberculosis congress that was held in Washington during September and October of 1908. This preliminary paper, extended by the insertion of his complete report and with numerous illustrations has just been published with the title of "Tuberculosis Among Certain Indian Tribes of the United States," a bulletin forty-two of the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution.

Susceptibility of the Race. A brief summary of the bulletin can not but be of interest to the general public as well as to the specialist. In his introduction, Dr. Hrdlicka discusses the history of the development of the disease among the Indians, and he finds while there is no reference made to it by writers who reported on the period of the earliest contact of the whites with the various tribes, still at the present time the Indians show a greater susceptibility to the infection than the white man, thus clearly indicating a lesser immunization of his system which implies the more recent introduction of the infection into his race. Dr. Hrdlicka correctly assumes "that the disease must have been much less frequent among the Indians in former times, than among a more natural and active life, were better insured to hardships, and, with the exception of particular localities and periods, were better provided with suitable food."

Carefully prepared tables on the morbidity and mortality of tuberculosis among the Indians are presented by Dr. Hrdlicka, compiled from the census returns, from statistics collected by physicians in the Indian service in 1904, and from statistics on mortality gathered by the Indian office during 1908. In a general way this data may be summarized as showing that among 1,000 Indians there are 9.7 per cent cases of pulmonary tuberculosis; 1.35 per cent of tuberculosis of bones and joints, and 15 per cent of cases of glandular tuberculosis.

Personal Investigation.

In greater detail even, he discusses his own results regarding the actual state of the different tribes, and statistical data based on the examinations made from actual visits to the tribes themselves. He first visited the Menominee, a tribe consisting of 54 men and 89 women; then the Ojibwa Sioux, whose population is 4,993 persons; and next the Quinaulti, a small tribe of only 141 individuals; next the Hupa, 426 in number; and lastly the Mohave, or rather Colorado River Mohave, who live in Arizona, and consist of 46 persons. The physical condition of these various tribes of Indians are contrasted and the influence of civilization upon them "for better or for worse" clearly shown. Most interesting is his discussion of the Etiology of tuberculosis among the Indians. He finds that the most potent of all factors is the facility of infection, particularly during the cold or rainy season. Almost as serious is the frequent hereditary taint among the young. He says: "In a tribe such as the Sioux it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to find a family in which there have not been tuberculous individuals, some of whose progeny are congenitally predisposed to the disease."

Among other causes cited are "the greater racial susceptibility"; "the presence of tuberculosis glands or other tuberculous processes in individuals"; and "the influence of diseases other than those of the respiratory tract." He calls attention to the fact that "disposition, indolence, and all other weakening conditions contribute, doubtless, as much to the susceptibility of the Indian to tuberculous infection as they do among the whites." "Want and consequent debilitation" are cited as responsible for a fair proportion of the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis among the Indians.

NAVAL FIGHT OFF NICARAGUA

Government Forces Defeat Revolutionists and Capture Three Steamers.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Nov. 12.—The government today defeated the revolutionists in a naval battle, during which three steamers and artillery were captured. A number of revolutionists were killed. Greytown was reconquered Thursday by the government without a battle and its forces are now on the way to Bluefields by water.

Advertisement for The Peoples Store. Text: 'For the service of the people, the Greater Peoples Store is the largest, finest, exclusive home furnishing store in the west. We Have Helped to Establish Thousands of Happy Homes LET US HELP YOU HAVE A HAPPY HOME' Includes images of a pedestal extension table, a rug, and a dinner set.

Advertisement for Wolf's Sale. Text: 'Sale Continues On account of inclement weather Friday and Saturday of last week we will continue for a few days longer the sale of our \$22.00 and \$25.00 Dresses at \$13.75' Includes the Wolf logo and address: 'The Woman's Shop 1517 Douglas St. Formerly Hotel Rome'.

Woman's Work Activities of the Organized Bodies Along the Lines of Undertaking of Concern to Women. The department of oratory has planned an attractive program for Monday afternoon's meeting of the Woman's club. 'A Day in Japan' will occupy the first half of the hour and a little Japanese play written by Mrs. Georgia Williams, the second half. The program follows: A DAY IN JAPAN. Poetry of Japan... Mrs. Alice H. Tracy. A Ciochonno Yase... Mrs. Minnie Rogers. Aria from 'Madame Butterfly'... Mrs. Madam Pine-Tree. Mrs. Nora O'Shea. Madam Plum-Branch... Mrs. Alice Tracy. Madam Peach... Mrs. Kathryn Kelly. Madam Cherry Blossom... Mrs. T. L. Combs. Madam Morning Glory... Mrs. Ethel Dusen. Madam Lotus... Mrs. Josephine Neely. Madam Maple-Leaf... Mrs. Laura Syfert. Madam Japanese Maiden... Mrs. Song-A. Japanese... Mrs. Harmon. A Japanese Love Song... Esther Workman, Paul Workman. During the business hour Miss Ruth Fenville of Mexico, Mo., one of the concertists at the recent National Woman's Christian Temperance union convention and chief trumpeter of the United Confederate Veterans' association, will give a concert solo.

The state associations of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the Daughters of the American Revolution will celebrate the 17th anniversary of the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States by Great Britain with an elaborate banquet at the Rome hotel in this city on the evening of November 28. It will be a joint affair and representatives will be present from both societies from all parts of the state. The program has not yet been completed, but it is expected to include short addresses by the national officers of both organizations, as well as by the state association officers. The details of the affair will be announced as soon as completed, and it is the intention of the joint associations to make it the most memorable meeting of these organizations yet held in the state.

Woman's Work (continued) The department of psychology will give a social afternoon Wednesday from 2:30 to 5 o'clock. Dr. E. Jenkins of the psychology department of the University of Omaha will be the guest of honor and will speak. There will be music and refreshments. The hostesses of the afternoon were Miss Marie Newton, Mrs. Charles Tracy, Mrs. T. B. Ward, Mrs. H. E. Fleharty, Mrs. C. Vincent, Miss Clara Boutelle, Mrs. G. P. Moorhead, Mrs. Edward Johnson, Mrs. Draper Smith and Mrs. Albert Edholm.

The Twentieth Century club of Shelton, Neb., gave an altogether delightful Halloween party recently at the home of Mrs. O. H. Crumley, at which the Nineteenth Century club of Kearney, the Woman's club of Wood River and the Woman's Study club of Gibbon were guests. The visiting women came by automobile, carriage and Irish and numbered about thirty-five. The affair was most unique. As the guests arrived they were met by ghostly figures that directed them upstairs. When they descended they found the decorations and all appointments suggestive of the occult. A witch crouching over a cauldron gave out cards that proved bearers of most appropriate little sentiments and attractive souvenirs. All the features were equally clever. Mrs. Max Hostetter is president of the Shelton club.

Woman's Work (continued) The regular meeting of the literature department of the Woman's club will be held Wednesday, November 17, at 10 o'clock. Mrs. Millard Langfeld presiding. Subject of the morning's lesson will be "How the Literature of Greece and Rome Reflected and Affected Social Life." Mrs. G. C. Swingle will give a paper on "The Homeric Poems," "The Hæclic Poems" and "Pindaric Poems." Miss Adelaide Spratten a paper, entitled, "The Rise and Development of the Drama; its Affiliations with the Short Story," and Mrs. Albert Edholm a reading.

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Not Within His Rights. "Can I have two good seats, well down, not behind a post and on the aisle?" asked the quiet gentleman at the box office window. "Three dollars please," replies the ticket seller, slamming out two tickets that called for the service of the people, the Greater Peoples Store is the largest, finest, exclusive home furnishing store in the west.