

SEAL HUNTING.

HISTORY OF THE GROWTH OF AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY.

Damage Done by Reckless Killing—500,000 Seals Slaughtered in One Year—Present Restrictions—Our Fleet of Cutters.

ALL of the vessels of the United States patrol fleet for Bering Sea are now on the cruising ground, and is reported by the New York Times. The headquarters of the fleet is at Unalaska. At this point the Alaska Commercial Company has a large coal supply, upon which the fleet is permitted to draw. Unalaska is also the most western mail point belonging to the United States. Mail reaches there during the summer at least once a month.

The most western limit of the cruising ground of the fleet is Attu Island. This island is in east longitude, and is distant from the Japan coast but a few hundred miles. Attu Island is the most western possession of the United States. It is at a greater distance to the west than is New York to the east of San Francisco.

The islands of St. Paul and St. George, or, generally speaking, the Pribilof or Seal Islands, are distant some 200 miles from Unalaska. It is around these latter islands that the zone exists in which no sealing craft are permitted to enter for the purpose of catching seal. This prohibition zone extends around the Pribilof group, every portion of which is distant sixty miles from land. Although there are four islands in the Pribilof

Islands by the United States until twenty years subsequently, the limit of seals to be killed annually was placed at 100,000. Even with this large number destroyed each year, the seals showed no signs of decrease, and it would seem that the conditions which prevailed in 1780 must have again returned.

There is no telling how long this annual killing of 100,000 seals might have been continued without complete decimation of the herd had it not been for the operations in late years, particularly of Canadian seal hunters, who make a practice of striking the seal herds when on their way to the Pribilof group, and killing in the open sea female as well as male seal—young and old. Furthermore, as the Canadians hunted the seals recourse was had to the shotgun, loaded with buckshot, and it is estimated that out of every five seals shot in the open sea, not more, on an average, than one was secured. The remaining four usually sank to the bottom before their bodies were seized or, if wounded, made away and died subsequently.

This wholesale slaughter on the high seas has well-nigh exterminated the seal, and it has been the direct cause of the restrictions imposed during late years on the sealing work of hunters. Under the present restriction the company which leases the Pribilof Islands from the United States is not permitted to kill during a single season more than 7500 seals. The restrictions imposed on hunters prohibit the capture of seals in Bering Sea and within certain limits of the North Pacific prior to July 1, and after July 1 seals cannot be taken inside of the sixty-mile zone surrounding the Pribilof group. In addition, sealers are not permitted

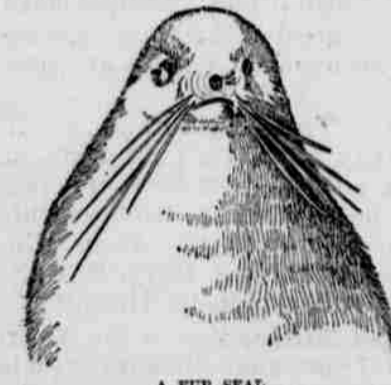


KILLING SEALS ON ST. PAUL'S ISLAND.

group—St. Paul, St. George, Otter and Walrus—the two islands St. Paul and St. George are the ones selected by the seals for their breeding purposes. On the other two islands the seals occasionally haul up, but do not breed. So far as is known, the islands of St. Paul and St. George are the only land points where the fur seal haul out. The Pacific and Antarctic Oceans have been scoured by sealers in the hope of finding the winter homes of the animal, but to no purpose. It is now the generally accepted opinion that the seals betake themselves on the approach of winter to some of the high plateaus on the bottom of the ocean, where it is possible for them to live on small fish, and there remain until the instinct of reproduction forces them to seek the breeding rookeries.

The discovery of the Pribilof Islands dates back to 1785, and is credited to Russian hunters. In the succeeding year over 500,000 seals were killed by Russians. For twenty years after that awful slaughter in 1786, the fur seal almost entirely disappeared from the Pribilof Islands. It is said that more than half of the skins taken in the year 1786 were subsequently thrown into the sea in an advanced stage of decomposition, because of careless curing, and the waters were so poisoned as to drive away the seals for successive seasons.

The Russian-American Company obtained control of the Pribilof Islands in the early part of the present century, and prompt measures were taken by the representatives of this company to stop further killing. For five years,



A FUR SEAL.

from 1807 to 1812, the killing of seals was interdicted by the Russian authorities, with the result that at the expiration of that time the animals had returned, and showed signs of increasing in considerable numbers. Before many years passed the revenue in seal-skins once more became profitable. The skins of the seal were first shipped to London and to New York. In the early fifties, and these shipments continued at the rate of nearly 60,000 skins per annum until the transfer of the Russian possessions to the United States.

During the early sixties the Russian Government received reports from its agents on the Pribilof Islands to the effect that the seals were increasing at an enormous rate, that the rookeries were crowded beyond their capacity, and permission was again and again asked to increase the number of seals allowed to be killed annually, in order to make room for the apparent millions which were coming. From the time of the purchase of the Pribilof

to kill seals with shotguns, and the fact that a sealing craft caught in Bering Sea has skins on board which give evidence of having been taken by shooting the animals is sufficient to insure the seizure of the vessel by the United States revenue cutter which comes up with her.

Every craft in Bering Sea will be overhauled during the present summer by the officers of the revenue cutter fleet, and a thorough examination will be made of all vessels boarded. If the craft overhauled be an English vessel, and it is evident that the sealing regulations have been violated, the vessel making the seizure, if she be a United States revenue cutter, will turn the offender over to the senior British warship of the English fleet patrolling Bering Sea. The British naval commander will send the offending sealer to Victoria, B. C., to be dealt with there by the courts having jurisdiction.

Up to the present time one Canadian sealer has been seized, the United States revenue cutter Corwin making the capture. The Chinese appear to have taught the methods of curing seal-skins. It was the Chinese who first impressed upon the Russians of Eastern Siberia the value of the skin, and it is said that years ago, when Chinese merchants traded along the Siberian coast, they would take in exchange for their wares nothing except seal-skins. The English appear to have learned the art of curing during the first half of the nineteenth century.

The killing of the limited number of seals by the lessees of the seal islands is done entirely on land, and only on damp and cloudy days. The young males are usually found grouped by themselves, while the older males generally surround themselves with a number of females, often fifty. There is always a general fight going on among the older males as to which shall have in its particular group certain of the female seals. The latter are actually whipped into a group by a male, if there is evidence of any sign of bolting to some more attractive set.

The seal killers on a killing day crawl along the shore, and, getting between the young males, who are left undisturbed, and the males and their respective groups, drive the latter inland, often to the number of 1000 to 3000. The objective point of the drive is the killing ground and Mr. Seal is made to carry his own pelt to the vicinity of the storehouse. The driving has to be conducted with great care, otherwise the seals will reach the killing ground in an overheated condition, and with a consequent injurious effect upon the skins. Arrived in the vicinity of the storehouse, the seals are divided off into groups of twenty or thirty, and in these groups are surrounded by their executioners. There is a sharp rap over the nose with a club, the seal is stunned, and a second later is dispatched with a knife. The killing is done entirely by Aleut Indians, the descendants of those Aleuts whom the Russians, many years ago, brought to the Pribilofs from the Aleutian Islands for this very work. The Aleut killers are very proud of their skill. They are expert killers, and do their work in an astonishingly rapid manner. While a number of them kill the seals others follow and remove the

pelt. The pelt is tossed into a wagon, and is carted to the curing house, and there cured. For the time being it is merely salted. Later on the brine is removed and pressed out of the skin, and two pelts with the fur in are rolled up together, securely strapped, and are then ready for shipment.

Before the Aleut killers begin their work they glance over the seals in the group, and if one is discovered which is either under or over age he is given a tap on the nose, and is sent scurrying toward the beach. The Aleut employes receive from the lessees of the seal islands forty cents for each pelt removed. Lifelong practice has made these Indians expert in stripping skins, and they carry their pride to the extent of stoutly refusing to demean themselves with any other form of work.

White men, aside from Government officers, are not permitted to land on the seal islands. Occasionally, late in the fall, and during a fog, some daring seal hunter will attempt a dash at one of the seal islands. In the course of a couple of undisturbed hours he may be able to kill a couple of hundred seals. Usually, however, the natives of the islands are able to take care of such poachers, but to make matters doubly safe it has been the practice in late years for at least one United States revenue cutter to remain off St. George and St. Paul until as late as December 1. The revenue cutter Bear is the vessel generally assigned to this late patrol work. She is a sturdy, able craft, and is able to weather the heavy blows which are prevalent in the Bering Sea in the late fall. To see that the number of seals permitted to be killed by the lessees is not exceeded, the United States Inspectors from the Treasury Department are constantly on hand, and they remain on the islands throughout the year.

A Famous Bit of Carpet.

The Empress Frederick once worked a bit of carpet on which all her children knelt when confirmed; the late Emperor's coffin rested upon it; the present German Emperor and the Princesses Charlotte, Sophia and Victoria were married standing upon it. This piece of work is religiously preserved in the palace of the Kaiser.—Boston Transcript.

Carpets Made by Hand.

The manufacture of carpets in Syria is carried on exclusively by women and children. The trade, although important in its way, is not large, and power looms do not exist in the country.

Biggest Wheelman on Earth.

L. H. Bliss, "the biggest wheelman on earth," is one of Chicago's curiosities in the bicycle line. It is hard to believe, says the Chicago Times-Herald, that a man six feet 5½ inches tall and weighing 487 pounds can ride a



L. H. BLISS.

twenty-five pound bicycle and not break it to smithereens. Bliss does it, though, and enjoys it. In fact, he seems to be getting fat on it. He is not one of the "fast brigade" among the Chicago riders, but he can get over the boulevards with great ease and comfort to himself and at a pace that sometimes makes his riding companions "puff hard." The recent road race was too much for him, though. He started and finished, too, but he didn't go over the entire course.

"THE GRAND OLD MAN" OUT OF POLITICS.



WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE—FROM HIS FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPH.

Cable dispatches declare that by reason of physical infirmities and the burden of declining years, the public career of William E. Gladstone is ended. "For the first time in more than half a century his voice is unheard, his stately figure is unseen in the forefront of the fray."

An Armless Artist.

When a man without arms becomes an artist there is considerable evidence that he has a strong and natural inclination for the career. This is the case of Bartram Hiles, a young



THE ARMLESS ARTIST AT WORK.

Englishman, whose pictures have been on exhibition in London.

Mr. Hiles is not the only armless artist of merit now living. Charles Felu, of Antwerp, has long been known as an excellent painter. Mr. Felu wields the brush with his mouth. The Englishman lost his arms at the age of eight, in a street car accident; the Belgian was born armless. The former is only twenty-eight years old, and is principally distinguished as a landscape painter; the latter is sixty-four, and is a figure painter.

Mr. Hiles combines a vast amount of perseverance and cheerfulness with unmistakable artistic ability. Only two years after his accident, he had so far mastered the control of his pencil held in his mouth that he was placed in the first-class division of the second grade of free-hand drawing of the National School at Bristol, and he was only sixteen when he exhibited a work—a study of a sycamore leaf—at the local Academy of Pictures. For the next few years he studied, both in Bristol and in Paris, so assiduously and successfully that in 1890 he carried away a scholarship, open to the competition of the United Kingdom, of a hundred guineas, and tenable for two years, offered by the National Art Department of South Kensington. Since then further honors have been won by him on equal terms with other competitors.

Mr. Hiles is a cheery, good looking and intelligent young man. He seems to suffer but little inconvenience on account of his misfortune. His lips appear to serve him nearly as efficiently as do our hands. At the request of a visitor he took up a pen in his mouth and wrote his signature.

Immunity Against Snake Poison.

We understand that Professor Fraser will probably make a further communication to the Royal Society of Edinburgh at its next meeting with regard to the production of immunity against snake poison. Since the presentation of the paper, an abstract of which was published in the British Medical Journal, Professor Fraser has obtained, we are informed, definite proof of the antidotal properties of the blood serum of venomous serpents. This result was not anticipated, as will have been gathered from the statements already published, but its establishment is a matter of great interest, and, perhaps, of some practical importance, since never before probably have the bane and the antidote been brought so near together.—British Medical Journal.

Just Candles.

A scientist of note, in discussing the electric light recently, observed that if it were in universal use at the present day, the candle, if suddenly introduced, would be thought a wonderful invention, as it enables a person to obtain light in its simplest and most portable form, and without the use of cumbersome machinery or the necessity of attaching the lamp to any fixed point by means of wire before it could be lighted.—New York Recorder.

FUTURE FASHIONS.

GLIMPSES OF COMING STYLES IN WOMEN'S GARMENTS.

The Reign of the Big Sleeve is Not Yet Over—New Bodices—Louis XVI. Hats Revived—Novelty in Waists.

ALTHOUGH it is asserted now and then that the reign of the large sleeve will soon be over, all of the newest French dresses have immense sleeves. The leg-of-mutton, however, except on jackets, seems quite to have disappeared, the forearm part being quite distinct from the puff, and made very tight. Four or five buttons, with loops, fasten the sleeve at the wrist, and when unbuttoned allow the arm ingress and egress. In many cases the sleeves this summer are short to the elbow, the arms being covered with long gloves.

A charming toilet by Felix, of Paris, which has recently come over, certainly shows no diminution of the sleeves. It is of the pretty Dresden patterned taffetas so much in vogue this year—a white ground sprinkled with yellow buttercups. A broad corset of pale green satin confines the waist, which has a large bow of green ribbon to match at the side, with long ends. The blouse waist is full, and is fastened under the arms and finished with a green satin collar, the most ornate part of the dress being the sleeves, which have two double ruffles of buttercup yellow chiffon superadded to the balloon puffs of the silk, which come only to the elbow. The upper part of the sleeve has the fullness held down by epaulettes of the green satin, from which puff out the ruffles of the chiffon; on top of each epaulette is a bow of green satin. It is altogether a very striking-looking costume.

The majority of the new bodices seem to have the opening under the arm with the fullness of the material

spread themselves out toward the sides, where folded ribbons and clusters of flowers are massed, and large upstanding loops of broad taffeta ribbon rear themselves. For bonnets, toques and smaller forms of millinery a high aigrette is placed to one side,



A LOUIS XVI. HAT.

and a coronet passes across the brow. These coronets are formed of large flowers, pompons of straw, or cloux of quilled gauze or baby ribbons, and with them bonnets and hats in simple good taste are made, which contrast pleasantly with the vulgarity of present fashions in general. The hair to suit all these hats is worn in a soft fringe or else waved, while the knot behind is arranged in Henry II. or 1830 style. Some few fashionable women have adopted the waved bandeaux a la jolie femme, but this makes its wearers look old, and it is exceedingly difficult to find hats or bonnets which go well with it.

LINK BUTTONS AND SHIRT STUDS. Studs for the summer girl's waist.



HATS AND BONNETS FOR MIDSUMMER WEAR.

pleated into the waist in front—a most becoming fashion to a slender figure. Another popular way of cutting the waist lately is to have a very square pouch-like effect in front, the folds turned up an even line, and showing a deep waistband. This style gives a still more slender look to the hips; in fact, everything is done to make the bodice broad and fluffy as possible and the hips and waist small. Amateur dressmakers will do well to remember these rules—shoulder sloping, sleeves very wide and short, bodice full and a great deal trimmed, waist well defined and hips fitted perfectly smooth. Whatever the design or cut of a fashionable gown of the season, these should be the characteristics.

Braiding and silk embroidery are coming into use, and are seen on some of the most stylish costumes. One dress of fine Endora has an apron front, braided in elaborate arabesques. The cuffs, which extend to the elbows, are covered with embroidery, and the vest is similarly finished. The collar and revers are perfectly plain.

FASHIONS IN SHOES.

No toilet is complete for the summer without plenty of pretty shoes. The summer belle should have her evening shoes to match all dresses, and in them even an ugly foot can be made good looking. There is a fascinating glaucé kid just now, which comes in such delicate tints as eau de Nil, and these are ornamented with the smallest possible rosettes.

There is much diversity in satin evening shoes. Some of them are embroidered with jewels and paillettes on the instep and are laced up above this in an open fashion, which allows the stocking to be seen, while supporting the foot, doing away with all fear that in dancing they may slip off.

Many have straps over the instep, and buckles are important; nearly every shoe displays them, but for evening they are used very small.

The brown shoes are darker now and brown glaucé kid has almost banished any other; it keeps well in order and does not need tiresome cleaning. This class of shoe is to be had in every variety—plain, laced and buttoned; it is singularly inexpensive. A Grecian slipper for indoors or dressing slippers in tan, scarlet or gray are charming, and of late a new baby shoe has been brought out in French kid and patent leather, with a strap across the instep, which is a vast improvement on the old model.

REVIVAL OF THE LOUIS XVI. HAT.

More and more are Parisian women adopting the fashion of Louis XVI. in hats which are loaded, or rather over-loaded, with flowers, bows and ospreys, and soft folds of lace or gauze. Some made for shade have a floating scarf of fine tulle or other delicate fabric, which renders a veil unnecessary. Wings for trimming are wider, and

are shown in great variety. They are sold in sets of three, attached to a fine gold chain. For the sentimental young woman there are heart-shaped gold studs, with a tiny seed-pearl in the centre. Others show a very small green garnet, incased in gold, while still others are of white enamel, decorated in gold to match the link cuff buttons. The most elaborate of these are of gold studded with jewels. The white and gold effects, with rosette decorations cost \$12. Silver link cuff buttons cater to all tastes. The young woman devoted to Yale may fasten her cuffs this summer with link buttons of silver showing a blue enameled flag on which a "Y" in white enamel is conspicuous.

A NOVELTY IN PARASOLS.

Foremost among the accessories of the Parisian toilet, the sunshade has assumed a position of importance which hitherto it has hardly possessed, and is being improved upon to its yet great advancement with all our ultimate refinements of taste. In fact, the parasol, now of immense size, of graceful shape, in delicate-hued silks, and its soft drapings, is only to be



SUNSHADE LIKE A BIG FLOWER.

compared to some huge flower rising upon its stem, and is to be seen in all possible colors—red, violet, straw, peach, carnation pink and cornflower blue, or blue pain de sucre, as it used to be called, is the color that is now in favor, and despite its hard, crude aggressiveness and almost unbearable offense to the eyes, it is to be seen on all hands and is worn by everybody.

LACE GREATLY USED.

The whole world of fashion continues to be draped, interwoven and veiled with lace. Shawls and boucées that have been snuggled away in lavender for years may be brought forth with propriety and impunity now.

Statistics have succeeded in proving that lack of money is the chief cause of suicide in France.