UNITED STATES. No. 2 (1891).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

BEHRING SEA SEAL FISHERIES.

[In continuation of "United States No. 1 (1891):" C. 6253.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1891.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Behring Sea Seal Fisheries.

No. 1.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Pauncefote.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1891.

BEHRING'S SEA. Mr. Blaine's suggestion, which you mention in your private letter of the 7th April, that, pending the award of the Arbitration on the Behring's Sea question, all seal fishery should be stopped, both by sea and land, seems worthy of consideration.

If we approve of it, would Mr. Blaine prefer that the proposal should come from us?

No. 2.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, April* 22, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Blaine left this city for the sea-side on the 15th. As the date of his return was uncertain, I addressed a letter to him on the 20th in the sense of your Lordship's telegram of the 17th, making the inquiry which I was therein instructed to make. I am now informed that his return is expected in a few days.

I am informed that it is in the power of the United States' Government to cancel the lease of the islands at any time.

I will lose no time in pressing Mr. Blaine to send me an answer with as little delay as possible.

No. 3.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, April* 23, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Secretary of State returned to Washington to-day, and invited me to call on him.

He expressed himself as gratified at the favourable consideration given by Her Majesty's Government to his alternative suggestion, and in answer to your Lordship's inquiry he said he would prefer that the proposal, which seemed to him very fair, should come from Her Majesty's Government.

He added that he wished, however, before going any further, to communicate the proposal by telegraph to-day to the President, who is absent from Washington.

No. 4.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, April* 27, 1891.

MR. BLAINE informed me to-day that the President had suggested a small reservation in the proposed *modus vivendi* to the effect that permission should be given to the Company to kill a small number of seals sufficient to compensate them for the support of the natives in their employ during the *modus vivendi*, but he did not appear to insist strongly on it.

As, however, he will not agree to put the arrangement in force until the terms of the arbitration are settled, I fear it may only be applied when it is too late to be of any service.

A full report of the interview above mentioned will be found in my despatch of this day's date, which I am sending by mail to-morrow.

No. 5.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May 5,* 1891.

BEHRING'S SEA. With reference to my telegram of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I forward by messenger to-day copy of a note from Mr. Blaine which I received last night, containing a lengthy justification the reservation of made by the President, and submitting for communication to your Lordship the following detailed proposal for a *modus vivendi* for the season of 1891 :—

1. The United States' authorities to issue orders limiting the number of seals to be killed on the islands to 7,500, solely in order to provide for the support of the resident natives, who number 300 souls. Pending the result of the arbitration, all seal-killing for commercial purposes to be prohibited.

2. The United States' Government to guarantee to Great Britain that no seals shall be killed in any part of the open waters of Behring's Sea by any person on board of any vessel flying the United States' flag, or by any United States' citizen on board of any vessel flying any other flag.

3. *Mutatis mutandis,* a similar guarantee to be given by Her Majesty's Government as regards British subjects and vessels.

4. The above prohibitions to continue in force up to the 1st May, 1892, before which date the Arbitrators are to render to both Governments their final award.

No. 6.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

My Lord, *Washington, April* 27, 1891.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note which I addressed to Mr. Blaine, as reported in my above-mentioned telegram, informing him that your Lordship was disposed favourably to entertain his alternative suggestion for a *modus vivendi* pending the result of the Behring's Sea arbitration, namely, to stop all sealing, both at sea and on land, and inquiring whether, in case the proposal be finally accepted, he would prefer that it should be made by Her Majesty's Government.

In my telegram of the 23rd instant I had the honour to report to your Lordship the verbal reply which I had received from Mr. Blaine to that communication. It was to the effect that he would prefer that the proposal should come from Her Majesty's Government, but that before taking any further step he desired to communicate by telegraph with the President, who was absent from Washington. I called to-day on Mr. Blaine to inquire whether he was now prepared to proceed with the proposal. He informed me that the President felt some difficulty arising from the fact that the lessees of the Pribyloff Islands are under contract to maintain a large number of natives (Aleuts) engaged in their sealing operations, and these they would

have to support at a heavy loss during the whole period of the *modus vivendi*. This loss would ultimately fall on the United States' Government, and he had, therefore, suggested whether it might not be stipulated that a moderate number of seals might be killed on the islands, sufficient to cover the loss in question. I replied that I did not think such a suggestion would commend itself to your Lordship. The proposal that sealing should be stopped, both at sea and on land, was based on the recommendation of the United States' Government Agents, whose Reports had been laid before Congress, and copies of which I transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 41 of the 20th February last.

In acceding to the proposal, Her Majesty's Government would give a striking proof of their solicitude for the preservation of the seal species, and of the spirit of conciliation with which they were animated. There was to be an equal sacrifice on both sides, and it would be unreasonable that the proposed *modus vivendi* should be saddled with any special reservation for the benefit of either party.

I further observed that, in view of the fact that the opening of the fishery season is already at hand, no time should be lost in putting it into force, if it is to be of any value this season.

I suggested that it might be agreed to put it in force for this season, irrespectively of the arbitration, and that in such case it would be a convenient time to send a Joint Commission of Experts to the islands to collect evidence for the purposes of arbitration. I failed to perceive how any Arbitrators would undertake to pronounce an award on the question of a close time without proper materials on which to found their judgment, and these materials could alone be supplied by a Joint Commission. I added that I had no authority from your Lordship to make such a suggestion, but that I ventured to throw it out for consideration. Mr. Blaine replied that, as regards the reservation of the right to kill a limited number of seals on the islands to cover the loss which would result to the Company for the support of the Aleuts in their employ, that was a condition which might perhaps not be insisted on; but he was absolutely opposed to the suggestion of sending a Joint Commission of Experts to Behring's Sea, or to putting in force the *modus vivendi* until the terms of the arbitration had been definitely agreed to.

I pointed out that if this were to be a condition of the arrangement, it would probably be too late to put it in force this season, in view of the time which might elapse before the preliminaries of the arbitration had been settled, and I reminded him that his proposal was simply that it should take effect "pending the result of the arbitration."

He replied that his proposal, as understood by the President as well as himself, was subject to that condition, and he seemed to attach importance to it as being calculated to accelerate your Lordship's acceptance of the terms of arbitration proposed by his Government. I therefore explained to him that all your Lordship knew at present respecting the proposal was that it had been made by the United States' Government, obviously in their own interest, and that Her Majesty's Government had certainly nothing to gain by acceding to it. I begged him to disabuse the mind of the President of the idea that your Lordship, in giving the proposal a favourable consideration, had been actuated by any other sentiment than that of friendliness to the United States' Government.

I added that if owing to delay in the settlement of the terms of arbitration, the proposed *modus vivendi* should not be put in force this season, and the predictions of the United States' Government Agents as to the consequences which must ensue from the non-cessation of sealing should be verified, the blame would certainly not attach to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Blaine.

Dear Mr. Blaine, *Washington, April* 20, 1891.

I INFORMED Lord Salisbury in a private letter of your alternative suggestion for a *modus vivendi*, pending the result of the Behring's Sea arbitration, namely, to stop all sealing both at sea and on land.

Lord Salisbury seems to approve of that alternative, and he asks whether, in case

Her Majesty's Government should accept it, you would prefer that the proposal should come from them.

I thought you would like to know Lord Salisbury's view of your proposal as soon as possible, and that must be my excuse for troubling you with this letter during your repose at Virginia Beach.

May I ask you to be so good as to let me know, as soon as you conveniently can do so, what answer you would wish me to return to Lord Salisbury's inquiry.

Hoping that you have already benefited by the change of air, I remain, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 7.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 10, 1891.

A NEWSPAPER has just published the text of Professor Elliott's introduction to his Report on the condition of seal life on the United States' seal islands in Behring's Sea, which he addressed in November last to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I will transmit a copy to your Lordship by the mail of the 12th instant.

In this Report Professor Elliott insists strongly on the necessity of the cessation of seal killing, both on land and at sea, and on the appointment of a Joint Commission of American, British, and Russian experts to proceed to the rookeries this summer to verify the precise condition of affairs.

The usual date for the revenue-cruizers and the Company's steamer to sail is the 15th instant, and it is very important that I should, as early as practicable, be in a position to reply to Mr. Blaine's proposal.

No. 8.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 10, 1891.

I HAVE just received, from a trustworthy authority, the following Memorandum on the subject of the reservation in the proposed *modus vivendi* desired by the President, which throws a new light on the provision in question.

It is as follows:—

"*Food Skins.*—The slaughter for food of 5,000 small seals annually on St. Paul Island, and 2,000 on St. George Island, will be amply sufficient to keep the natives of the seal islands in good condition physically. The profit to the United States' Government from the sale of these food skins would be not less than 70,000 dollars a-year, which is 20,000 dollars more than it would cost to provide them with fuel, clothing, and other necessaries.

"To kill more than these 7,000 young male seals would be simply a wanton and uncalled-for destruction of life, and would imperil the restoration of the rookeries to their former condition."

The Memorandum quoted above shows that it is necessary for the health of the natives to supply them with seals for food.

No. 9.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord, *Washington, May* 4, 1891.

OWING to the communications which have passed between Mr. Blaine and the North American Commercial Company (the present lessees of the seal islands in Behring's Sea) respecting the proposed cessation of the killing of seals both at sea and on land during the approaching fishery season, the rumour has found its way in the press that such a proposal has either been made by Her Majesty's Government, or that they are willing to assent to it, and that Mr. Blaine is prevented from carrying it out by the vehement opposition of the Company.

It may be convenient that I should place on record what took place between Mr. Blaine and myself on the subject of his second or alternative proposal for a *modus vivendi*, which I communicated to your Lordship privately on the 7th April last.

Mr. Blaine made his first proposal on the 16th March. He then stated that, as there now seemed to be a prospect of agreeing to the terms of an arbitration, it was desirable to arrange for a *modus vivendi* pending its result, and he threw out a suggestion of a radius of 25 miles within which sealing-vessels should be prohibited from approaching the seal islands. I acquainted your Lordship with that proposal in my telegram of the 16th March.

About a fortnight afterwards, at an interview which Mr. Blaine was good enough to give me at his house when he was confined by indisposition, he reverted to the subject of the *modus vivendi*, and he asked me to ascertain whether your Lordship would prefer as an alternative proposal that the killing of seals should be stopped both at sea and on land pending the result of the arbitration.

I should here observe that for some time past I had been pressing Mr. Blaine most urgently, but in vain, for a reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st February, in which certain modifications were proposed in the questions which he had formulated in his note of the 17th December, 1890, for the purposes of the arbitration. The delay in returning a reply to your Lordship's despatch appeared to me disquieting, and he spoke somewhat despondingly in the presence of Sir Charles Tupper of the prospect of an adjustment of the questions for arbitration. I therefore informed Mr. Blaine that I hesitated to transmit to your Lordship any further proposals respecting a *modus vivendi* until there was reason to believe that the arbitration proposals contained in your Lordship's despatch above referred to would be accepted; and I suggested that the most satisfactory course would be for him to make his proposals for a *modus vivendi* concurrently with his reply to that despatch.

Mr. Blaine assented to my suggestion, and said that he would "proceed in that order." But neither in his reply to your Lordship's despatch, which was delivered on the 14th April, nor in the substituted note delivered the 27th April, is there anything to be found in relation to a *modus vivendi*. In the meanwhile, I had informed your Lordship privately, by the mail of the 7th April, of Mr. Blaine's alternative proposal for the cessation of seal-killing both at sea and on land, and on receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 17th April, I addressed a note to him, of which I had the honour to inclose a copy in my despatch of the 27th April.

In that despatch I reported the difficulties which were afterwards raised by the President and by Mr. Blaine, and which appeared to me to render hopeless the timely application of the proposed *modus vivendi*. Since then, as before stated, the subject has been discussed in the public press.

The opposition journals criticize severely the non-publication of Professor Elliott's Report on the condition of the seal islands during the season of 1890, and also the dismissal of Mr. Goff, the Treasury Agent in charge of the islands, who had last summer exercised his official authority to stop the killing of seals by the Company, owing to the indiscriminate slaughter practised there, and to the alarming diminution of seal life. Mr. Blaine is violently attacked by those journals for hesitating to put in force at once the proposed *modus vivendi* in the face of the Reports of the United States' Government Agents, and in view of the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to accept the proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 10.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord, *Washington, May 5*, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I received last night from Mr. Blaine containing detailed proposals for a *modus vivendi* during the approaching fishery season in Behring's Sea, based on the principle of a cessation of seal killing both at sea and on land. The note contains a lengthy defence of the reservation desired by the President of the right to kill 7,500 seals for the support of the native residents of

the Pribyloff Islands, a reservation which seems to me seriously to detract from the equality and simplicity of the original proposal. As regards Mr. Blaine's narrative of what passed between us in relation to the proposed *modus vivendi*, your Lordship will perceive from my despatch of yesterday's date that he appears to have forgotten that the reason why I did not telegraph to your Lordship his alternative proposal for a *modus vivendi* was that it had been arranged between us, at my suggestion, that he should make the proposal concurrently with his reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st February, for which I had so urgently pressed him.

I cannot call to my mind that the President's name was ever mentioned in the course of our two interviews, which Mr. Blaine correctly describes as "a conversational exchange of views."

If the President was so anxious that the alternative proposal should be telegraphed at once to your Lordship, it is to be regretted that Mr. Blaine did not apprize me of the President's wishes, as I should have certainly complied with them.

Mr. Blaine's reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st February was not delivered until the 14th April, and then it was not accompanied by the proposal for a *modus vivendi*. But fortunately I had informed your Lordship of the proposal by letter a few days after it was made, and I received a prompt reply by telegram which I communicated to Mr. Blaine on the 20th April.

Mr. Blaine, therefore, cannot justly complain of any delay on my part, or on the part of Her Majesty's Government, in relation to this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Mr. Blaine to Sir J. Pauncefote.

Sir, *Washington, May* 4, 1891.

DURING the month of March last, a few days after the adjournment of Congress, acting under the instructions of the President, I proposed to you that a *modus vivendi* be agreed upon touching the seal fisheries pending the result of arbitration of the question at issue between the two Governments. The President's first proposal which I submitted to you was that no Canadian sealer should be allowed to come within a certain number of miles of the Pribyloff Islands.

It was, however, the conclusion of the President, after reading Lord Salisbury's despatch of the 21st February, that this *modus vivendi* might possibly provoke conflict in the Behring's Sea, and to avoid that result, he instructed me to propose that sealing, both on land and sea, should be suspended by both nations during the progress of arbitration, or during the season of 1891. On both occasions it was a conversational exchange of views, the first at my office at the State Department, the second at my residence.

The President was so desirous of a prompt response from Lord Salisbury to his second proposition, that I ventured to suggest that you request an answer by cable if practicable. Especially was the President anxious to receive an answer, which he trusted would be favourable, before he should set out on his tour to the Pacific States. He left Washington on the night of the 13th April without having heard a word from your Government. It was then a full month after he had instructed me to open negotiations on the question, and the only probable inference was that Lord Salisbury would not agree to his proposal.

The silence of Lord Salisbury implied, as seemed not improbable, that he would not restrain the Canadian sealers from entering Behring's Sea, and as all intelligence from British Columbia showed that the sealers were getting ready to sail in large numbers, the President found that he could not with justice prevent the lessees from taking seals on the Pribyloff Islands. The President therefore instructed the Secretary of the Treasury, who has official charge of the subject, to issue to the lessees the privilege of killing on the Pribyloff Islands the coming season the maximum number of 60,000 seals, subject, however, to the absolute discretion and power of an agent appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to limit the killing to as small a number as the condition of the herd might, in his opinion, demand.

On the 22nd April, eight days after the President had left Washington, you notified me when I was absent from the capital that Lord Salisbury was ready to agree that all sealing should be suspended pending the result of arbitration.

On the 23rd April I telegraphed Lord Salisbury's proposition to the President.

He replied on the 25th April, expressing great satisfaction at Lord Salisbury's message, but instructing me to inform you that "some seals must be killed by the natives for food;" that "the lessees are bound under their lease from the Government to feed and care for the natives, making it necessary to send a ship to the Pribyloff Islands at their expense;" and that for this service—a very expensive one—the "lessees should find their compensation in taking a moderate number of seals under the lease." The President expressed his belief that this allowance would be readily agreed to by Lord Salisbury, because the necessity is absolute.

You will remember that when I communicated this proposition from the President to you on the evening of Monday, the 27th April, you did not agree to the President's suggestion. On the contrary, you expressed yourself as confident that Lord Salisbury would not accept it; that, in your judgment, the killing of seals must be cut off absolutely on the land and in the water; and that it could not be stopped on either unless stopped on both.

The narrative of facts which I have now given, absolutely necessary for clearly understanding the position of this Government, brings me to a further statement which I am directed by the President to submit. The President refuses to believe that Lord Salisbury could possibly maintain the position you have taken when his Lordship is placed in full possession of the facts, which I shall now submit to you somewhat in detail.

When the privilege of killing seals on the Islands of St. George and St. Paul in Behring's Sea was leased to the North American Company for a certain sum per skin to be paid to the Government, other duties of an onerous, costly, and responsible character were imposed upon the Company.

Under their lease, the Company is obliged "to furnish to the inhabitants of the Islands of St. George and St. Paul annually such quantity or number of dried salmon, and such quantity of salt and such number of salt barrels for preserving their necessary supply of meat, as the Secretary of the Treasury shall from time to time determine."

The Company is further obliged to "furnish to the inhabitants of these islands 80 tons of coal annually, and a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings in which said natives may reside, and shall keep such dwellings in proper repair."

The Company is further obliged "to provide and keep in repair such suitable school houses as may be necessary, and shall establish and maintain during eight months of each year proper schools for the education of the children on said islands, the same to be taught by competent teachers, who shall be paid by the Company a fair compensation, all to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury."

The Company is further obliged to "maintain a suitable house for religious worship, and will also provide a competent physician, or physicians, and necessary and proper medicines and medical supplies."

The Company is still further obliged "to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans, aged and infirm inhabitants of said islands, who are unable to provide for themselves."

And it is finally provided that "all the foregoing agreements shall be done and performed by the Company free of all costs and charges to the said native inhabitants of said islands, or to the United States."

And it is made still further the duty of the Company "to employ the native inhabitants of said islands to perform such labour upon the islands as they are fitted to perform, and to pay therefor a fair and just compensation, such as may be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury." And also the Company "agrees to contribute as far as in its power all reasonable efforts to secure the comfort, health, education, and promote the morals and civilization of said native inhabitants."

In short, then, the means of living, the facilities for education, the care of health, the religious teaching, the training of the young, and the comfort of the old, in a community of over 300 persons, are all imposed upon the Company as its solemn duty by specific Articles of the lease. I inclose you a copy of Census of 1890, giving every name of the 303 persons, old and young, male and female, who constitute the whole community of the Pribyloff Islands.*

* For Inclosure, see Inclosure in Sir J. Pauncefote's despatch, dated February 20, 1891: Appendix, No. 1.

The duties thus imposed upon the Company must be discharged annually with punctuality and exactness. The comfort, possibly the safety, of all these human beings, peculiarly helpless when left to themselves, is dependent upon the Company under the lease, and the lessees are paid therefor by the Government in the seal-skins which the Company receive for the service. If the Company shall, as you say Lord Salisbury requests, be deprived of all privilege of taking seals, they certainly could not be compelled to minister to the wants of these 300 inhabitants for an entire year. If these islanders are to be left to charity, the North American Company is under no greater obligation to extend it to them than are other citizens of the United States. It evidently requires a considerable sum of money to furnish all the supplies named in the lease—supplies which must be carried 4,000 miles on a specially chartered steamer. If the lessees are not to be allowed payment in any form for the amount necessary to support these 300 people on the islands, they will naturally decline to expend it.

No appropriation of money has been made by Congress for the purpose, and the President cannot leave these worthy and innocent people to the hazard of starvation even to secure any form of Agreement with Lord Salisbury touching seal life. Seal life may be valuable, but the first duty of the Government of the United States in this matter is to protect human life.

In this exigency, the President instructs me to propose to Lord Salisbury that he concede to the North American Company the right to take a sufficient number of seals, and no more than sufficient, to recompense them for their outlay in taking care of the natives, and that, in the phrase of the President, all "commercial killing of seals be prohibited pending the result of arbitration."

The Secretary of the Treasury has a right to fix the number necessary to the end desired. After full consideration, he has limited the number to 7,500 to be killed by the Company to repay them for the outlay demanded for the support of the 300 people on the Pribyloff Islands.

He further directs that no females be killed, and that thus the productive capacity of the herd shall not in the slightest degree be impaired.

This point being fixed and agreed to, the proposed Arrangement between the two countries would be as follows:—

The Government of the United States limits the number of seals to be killed on the islands for purposes just described to 7,500.

The Government of the United States guarantees that no seals shall be killed in the open waters of Behring's Sea by any person on any vessel sailing under the American flag, or by any American citizen sailing under any other flag.

The Government of Great Britain guarantees that no seals shall be killed in the open waters of Behring's Sea by any person on any vessel sailing under the British flag, and that no British subject shall engage in killing seals for the time agreed upon on any vessel sailing under any other flag.

These prohibitions shall continue until the 1st day of May, 1892, within which time the Arbitrators shall render final award or awards to both Governments.

These several propositions are submitted for the consideration of Lord Salisbury. The President believes that they are calculated to produce a result at once fair and honourable to both Governments, and thus lead to the permanent adjustment of a controversy which has already been left too long at issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. BLAINE.

No. 11.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord, *Washington, May 5*, 1891.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note which I have this day addressed to Mr. Blaine in answer to his communication of yesterday relative to a *modus vivendi* in Behring's Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Blaine.

Sir, *Washington, May* 5, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, in which you have formulated, for the consideration of the Marquis of Salisbury, detailed proposals for the *modus vivendi* during the approaching fishery season in Behring's Sea on the principle of a cessation of seal killing both at sea and on land, an arrangement to which, as I informed you in my note of the 20th ultimo, his Lordship was disposed to give his favourable consideration. I have forwarded to Lord Salisbury by this day's mail a copy of your note, and I have telegraphed to his Lordship the precise terms of the proposal with which it concludes.

I much regret to find that a misconception has arisen as regards your complaint of delay on my part in acquainting Lord Salisbury with your second or alternative proposal for a cessation of seal killing at sea and on land, which you originally made to me verbally. On that occasion, you may remember that I expressed some reluctance at sending any further proposals to his Lordship while his despatch of the 21st February last (submitting amendments on the questions for arbitration) remained unanswered, and that I suggested that it would be more satisfactory if this new proposal were made concurrently with your reply to that despatch, which I hoped to receive with the least possible delay.

I understood you to assent to that suggestion, and to say that you would "proceed in that order."

If you had informed me that the President for any reason desired that this alternative proposal should be telegraphed to Lord Salisbury, I need hardly say that I should have complied at once with his wishes.

But I cannot call to mind that the President's name was ever mentioned at our interview, which you correctly describe as "a conversational exchange of views."

Fortunately, however, no appreciable loss of time occurred. I acquainted Lord Salisbury with your alternative proposal by the mail of the 7th April, a few days only after it was made, and I received a prompt answer by telegraph, which enabled me to inform you by my note of the 20th April that his Lordship was disposed to consider the proposal favourably.

At an interview at your residence on the 23rd April you expressed your satisfaction at Lord Salisbury's reply, and you stated that before taking any further steps you desired to communicate by telegraph with the President.

At a further interview at your residence on the 27th, you informed me that the President desired that the *modus vivendi* should contain a reservation of the right to kill a certain number of seals for the support of the natives of the Pribyloff Islands.

At first sight this reservation caused me some disappointment. It certainly appeared to me open to exception as detracting from the principle of equality, which was a feature of the original proposal. But I was more concerned at your stating that it never was the intention of the President or of yourself that the *modus vivendi* should be put in force until the terms of arbitration had been settled.

This I feared would prevent the timely application of the *modus vivendi*, and I so informed Lord Salisbury by telegraph on the same day.

I notice with satisfaction that no such condition is affixed to your present proposal, although the reservation as to the killing of a limited number of seals on the island is maintained.

I am glad to think that there is yet time to carry out for this fishery season any arrangement which may promptly be agreed to, and I hope that the above explanation may remove the impression you appear to have formed, that there has been any delay on my part in expediting the consideration of the *modus vivendi* which you have proposed.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Pauncefote.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1891.

AS soon as the Government of Canada have answered communication addressed to them I will reply to your telegram.

No. 13.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 20, 1891.

I HAVE just received a letter from the Acting Secretary of State informing me that the President wishes to know the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the proposal made on 4th May by Mr. Blaine.

In order to allay the President's anxiety, I shall be obliged if your Lordship can give me some intimation as to when the decision of Her Majesty's Government may be expected.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Pauncefote.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 21, 1891.

NO definitive reply has yet been received from Canada with regard to the proposed *modus vivendi* in Behring's Sea.

No. 15.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 22, 1891.

I OMITTED to inform your Lordship that Mr. Blaine's proposal involves to the United States' Government a loss of revenue from the Seal Company at the rate of 10 dollars per skin, which amounts to about half-a-million dollars in all. In respect of the arrangements made for this season, the Company would also be great losers.

No. 16.

r J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26, 10·15 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 25, 1891.

I RECEIVED a visit to-day from the Acting Secretary of State, who came, by desire of the President, to express his deep concern that no reply to Mr. Blaine's proposal had been received from Her Majesty's Government. By each day's delay more detriment was caused to the United States' interests. Owing to the unprotected state of the islands, and to their being unprovided with rations and stores, the United States' Government are unable any longer to detain their cruizers or the vessels of the Company.

I begged him to assure the President, in reply, that all possible expedition was being used by your Lordship; but the form of Mr. Blaine's proposal, as well as the lateness of the time when it was made, had given rise to grave difficulties, some of which I explained to him. I told him that I hoped in a day or two to receive the reply, but that I would telegraph the substance of his communication to your Lordship.

No. 17.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 27, 8 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 27, 1891.

THE Acting Secretary of State has just written me a note to the same effect as his verbal communication which I reported in my telegram of the 25th May.

He adds, however, that the United States' Government have found it necessary to dispatch the revenue-steamer "Rush" to the islands, and that the "Corwen" is nearly ready to sail at San Francisco, and will very shortly put to sea.

Should an agreement, as proposed, be arrived at before her departure to limit the seal catch, she can still take appropriate orders.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Pauncefote.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 28, 1891.

I HAVE to inform you that to-night notice will be given of a Bill giving power to Her Majesty to prohibit for a limited time the hunting of seals in Behring's Sea.

It is hoped that the House of Commons will sanction this Bill within a few days, but until this has been done it is impossible for Her Majesty's Government to agree formally with that of the United States as to a *modus vivendi*, or to send cruizers with instructions to prevent the sealing-vessels from entering Behring's Sea.

Appendix.

No. 1.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord, *Washington, February* 20, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Reports of Special Treasury Agent C. J. Goff, and Assistant Treasury Agents A. W. Lavender, S. R. Nettleton, and J. Murray, with accompanying documents, concerning the condition of affairs in the Seal Islands of Alaska and the fur-seal fisheries for 1890.

These Reports have been transmitted to the Senate by the Treasury Department in response to a Resolution of that body, but your Lordship will perceive that they do not include the Report of Professor Elliott, to which reference has frequently been made, and which, up to the present time, has been withheld from publication.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 1.

51st Congress, 2nd Session.—Ex. Doc. No. 49.

SENATE.

Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, in response to a Resolution of the Senate, Reports concerning the Condition of the Seal Islands of Alaska.

February 10, 1891.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

Treasury Department, Office of the Secretary,
Washington, D.C., February 9, 1891.

Sir,

IN pursuance of the Resolutions of the Senate of the United States dated the 10th and 12th ultimo respectively, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the following Reports of Special Treasury Agent Charles J. Goff, and Assistant Treasury Agents A. W. Lavender, S. R. Nettleton, and Joseph Murray, with their accompanying documents, concerning the condition of affairs in the Seal Islands of Alaska, and relating to the fur-seal fisheries for the year 1890, &c., viz.:—

1. Letter of Charles J. Goff, dated July 31, 1890, submitting Annual Report, with the following inclosures:—

(A.) Annual Report, 1890, dated July 31, 1890.

(B.) Report of Joseph Murray, dated July 31, 1890.

(C.) Report of A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent, dated July 26, 1890.

(D.) Statement of seals killed for year ended July 20, 1890, on St. Paul Island.

(E.) Statement of seals killed for year ended July 20, 1890, on St. George Island.

(F.) Statement of seals killed for food on St. Paul Island during the year ended May 21, 1890.

(G.) Statement of seals killed in 1889 on St. Paul Island by the Alaska Commercial Company, and by the North American Commercial Company in 1890; also daily Weather Report.

(H.) Statement of skins accepted on Seal Islands from 1870 to 1890.

(I.) Statement of liabilities of North American Commercial Company to natives of St. Paul Island to August 1, 1890.

(J.) Account current of North American Commercial Company with United States on Island of St. Paul, 1890.

(K.) Account current of North American Commercial Company with United States on Island of St. George, 1890.

(L.) Census of St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 31, 1890.

(M.) Census of St. George Island, July 31, 1890.

(N.) Statement of accounts transferred to the North American Commercia Company by the Alaska Commercial Company for natives of St. George, May 24, 1890 List of accounts due natives of St. George Island by North American Commercial Company.

(O.) Receipts of Agents Lavender and Murray, August 9 and 11, 1890, for seals shipped from islands.

(P.) Protest of George R. Tingle, Superintendent of North American Commercial Company, against closing season, July 20, 1890, and reply of Charles J. Goff, Treasury Agent.

(Q.) Statement of skins taken on St. Paul Island from 1870 to 1890 by Alaska Commercial Company; also seals killed for food for natives, &c.

2. Report of S. R. Nettleton, Assistant Treasury Agent, July 31, 1890, of affairs on St. Paul Island, 1890.

3. Report of A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent, of August 25, 1890, of affairs on St. George Island, 1890.

4. Report of A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent, October 24, 1890.

5. Report of A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent, October 30, 1890.

6. Report of A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent, March 19, 1890, as to schooners seized by the Government from 1886 to 1889, their condition, &c.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) A. B. NETTLETON, *Acting Secretary.*

The President of the Senate,
Washington, D.C.

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1. *Letter of Charles J. Goff, submitting Annual Report.*

Sir, *St. Paul Island, Alaska, July* 31, 1890.

I herewith respectfully submit my Annual Report of the condition of the seal fisheries for the year 1890. Also such tabulated statements and communications as should be in the hands of the Department, as follows:—

(A.) My annual written Report.

(B.) Mr. Joseph Murray, First Assistant Treasury Agent's Report, St. George Island.

(C.) Mr. A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent's Report, St. George Island.

(D.) Statement of St. Paul Island daily killing.

(E.) Statement of St. George Island daily killing.

(F.) Statement of fur-seals killed for food upon St. Paul and St. George Islands, and disposition of the skins.

(G.) Table comparing daily killing of 1889 with that of 1890, also giving daily Weather Report for each year.

(H.) Table showing the beginning of each sealing season on the islands from 1870 to 1890 inclusive, and number of fur-seals accepted by the lessees up to July 20 of each year.

(I.) Showing the distribution of natives' earnings for season of 1889 and 1890; also amount transferred by the Alaska Commercial Company to the North American Commercial Company, and the amount to the credit of the natives in the hands of the North American Commercial Company, August 1, 1890, and my instructions to the representatives of the Alaska and North American Commercial Company.

(J.) Account current St. Paul Island.

(K.) Account current St. George Island.

(L.) Census St. Paul Island.

(M.) Census St. George Island.

(N.) Distribution of natives' earnings St. George Island.

(O.) Steamer "Arago," Captain H. C. Thomas, receipts for season's catch of fur-seals, 1890.

(P.) Mr. George R. Tingle's communication protesting against the order stopping the killing of seals, July 20, and my reply.

(Q.) Table showing the number of seals killed by the Alaska Commercial Company yearly, for the twenty years of their lease. The distribution of the natives' earnings for same period, &c., for the Islands of St. Paul and St. George.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) CHARLES J. GOFF,
Treasury Agent in charge of the Seal Fisheries.

Hon. William Windom,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D.C.

(A.)—*Annual Report*, 1890.

Sir, *St. Paul Island, Alaska, July* 31, 1890.

Pursuant to instructions, I sailed from San Francisco on the 6th May on the North American Commercial Company's steamer "Arago," accompanied by Mr. A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent, who, after his arrival, was stationed upon St. George Island to assist Mr. Joseph Murray in the discharge of his duties during the killing season, and who will have charge of the island during the coming winter. We arrived at Ounalaska on the 18th May, and on the 20th Mr. George R. Tingle, Mr. Rudolph Newman, and myself sailed on the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer "Dora" for the Seal Islands, to take an inventory of the property on St. George and St. Paul, belonging to the Alaska Commercial Company, according to an Agreement signed by and between the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Commercial Company on the 12th March, 1890.

The Alaska Commercial Company was represented by Mr. Newman, and the North American Commercial Company by Mr. Tingle, and I acted as Umpire, as per your instructions, bearing date the 16th April, 1890. We arrived at St. Paul Island on the 21st May, and immediately commenced to take stock. After several days' labour the business was well in hand, and we proceeded to St. George Island per steamer "Dora," and made a complete inspection and inventory of all the property there belonging to the Alaska Commercial Company. After our return to St. Paul there was one difference referred to me, and satisfactorily adjusted, then the entire business was settled by the representatives of their respective Companies.

The following property was transferred to the North American Commercial Company: sixty-three native houses on St. Paul and nineteen upon St. George, and upon both islands all buildings and other property belonging to the Alaska Commercial Company.

Upon St. Paul Island the sum of 9,213 dol. 58 c. belonging to the natives and deposited with the Alaska Commercial Company was passed to the North American Commercial Company with the consent of the natives, and credited to their "pass book" accounts. Also several special individual deposits amounting to 12,117 dol. 2 c., drawing interest at 4 per cent. per annum, leaving in the hands of the Alaska Commercial Company 3,404 dol. 99 c. to the credit of Mrs. Alexander Milevedoff, who did not wish to make a change. On St. George 5,391 dol. 17 c. was transferred to the North American Commercial Company, but from this amount the sum of 1,700 dollars, belonging to the priest, must be deducted, leaving a balance of 3,691 dol. 87 c. to the credit of the natives. The transfer was made and dated the 24th May, 1890.

The past winter was unusually mild, the sanitary condition of the village was good, the people were blessed with good health, and they passed the time pleasantly. They were under the combined charge of Mr. S. R. Nettleton, Assistant Treasury Agent; Dr. C. A. Lutz, resident physician, and Mr. J. C. Redpath, resident agent for the Alaska Commercial Company.

With the spring came that dreaded disease to this people, pneumonia, which caused the death of three sealers; other ailments prevalent among them carried off seven others, women and children, making a total of ten deaths since the 1st January, 1890, the date of the census, leaving at present a total population of 208. The population of St. Paul Island in 1872, as far back as the official records go, was 218. Arrivals since then, seventy-six. Had it not been for this influx of immigration the native population would have been about extinct. The established rule of thoroughly cleaning the village in the spring and fall presents a marked contrast to the condition of the place a few years ago. All along the green sward, in front of the dwellings, which was then a depository for filth and offal, the children romp and play. Gradually, too, the people are becoming more reconciled to cleaner methods in their dwellings, and many of them take great pride in their personal appearance and cleanliness. The school on this island was

taught by Simeon Milevedoff, a native, who was educated in San Francisco. It was opened on the 1st September, 1889, and closed 1st May, 1890—total number of school days, 172; number taught, 120.

Mr. Milevedoff was energetic and untiring in his efforts to advance the pupils, but there is very little interest taken by them in English-speaking schools, so that there was but little progress made.

The North American Commercial Company have commenced repairing the native dwelling-houses, and so far have complied with all the requirements of their lease. The United States' cutter the "Bear," Captain M. A. Healey, anchored off this island on the 20th June and left on the same day. Captain Healey reported "No pirates in Behring's Sea." The "Bear" delivered to this island the boat and fixtures complete asked for by me from the Department.

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson was passenger on board the "Bear," and came ashore and inspected the village and school-house; he received a copy of the School Report, and was well pleased with the condition in which he found things.

On the 31st July, in company with Mr. Tingle and Professor Elliott, I visited Otter Island, and found, to my surprise, that there were no seals hauled out, as was usual in the past.

The United States' cutter "Richard Rush," Captain W. C. Coulson, arrived here on the 17th July, and reported "no pirates in Behring's Sea." Professor H. W. Elliott, your recent appointee as Treasury Agent, has spent the season here, dividing his time between the two islands, and giving his entire attention to the state of the rookeries and the methods used at present in driving and killing the seals, and his Report will, no doubt, be of the utmost importance, and of great value to the Department.

Mr. William Palmer, a representative of the Smithsonian Institution, has, by your permission, spent the season on St. Paul collecting specimens of various birds and animals, and his incessant labours have been abundantly rewarded.

The merchantable seal-skins in the salt houses on St. Paul and St. George Islands, taken from the seals killed for food for the natives during the winter of 1889-90, will be shipped as per instructions bearing date the 5th May, per United States' cutter "Richard Rush," Captain W. C. Coulson commanding, which will leave here early in September, consigned to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco. The matter will be reported directly to you by Mr. Joseph Murray, who has charge of St. Paul Island for the coming winter. The accompanying communications from the representatives of the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Commercial Company will fully explain my actions in the matter.

The total number of fur-seals killed and accepted upon this island by the lessees was 16,830, and the total amount earned by the natives and distributed to them was 6,783 dol. 30 c. Your instructions to me upon the subject of dividing the earnings of the natives, and looking after their welfare financially, I endeavoured to follow, but was prevented from doing so by Mr. George R. Tingle, general manager for the lessees. His reasons for so doing are inclosed.

I regret that I am compelled to report that the seals are rapidly diminishing in numbers, and to such an alarming extent that to check the decrease will require, in my opinion, the most careful consideration of the Department.

To have a correct understanding of how the annual catch is taken, it will be necessary to bear in mind the following facts: (1) By the Acts of Congress governing the seal fisheries the season opens on the 1st June and closes on the 31st July, unless otherwise restricted by the Secretary of the Treasury. (2) The bull seals arrive at the island between the 1st May and the 10th June, and the cows between the 10th June and the 10th July. (3) The large young seals, whose skins are merchantable, commence coming about the middle of May, gradually increasing in numbers as the cows appear, and with the large young seals come a small portion of the pups born the summer before; but the greatest majority of the yearlings put in their appearance in the month of July. Now, in opening the season it is customary to secure all the two-year-olds and upwards possible before the yearlings begin to fill up the hauling-grounds and mix with the killable seals. By so doing it is much easier to do the work, and the yearlings are not tortured by being driven and redriven to the killing-grounds. Heretofore it was seldom that more than 15 per cent. of all the seals driven the latter part of June and the first few days in July were too small to be killed, but this season the case was reversed, and in many instances 80 to 85 per cent. were turned away. The accompanying percentage examples will show the disposition of this year's drive. The first killing of fur-seals by the lessees was on the 6th June, and the scarcity of killable seals was apparent to all.

The season closed on the 20th July, and the drives in July show a decided increase in

the percentages of small seals turned away, and a decrease in the killables over the drives of June, demonstrating conclusively that there were but few killable seals arriving, and that the larger part of those returning to the islands were the pups of last year. The average daily killing for the season was 400, or a daily average of 522 including only the days worked.

In 1889 the average daily killing from the 1st June to the 20th July inclusive was 1,516, or a daily average of 1,974 including only the days worked. With this undeniable decrease in merchantable seals, and knowing the impoverished condition of the rookeries and hauling-grounds, and believing it to be inimical to the best interests of the Government to extend the time for killing beyond the 20th July, I adhered to the letter and spirit of your instructions to me, and closed the killing season on the 20th July, against the bitter protestations of Mr. George R. Tingle, General Manager for the lessees; his communication to me upon the subject and my reply are inclosed. Had there been a reasonable probability of the lessees securing their quota of 60,000 seals, I should have deemed it my duty to extend the time for killing to the 31st July.

The killing of the 6th June, the first of the season, was from the Reef Rookery, with drive of about 700 seals: the total killed, 116, 83½ per cent. being turned away as too small. On the 11th June, the drive was from the Reef Rookery, about 1,000: total killed, 574, 42½ per cent. turned away. On the 24th June the drive was from the Reef Rookery and Zoltoi hauling-grounds combined, and about 1,417 were driven: total killed, 206, 85½ per cent. turned away. This exhausted Zoltoi hauling-grounds for a period of twenty-one days, and it was not available until the 19th July, when again, in connection with the Reef Rookery, the last drive was made, and about 3,956 seals were driven, 556 were killed, and 86 per cent. turned away. The seals turned away from the several drives invariably returned to the hauling-grounds and rookery from which they were driven only to be redriven to the killing-field and culled of the few killables that chanced to join them upon their return to the sea from each drive. By referring to the Table marked (D), showing the daily killing for this year, and also comparing the same with that of last year, you will see that from all of the drives the same percentages were turned away as from those I have cited.

We opened the season by a drive from the Reef Rookery, and turned away 83½ per cent., when we should have turned away about 15 per cent. of the seals driven, and we closed the season by turning away 86 per cent., a fact which proves to every impartial mind that we were redriving the yearlings, and considering the number of skins obtained that it was impossible to secure the number allowed by the lease, that we were merely torturing the young seals, injuring the future life and vitality of the breeding rookeries to the detriment of the lessees, natives, and the Government.

On Sunday, 20th July, all the rookeries presenting any male seals were driven from English Bay, Middle Hill, Tolstoi, Lukaunon, Keetavia, and Rocky Point, and about 4,620 seals were brought to the killing field; 780 were killed, and 83 per cent. were turned away. On the same day at North-east Point they killed 466, which, added to those taken at the other rookeries, makes a grand total of 1,246.

This, and the killing on the 19th July, are the only instances recorded during the season when the daily killing reached 1,000. Comparing the killings with those of the same dates last year, we find that on the 19th July, 1889, from South-west Bay hauling-grounds alone, 1,987 were killed, and on the 20th July, 1889, from the Reef Rookery and Zoltoi hauling-grounds 1,913 were killed, and never were there such percentages turned away during the entire season nor in any previous season, to my knowledge, as in that of 1890. It is true, however, that the Alaska Commercial Company could and did take smaller seals last season than the present lessees can take, because of the differences in the tax paid by them, yet there have been no two-year-olds of an average size turned away this season, they were all immediately clubbed to swell the season's catch, which is far below the number allowed for this year, a condition of affairs that will convey to the Department in language far more convincing than mine the fact that the seals are not here.

The North American Commercial Company's agent, Mr. George R. Tingle, used every effort to have the drives made so as to have no unnecessary loss of seal life, and he would have made the season a most successful one for the Company if the seals had returned to the rookeries as in the past.

It is evident that the many preying evils upon seal life—the killing of the seals in the Pacific Ocean along the Aleutian Islands, and as they come through the passes to the Behring's Sea, by the pirates in these waters, and the indiscriminate slaughter upon the islands, regardless of the future life of the breeding rookeries, have at last with their combined destructive power reduced these rookeries to their present impoverished

condition, and to such an unequal distribution of ages and sexes, that it is but a question of a few years, unless immediately attended to, before the seal family of the Pribylov group of islands will be a thing of the past. Notwithstanding the fact that the seals were looked upon as inexhaustible, and were officially reported to be increasing as late as 1888, the time has suddenly come when experiment and imagination must cease, and the truth be told.

Absolute protection is the only safeguard for the rookeries, and the only step to be taken with safety. The seal meat necessary for the natives' food is all that should be killed under existing circumstances. Much can be written on this subject, many theories may be advanced, all of which we have had for the past twenty years, to the evident loss of seal life; but the facts presented in the accompanying Tables demonstrate with mathematical certainty the fearful decrease of the seals; and here I will say I heartily concur with my worthy predecessor, Mr. George R. Tingle, who, in his official Report of 1887, used the following language:—

"The Department cannot place too high an estimate on the value of this seal property, and the Government, I am sure, will not yield to any demands which would make it possible to accomplish the destruction of her seal rookeries and seal life, which under judicious management and protection by law may be perpetuated indefinitely."

There is but one authority upon seal life, especially the seals of the Pribylov Islands, and this is the work of Professor Henry W. Elliott, who surveyed these rookeries in 1872 and 1874, and his work was verified by Lieutenant Maynard, and I am satisfied was as near correct when made as was possible for man to chronicle, but to-day there is a marked contrast in the condition of now and then. On p. 54 of the Professor's monograph you will find he places the number of seals upon North-east Point Rookery at 1,200,000. Standing on a prominent elevation known as "Hutchinson's Hill," in the month of July, and facing the north, I had before me a sea margin of over 2 miles; turning and facing the south I had a sea margin of over 1 mile. I could view entire this once famous rookery, and it was simply impossible to realize there was ever such a moving mass of living animals as Professor Elliott describes; his estimate seems incredible. Yet his writings have never been refuted.

To-day there is not to be seen over 250,000 seals of all ages and sexes.

To the extreme south-west of the island is the Reef Rookery, reported to have (by Professor Elliott) 301,000 seals in 1874. It has not over 100,000 seals to-day. "Garbotch," the adjoining rookery, where the Professor says he stood on Old John Rock and saw "10,000 fighting bulls, I can stand and count every bull in sight. This rookery with the reef is an extending point running out into the sea, sloping east and west with a large surface of tableland in the centre. This was once a parading or playing ground where the seals met as they came from the east and west sides; it was the resort of over 200,000 seals, now the resting-place for a few cows and pups and now and then a worn-out sleeping bull. The number now visiting these rookeries (the Reef and Garbotch) find ample room on the two slopes, without pushing back on the plateau above.

Zoltoi Sands, once a favourite hauling-ground for the bachelor seals, from where thousands have been driven and killed for their skins, is entirely deserted, only, however, a short time in advance of all the hauling-grounds and rookeries, if immediate steps are not taken by the Department to nurse and protect these rookeries. Tukannan, a rookery on the east side of the island, between the Reef and Polavania, the most picturesque seal grounds of them all, where the seals were wont to haul upon the cliffs and in the interstices between the rugged rocks for over half-a-mile on the sea frontage, a most inviting home for this mysterious pelagic family, where, in connection with Keetavia Rookery, with the same sea range, there were 335,000 of these animals, presents at present to the most careful estimate not over 75,000 seals.

Polavania Rookery, with 4,000 feet of sea margin, with a seal life of 300,000 in 1874; Tolstoi Rookery, with 3,000 feet of sea margin, with 225,000 seals in 1874; and Zapodine, with 5,880 feet of sea margin, with 441,000 seals in 1874, all present a most deplorable condition, and do not show over one-eighth of the seals as reported by Professor Elliott.

With these facts in view, I am convinced there will be a greater decrease in seal life next year than this, for it will not be in the power of human ingenuity to check the rapid advance towards extermination now going on in that length of time.

In conclusion, I respectfully suggest that there be no killing of fur-seals for their skins on these islands, nor in the waters of Behring's Sea, for an indefinite number of years, to be named by the Secretary of the Treasury, and let Nature take her course in replenishing the rookeries, and that the Department take the entire matter of protecting these rookeries under its immediate supervision, for I regard any other system

of protection dangerous to the future of all interested. The limited number of seals killed this season by the lessees will, undoubtedly, leave the majority of the natives in absolute want, and their condition will appeal to the Department for aid. The amount distributed to the natives upon the Islands of St. Paul and St. George was 6,783 dol. 30 c. and 1,644 dol. 80 c. respectively. This will not be sufficient to provide them with the necessaries of life until the steamers return in the spring, especially so with the natives of the St. George Island.

With this fact in view, I made the following arrangements with the North American Commercial Company, through their manager, Mr. George R. Tingle. The North American Commercial Company's resident agent, together with the Treasury Agent in charge, are to adjudge what supplies are positively needed for the support and maintenance of the natives; the Company receiving from the Treasury Agent a certificate that such supplies have been furnished, but said certificate merely to be accepted as a voucher of correctness. The matter to be adjusted in the future with the Department by the North American Commercial Company.

The Department will have to make some provision for the support and maintenance of these people, as their mode of making a living has been destroyed for the present, and their future is only what the charity of the Government will make it. There is utterly nothing here upon which they can depend for a livelihood, until the much-wished-for return of seals takes place, an event too far in the future to give even a promise of better times to these unfortunate people.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) CHARLES J. GOFF,
Treasury Agent in charge of the Seal Islands.

Hon. William Windom,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D.C.

(B.)—*Report of Joseph Murray.*

Office of Special Agent, Treasury Department,
St. George Island, Alaska, July 31, 1890.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the health of the natives here has been unusually good during the past year, and is at present far better than any other time in many years. There is not a case of sickness on the island, excepting those of long standing, due to scrofula and other chronic diseases.

With one single exception all the workmen are well and hearty.

We had a full term of school from September until May, and under the care of the teacher, Dr. L. A. Noyes, it was as well conducted as any public school of its size in the country; but, after all, I find the children made next to no progress in acquiring the simplest rudiments of our language. It seems incredible, but it is true, that young men and women who have been to school here for seven years do not know how to speak or read a sentence of the English language. Looking over their shoulders as they write in their copy-books, and observing the ease with which they follow the head-lines, one would think they were making rapid progress, but ask any one of them to read what he or she has been writing, and they cannot do it.

It was long suspected that the older people secretly influenced the children against American schools, and encouraged them to learn the Russian language in preference to any other; but I find that they are just as ignorant of Russian as they are of English, and as backward in learning it.

There has been one day of each week devoted to the Russian school' which, in my opinion, has a bad effect upon the children in their attempt to master the English tongue, and I therefore respectfully suggest that the practice of teaching Russian to the school children be abolished. After a year's residence here, I am able to say that the people as a whole have conducted themselves very well indeed; not a loud, vulgar, or angry word has been spoken in my hearing or to my knowledge by a native man or woman on the island of St. George. Not one case of drunkenness or drinking, nor anything approaching to it, has come to my knowledge. A case of wrong-doing by two white men, employés of the Alaska Commercial Company, compelled me and my assistant, Mr. A. P. Lond, to complain to Mr. Sloss, the President of the Company, who immediately removed and discharged the offenders. Excepting one instance, there has not been one word of complaint from any quarter.

The men who wintered in the service of the Alaska Commercial Company are all good and worthy, especially the agent, Mr. Daniel Webster, and the physician, Dr. A. L.

Noyes. I take pleasure in thus testifying to their worth, for I have found them to be upright and honourable at all times, in all their transactions with the natives, with whom they are deservedly very popular.

I have endeavoured to promote a more perfect sanitary system in the village, and I find it is not so hard, as was expected, to prevail on the people to adopt better methods, if one will be patient and treat them kindly.

It will be an impossibility, however, to do much toward establishing a sanitary system of value until we have better water and a more abundant supply than is possible under existing conditions.

The present supply of water for domestic purposes is obtained from a well into which the drainage of half the village finds its way, and the wonder to me is that the people are not constantly sick while they have to use such drinking water. There is a nice fresh-water lake within 2,000 feet of the village, and fully 50 feet higher, from which a constant and never-failing supply of good water can be taken if you can have 2,000 feet of 2-inch pipe and the necessary hydrant and fixings sent here.

A drain is the next essential to success, and one of 700 feet in length can be dug easily, and will suffice to carry all the dirt and offal of the village into the sea. It will be necessary to have 700 feet of 12-inch drain-pipe.

The total absence of water-closets on this island is a disgrace, and is beyond all question the cause of more immorality, disease, and death than all other things combined. That such a state of things has been allowed to exist for twenty years is a disgrace to our civilization, and I do hope you will insist on the present lessees or on the Department to have it altered at once.

The subject is so abominable I dare not write it in a public Report.

It is absolutely necessary, too, that at least six of the dwelling-houses be enlarged, as the families now occupying them have not room to live as human beings should. It may be true, as many assert, that under Russian rule the natives were not housed one-half so well as they are now; but such arguments are of no avail in a country like ours. When a family of seven persons, of all ages and sexes, are packed in a sleeping apartment measuring 10 by 10 feet they are not treated right, nor does our Government intend to have such things existing where it has jurisdiction.

The dwelling-houses are badly in need of repairs, and the attention of the local agent, Mr. Webster, has been called to their condition; but as he is to leave the island this year, it may be necessary for you to mention it to the General Manager of the North American Commercial Company.

Mr. A. W. Lavender arrived on the 26th, and immediately entered upon his duties. On the 12th July the watchman reported a schooner in sight off Zapodine, and I armed the men and sent a squad to exposed rookeries, Mr. Lavender going to Zapodine with four men, the second chief and four men to East Rookery, and I went with four men to Starri-Arteel. We all watched until next morning without seeing an enemy. To facilitate the guarding of the rookeries it is necessary to have some sort of shelter for the watchmen; a small hut on each of the three rookeries would be sufficient, and they need not cost over 50 dollars each.

On Sunday, 11th May, the schooner "Alton" (Captain Worth), of San Francisco, touched at the island, and the captain came ashore and informed us of the new lease and new Company. On learning of the change the natives held several meetings, and afterwards came to the Government House to have my advice as to how they should act in case any material changes were made in their mode of working, government, or the amount of their pay.

The meeting was adjourned from time to time until they had thoroughly discussed the most important questions raised, and at the last meeting, held 23rd May, they unanimously declared that it was their firm belief and honest opinion that the seals had diminished and would continue to diminish from year to year, because all the male seals had been slaughtered without allowing any to grow to maturity for use on the breeding-ground.

I made a note of the suggestion on the journal that day, and I am now fully convinced by personal observation that it is only too true, and that the natives were correct in every particular.

In 1889 the full quota of 15,000 skins was obtained here, but I know now (what I did not understand then) that in order to fill the quota they lowered the standard towards the close of the season and killed hundreds of yearling seals, and took a greater number of small skins than ever before.

The first seals of this season appeared upon the hauling-ground on the 26th April,

and the first killing for food was on the 13th May. The killing season for skins opened on the 2nd June, and they killed seventy-one.

I inclose a full statement of all the killings of the season, from the 2nd June to the 20th July, inclusive, and you will observe that the greatest number killed at one killing—excepting those of the 19th and 20th July—was only 394, although the driving and killing were under the immediate supervision of Mr. Webster, who is admitted to be the most experienced and most careful sealer on the islands.

Until the 19th July, an attempt was made to keep to a standard of not less than 7-lb. skins, but when it was apparent beyond question that there were no large young seals on the hauling-ground, the standard was lowered and skins of 5-lbs. were taken wherever found. It was thus the last two killings were swelled to their present proportions.

For the whole season we obtained a total of 4,112 skins, against a total of 10,138 on the same date last year.

That the seals should have disappeared so rapidly since the Report of your predecessor in 1888 is so astounding that those who cannot see the rookeries and hauling-grounds for themselves may well be pardoned for doubting what is, I am sorry to say, only painful though it be to all who are interested, the whole truth must nevertheless be told, and that is that the seals have been steadily decreasing since 1880, and the days are passed and gone when they could be counted on the rookeries by the million. I have carefully examined the rookeries and hauling-grounds at Starri-Arteel north and east, and I find somewhat less than half the ground covered when compared with former years. I accompanied the natives when they went to make a drive from East Rookery, and we walked along the beach from Little East to East Rookery without finding one seal till we came to the breeding-grounds proper. Either Mr. Lavender or I was present at every killing made; we saw the numbers that we turned away, and we counted the skins of all that were killed, and we find that what is true of one rookery is true of them all—the seals are not on them.

Now that the seals have disappeared the natives are very much alarmed, and they anxiously inquire what will the Government do for them in their destitution. They have earned during the present season 1,644 dol. 90 c., which, I need scarcely add, will be entirely inadequate to supply food and clothing for a year for a population of ninety people. I never knew a people so attached to a church as these poor creatures, and now they are in great tribulation because they have no means to contribute to its support, nor to the support of the priest and his family. At one of their many meetings they requested me to write for them to the Russian-Greek Church Consistory at San Francisco, and appeal for aid for their priest and church until such times as the seal fisheries should recover and make them self-supporting. In justice to the priest, I may tell you that he was the first to say he should not have any share of the earnings of this season, and that he would not take any money from the people until times mended, and that he could afford to pay; otherwise he should apply to the Consistory for a position in another locality.

I have endeavoured to impress upon them the fact that they are not to be abandoned to their fate; that the Government will not allow them to starve or suffer, but will take care of the people and of the rookeries until the rookeries are built up and fully replenished, when prosperity and happiness will return to the island once more.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

(Signed) JOSEPH MURRAY,
First Assistant Agent, St. George Island.

Hon. Charles J. Goff,
Agent in charge of Seal Island, Alaska.

(C.)—*Report of A. W. Lavender, Assistant Treasury Agent.*

Office of Special Agent, Treasury Department,
St. George Island, Behring's Sea, July 26, 1890.

Sir,

I have the honour to make you the following Report of this season's sealing by the North American Commercial Company, and to offer such recommendations as in my judgment should be enforced by the Government for the protection of these rookeries during the next six or seven years; also to report to you the condition of the natives and their houses, and to ask that such repairs to their houses as are absolutely required be

furnished as soon as possible; also to request of you in your Report to the Secretary of the Treasury to ask for 350 dollars for repairs to the Government House, and such other articles as I shall mention in this Report.

In accordance with your letter of the 20th instant, asking me to ship the 630 food skins in the United States' Revenue Marine cutter "Rush," I will state that I have complied with the same, and inclose you a receipt signed by the Captain, a duplicate of the same I have in this office on file. I will also state there are twenty road skins here in the salt-house.

The killing of seals on this island was stopped on the 20th; a list of each number killed out of each drive I inclose also to you, and you will see that the last drive from North and Starri-Arteel Rookeries and also from Zapodine that there was a larger number of seals killed than from any other drive; this I will assure you was not owing to the greater number of large seals being driven at this time, but the standard weight of skins being reduced on that day from 7 to 5 lbs., and even less.

The writer was surprised when he first visited the rookeries to find no young bull seals upon them; this looked strange to him, and he began to look up the cause, and it occurred to him that the constant driving of young male seals and the killing of all the 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds, that there were no young bulls left to go on the rookeries, and without young blood the fur-seal industry will be something of the past in a very few years.

The Government should take absolute control of these islands and permit no seal to be killed more than are needed by the natives for food for the next six or seven years, and then all the male seals driven should be killed, as it is my opinion that not over one-half ever go back upon the rookeries again. In this way there would be killed upon this island about 2,500 each year. These skins sold in the market would pay all the expenses of the island and furnish such supplies to the natives to keep them from want, and they would be as well satisfied as they are now under the management of the North American Commercial Company. Without something of this kind being done, the natives will soon have to move from these islands, for there will be nothing te keep them here.

The North American Commercial Company has landed and turned over to this officer 30 gross tons of coal for the use of the natives and ten barrels of salt salmon, and also state that there are 10 tons of coal in the coal-shed for the Government house.

Most all of the native houses need repairing; some need a new floor, others a new roof, and I would recommend that at least four of these houses be made larger by the addition of one more room.

The Government or Company, whichever has charge of this island, the next season should send at least 10,000 feet of siding and 10,000 feet of flooring on the first steamer that comes up in the spring; also 35,000 shingles, and nails enough to do the work.

The natives are in better health than they have been for the past year. I am not aware of there being a sick person on the island. Their sanitary condition is bad, and to each house there should be a small outbuilding, which they could use for a closet. Such a thing seems to be unknown here.

The repairs required by the Government House are as follows: The front platform needs rebuilding, and part of the roof needs shingling, and the whole roof to be painted; also the house needs painting and papering on the inside, and the fence repainting.

The articles required for the use of this Office are as follows:—

One letter-press and book.	One carpet for Government House.
One bill file.	One platform scales.
One letter file.	One spring balance.
Paper and pens.	

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) ALBERT W. LAVENDER,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

Charles J. Goff, Esq.,
Treasury Agent in charge of Seal Islands.

North American Commercial Company, St. Paul Islana,
Alaska, July 1, 1890.

Sir,

As per request of I. Liebes, Esq., President North American Commercial Company, contained in his letter to me dated at San Francisco, 9th June, 1890, I hereby ask permission to kill and take for the use of said Company, for exhibition only, to be stuffed and set up, five specimen seals of different ages, including one cow and one young black pup.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEO. R. TINGLE, *Superintendent,*
North American Commercial Company.

Charles J. Goff, Esq.,
Treasury Agent in charge.

(Note in red ink.)—Consent orally given, and this letter copied in journal, p. 236, 8th July, 1890.

(D.)—ANNUAL Statement of Fur-Seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ending July 20, 1890.

Date.	Rookery.	Number of Seals killed for Natives' Food.				Number of Seals killed by Lessees for Skins.					Aggregate.		
		Large Young Seals.	Skins accepted by Lessees.	Skins rejected.		Accepted.		Rejected.*			Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total Seals killed.
				Under Size.	Cut.	Prime.	Second Class.	Under Size.	Cut.	Total.			
1890.													
May 28	South-west Bay	119	115	3	1	115	..	..	1	5	115	4	119
June 6	Reef	..	..	..	..	115	..	..	1	1	115	1	116
,, 11	,, ...	..	..	..	..	539	..	35	..	35	539	35	574
,, 13	Tolstoi	..	..	..	..	181	1	..	..	..	182	..	182
,, 16	Reef	..	..	..	..	315	..	1	1	2	315	2	317
,, 17	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	16	..	16
,, 17	Half-way Point	..	..	..	..	167	..	..	..	..	167	..	167
,, 18	Tolstoi and Middle Hill ..	..	..	..	..	270	..	..	4	4	270	4	274
,, 18	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	78	..	..	..	..	78	..	78
,, 20	Reef and Lukannon	..	..	..	..	339	..	..	..	..	339	..	339
,, 20	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	438	..	..	..	..	438	..	438
,, 21	South-west Bay	..	..	..	..	290	..	..	2	2	290	2	292
,, 21	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	96	..	..	..	..	96	..	96
,, 23	English Bay and Lukannon ..	..	..	..	..	515	3	..	3	3	518	3	521
,, 23	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	176	2	1	..	1	178	1	179
,, 24	Reefs and Zoltoi	..	..	..	..	414	..	10	2	12	414	12	426
,, 24	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	202	3	..	..	..	205	..	205
,, 25	Half-way Point	..	..	..	..	263	..	3	..	3	263	3	266
,, 25	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	164	2	..	..	..	166	..	166
,, 26	South-west Bay	..	..	..	..	114	2	..	1	1	116	1	117
,, 27	English Bay and Middle Hill ..	..	..	..	..	374	2	19	1	20	376	20	396
,, 27	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	225	5	..	..	..	230	..	230
,, 28	Reef	..	..	..	..	205	1	..	..	..	206	..	206
,, 28	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	79	..	..	..	..	79	..	79
,, 30	Tolstoi, English Bay, Middle Hill, and Keitavie	..	..	..	..	206	1	2	..	2	207	2	209
,, 30	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	97	1	..	..	..	98	..	98
July 1	Reef	..	..	..	..	246	..	..	..	..	246	..	246
,, 1	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	130	1	..	..	..	131	..	131
,, 2	Half-way Point	..	..	..	..	240	..	..	2	2	240	2	242
,, 2	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	96	..	..	..	..	96	..	96
,, 3	South-west Bay	..	..	..	..	181	..	2	..	2	181	2	183
,, 3	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	180	..	..	..	..	180	..	180
,, 4	Tolstoi, English Bay, and Middle Hill	..	..	..	..	472	..	19	3	22	472	22	494
,, 4	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	318	3	..	..	..	321	..	321
,, 5	Reef	..	..	..	..	524	1	..	1	1	525	1	526
,, 5	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	74	..	..	..	..	74	..	74
,, 7	English Bay, Middle Hill, Tolstoi, Lukannon, and Ketavie	..	..	..	..	400	..	11	..	11	400	11	411
,, 7	,, ,, ,,	..	..	..	..	400	..	11	..	11	400	11	411
,, 7	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	336	..	..	..	..	336	..	336
,, 8	Half-way Point	..	..	..	..	257	..	3	1	4	257	4	261
,, 8	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	378	1	..	..	..	379	..	379
,, 9	South-west Bay	..	..	..	..	160	2	1	..	1	162	1	163
,, 9	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	271	..	..	..	..	271	..	271
,, 10	Reef	..	..	..	..	373	1	2	2	4	374	4	378
,, 10	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	112	..	..	..	..	112	..	112
,, 12	English Bay, Middle Hill, Tolstoi, Lukannon, and Ketavie	..	..	..	..	624	5	4	..	4	629	4	633
,, 13	Half-way Point	..	..	..	..	211	..	..	..	..	211	..	211
,, 13	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	641	..	..	17	17	641	17	658
,, 14	Reef	..	..	..	..	104	..	..	..	..	104	..	104
,, 15	English Bay, Middle Hill, Tolstoi, Lukannon, and Ketavie	..	..	..	..	315	..	..	..	..	315	..	315
,, 15	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	245	..	..	..	..	245	..	245
,, 16	,, ,, ...	..	..	..	..	311	..	1	..	1	311	1	312
,, 17	Polavnia, Lukaunon, and Ketavie	..	..	..	..	369	3	..	..	..	372	..	372
,, 17	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	485	..	..	..	..	485	..	485
,, 18	,, ,, ...	..	..	..	..	405	..	..	..	..	405	..	405
,, 18	Zapodine	..	..	..	..	80	..	..	..	156	80	156	236
,, 19	Reef and Zoltoi	..	..	..	..	547	2	3	4	7	549	7	556
,, 19	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	446	..	..	..	..	446	..	446
,, 20	English Bay, Middle Hill, Tolstoi, Lukannon, Ketavie, and Point Rocky	..	..	..	..	752	6	18	4	..	758	22	780
,, 20	North-east Point	..	..	..	..	507	2	47	..	..	509	47	556
	Total	119	115	3	1	16,783	50	185	50	344	16,833	391	17,724

* Rejected for other reasons, 156.

TABLE showing disposition of the rejected Skins of 1890, which I refuse to destroy.

Total number of skins rejected		391
July 10, accepted by lessees at North-east Point..	22	
,, 20, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	43	
,, 20, accepted by lessees at village..	34	
Now in salt at North-east Point	47	
Now in salt at village	2	
Received by North American Commercial Company to make suits for three employés who are to winter on St. Matthew's Islands establishing a trading station for said Company	41	
Professor William Palmer, of the Smithsonian Institution..	4	
Spoiled on the field	156	
Given to the natives	42	
		391

The North American Commercial Company asks for five specimens for exhibition as per accompanying letter, and reported killing one cow, one pup, one bull, large, three males of different ages; total, six.

(E.)—ANNUAL Statement of Fur-Seals killed on St. George Island, Alaska, during the year ending July 20, 1890.

Date.	Rookery.	Number of Seals killed by Lessees for Skins.				Aggregate.		
		Accepted.		Rejected for other reasons. Died on the road.	Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total Seals killed.
		Prime.	Second Class.					
1890								
June 2	North	71	..	..	71	71	..	71
,, 16	East	214	4	..	218	218	..	218
,, 18	North	113	4	..	118	117	1	118
,, 19	East and Little East ..	179	2	..	181	181	..	181
,, 20	Zapodine	394	..	..	394	394	..	394
,, 23	Starri-Arteel and North ..	162	2	..	164	164	..	164
,, 25	East and Little East.. ..	182	2	..	184	184	..	184
,, 28	Starri-Arteel and North ..	188	1	..	189	189	..	189
,, 30	Zapodine	189	..	..	189	189	..	189
July 1	East and Little East.. ..	145	..	4	149	145	4	149
,, 3	Starri-Arteel and North ..	234	..	4	238	234	4	238
,, 5	East and Little East.. ..	56	1	..	57	57	..	57
,, 7	Zapodine	57	..	1	58	57	1	58
,, 8	East and Little East.. ..	23	..	1	24	23	1	24
,, 9	Starri-Arteel and North ..	183	3	7	193	186	7	193
,, 11	East	59	..	1	60	59	1	60
,, 12	Starri-Arteel and North ..	102	..	1	103	102	1	103
,, 14	Zapodine	53	..	..	53	53	..	53
,, 15	East	131	..	1	132	131	1	132
,, 16	Starri-Arteel and North ..	119	..	..	119	119	..	119
,, 18	East	71	..	..	71	71	..	71
,, 20	Starri-Arteel and North ..	634	7	..	641	641	..	641
,, 20	Zapodine	527	..	..	527	527	..	527
	Total	4,086	..	21	4,133	4,112	21	4,133

NOTE.—One rejected skin was given to the Chief, and the remaining twenty were salted down in the salt-house till further orders.

(Signed) JOSEPH MURRAY,
First Assistant Agent.

Washington, D.C., May 5, 1890.

Should any doubt arise concerning pups' skins, claimed by Alaska Commercial Company, under instructions to Agent Nettleton of the 11th March last, you will cause all such skins, together with the merchantable skins specified in your instructions of the 26th March last, to be shipped to Collector at San Francisco, and thereupon report facts to Department for determination.

(Signed) GEO. C. TICHENOR,
Assistant Secretary.

Charles J. Goff,
Treasury Agent, Seal Islands,
(Care Collector of Customs, San Francisco, California).

Alaska Commercial Company of San Francisco,
Sir, *St. George Island, Alaska, May* 26, 1890.

Herewith I would ask permission to ship, per steamer "Dora," 482 fur-seals, at present stored at our village salt-house, and 109 at our salt-house at Zapadine.

These 591 fur-seals were killed by the natives for food during the winter 1889 to 1890, and have been salted and cared for by the Alaska Commercial Company before the transfer of its property to the North American Commercial Company, the present holders of the lease for the Seal Islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RUDOLPH NEUMANN,
General Agent, Alaska Commercial Company.

Hon. Charles J. Goff,
United States' Treasury Agent in charge of the
Seal Islands St. Paul and St. George.

Alaska Commercial Company of San Francisco,
Sir, *St. Paul Island, Alaska, May* 31, 1890.

Herewith I would ask permission to ship, per steamer "Dora," 3,196 fur-seals, 794 stagy skins being included in this number, and stored at present at our village salt-house, and 298 at our salt-house at North-east Point.

These 3,494 fur-skins were killed by the natives for food during the winter of 1889 to 1890, and have been salted and cared for by the Alaska Commercial Company before the transfer of its property to the North American Commercial Company, the present holders of the lease for the Seal Islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RUDOLPH NEUMANN,
General Agent, Alaska Commercial Company.

Hon. Charles J. Goff,
United States' Treasury Agent in charge of the
Seal Islands St. Paul and St. George.

Sir,

In reply to your communications bearing date the 26th and 31st May, respectively, asking permission to remove the fur-seal skins now in the salt-houses on St. Paul and St. George Islands, I will say, in pursuance to instructions received by me from the Secretary of the Treasury, I will have to respectfully decline to allow you to remove the skins in question, and herewith inform you that all of the said skins will be shipped per United States' cutter, care Collector of Customs, San Francisco, California, to be disposed of by the Department as the Secretary may deem advisable.

(Signed) CHARLES J. GOFF, *Treasury Agent.*

Hon. Rudolph Neumann,
General Agent, Alaska Commercial Company.

North American Commercial Company, St. Paul Island,
Dear Sir, *July* 8, 1890.

The North American Commercial Company will accept as part of their quota of 60,000 seal-skins for 1890 such of the food skins of 1889 as they may find on examination to be merchantable and acceptable to them.

The skins being now stored in our warehouses on this and St. George Island, we hereby claim the privilege of availing ourselves of the offer made us by the Honourable Secretary of the Treasury at Washington, as contained in and being a part of his instructions to you dated the 26th March, 1890, a copy of which by his request you were kind enough to furnish the Company, which instructions in our opinion were not changed by any subsequent order made by the Honourable Secretary, so far as our right to accept food skins is concerned. If the food skins claimed by us should not be delivered to us here so as to enable us to ship them with the Company's skins taken under their lease this season, we could not get them in London in time for our fall sale, were they tendered

the Company at San Francisco after the cutter's arrival from Alaska in the fall. Being thus deprived of the skins, a heavy loss to the Company in prospective profits would result, which loss we would feel should be made good to us by the Government of the United States.

I respectfully request you to communicate to me in writing the result of your conclusions in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE R. TINGLE, *Superintendent,*
North American Commercial Company.

Charles J. Goff,
Treasury Agent in charge of Seal Fisheries,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

Office of Special Agent, Treasury Department,
St. Paul Island, July 8, 1890.

Dear Sir,

Your communication of later date, in which you ask permission to assort and examine the skins of the seals killed for food during the winter of 1889 and 1890, and to take such as you may adjudge acceptable to your Company as part of your season's catch for this year, has been carefully considered and your request respectfully declined, as I have no option in the matter other than to strictly obey the orders of the Secretary of the Treasury.

I avail myself of this opportunity to notify you that on and after the 20th July I shall require you to conform to that clause in my instructions which prevents killing of fur-seals for their skins after that date.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) CHARLES J. GOFF, *Treasury Agent.*

George R. Tingle, Esq.,
General Manager, North American Commercial Company.

(F.)—Annual Statement of Fur-Seals killed for Food on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ending May 21, 1890.

Date.	Rookery.	Seals killed for Native Food.						
		Pups.	Large Young Seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by Lessees.	Skins rejected.		
						Under Size.	Stagy.	Cut.
1889								
July 31	Zoltoi	..	160	160	156	..	..	4
Aug. 6	Lukannon	..	163	163	163	..	..	..
„ 11	Balance over shipment in salt-house	..	58	58	58	..	..	..
„ 14	Zoltoi	..	131	131	123	3	..	5
„ 22	„	..	141	141	139	..	..	2
„ 31	Tolstoi	..	179	179	87	1	91	..
Sept. 9	Zoltoi	..	141	141	..	..	141	..
„ 18	„	..	110	110	..	..	110	..
„ 25	„	..	107	107	..	1	106	..
Oct. 5	„	..	120	120	..	1	119	..
„ 15	„	..	103	103	..	4	99	..
„ 26	Lukannon	..	132	132	44	2	86	..
Nov. 4	Zoltoi	1,044	125	125	80	3	42	..
„ 19	Tolstoi	1,236	224	224	223	1	..	..
„ 21	Reef	..	347	347	347	..	..	..
„ 27	„	..	192	192	189	3	..	..
„ 27	Zapodine	..	10	10	10	..	..	..
„ 30	Reef	..	240	240	236	4	..	..
Dec. 11	Zapodine	..	243	243	240	3	..	..
1890								
Jan. 27	Sea Lion Rock	..	175	175	170	5	..	..
May 21	.. ..	..	131	131	131	..	..	..
		2,280	3,232	3,232	2,396	31	794	11
	Skins at North-east Point, killed for watchmen ..	..	301	..	..	..	..	..
	Grand total of food skins ..	..	3,533*	..	..	..	..	..
1889								
Aug. 10	North	..	55	..	..	..	..	..
„ 19	„	..	56	..	..	..	..	..
„ 30	„	..	48	..	..	..	48	..
Sept. 7	East	..	64	..	..	..	64	..
„ 21	„	..	50	..	..	..	50	..
„ 30	North	..	33	..	..	..	33	..
Oct. 11	„	..	37	..	..	..	37	..
„ 21	Starri-Arteel	..	32	..	..	..	..	..
„ 31	North	..	4	..	..	..	..	..
Nov. 6	„	600	6	..	..	..	..	..
„ 12	„	471	6	..	..	..	..	..
„ 25	Starri-Arteel	..	61	..	..	..	..	..
May 13	North	..	32	..	..	..	..	..
„ 31	„	..	37	..	..	..	..	..
	For the watchmen at Zapodine for the whole season ..	..	109	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	1,071	630†	..	..	..	232	..

* These skins will be shipped on board United States' cutter "Richard Rush." and consigned to Collector of Customs, San Francisco, as per your instructions bearing date May 5, 1890. The steamer will leave the Seal Islands early in September.

† These skins (630) will be shipped on board United States' cutter "Richard Rush," and consigned to Collector of Customs, Francisco, as per your instructions bearing date May 5, 1890. The steamer will leave the Seal Islands early in September.

(G.)—TABLE showing the killing of Fur-Seals on St. Paul Island up to July 20, 1889, by the Alaska Commercial Company, and up to July 20, 1890, by the North American Commercial Company; also Daily Weather Report from June 1 to July 31 of each Year.

VILLAGE.

Date.	Number killed.	Date.	Number killed.
1889—		1890—	
June 5	201	June 6	116
„ 10	120	„ 11	574
„ 12	947	„ 13	182
„ 14	762	„ 16	317
„ 15	340	„ 17	167
„ 17	895	„ 18	274
„ 18	1,161	„ 20	339
„ 19	1,561	„ 21	292
„ 20	253	„ 23	521
„ 22	1,353	„ 24	426
„ 24	2,578	„ 25	266
„ 25	979	„ 26	117
„ 26	1,314	„ 27	396
„ 27	311	„ 28	206
„ 28	1,349	„ 30	209
„ 29	1,038		
Total	15,162	Total	4,402
July 1	1,023	July 1	246
„ 2	834	„ 2	242
„ 3	1,841	„ 3	183
„ 4	1,716	„ 4	494
„ 5	1,255	„ 5	526
„ 6	1,302	„ 7	411
„ 8	814	„ 8	261
„ 9	1,314	„ 9	163
„ 10	654	„ 10	378
„ 12	2,004	„ 12	633
„ 13	1,006	„ 13	211
„ 15	3,085	„ 14	104
„ 16	1,911	„ 15	315
„ 17	1,931	„ 17	372
„ 18	2,046	„ 18	236
„ 19	2,017	„ 19	556
„ 20	1,913	„ 20	780
Total	[illegible],366	Total	6,111

North-East Point.

Date	Number killed.	Date.	Number killed.
1889—		1890—	
June 17	1,054	June 17	16
„ 18	1,270	„ 18	78
„ 19	494	„ 20	438
„ 21	1,205	„ 21	96
„ 24	754	„ 23	179
„ 25	1,407	„ 24	205
„ 26	441	„ 25	166
„ 27	844	„ 27	230
„ 28	479	„ 28	79
„ 29	335	„ 30	98
July 1	1,200	July 1	131
„ 2	968	„ 2	96
„ 4	1,559	„ 3	180
„ 5	1,524	„ 4	321
„ 6	376	„ 5	74
„ 8	914	„ 7	336
„ 9	641	„ 8	379
„ 10	800	„ 9	271
„ 13	793	„ 10	112
„ 15	1,838	„ 13	658
„ 16	1,156	„ 15	245
„ 17	948	„ 16	312
„ 18	1,282	„ 17	485
„ 19	834	„ 18	405
„ *20	243	„ 19	446
		„ 20	556
Total	15,076	Total	5,007

* 243 this day to make the full quota of 100,000.

Recapitulation.

Total number of fur-seals killed by lessees on St. Paul Island from 1st June to 20th July—

1889	65,187
1890	17,105

Day of Month.	June 1889.			July 1889.			June 1890.			July 1890.		
	Max.	Min.	Weather.	Max.	Min.	Weather.	Max.	Min.	Weather.	Max.	Min.	Weather.
1	42	33	Foggy ..	45	40	Clear ..	37	33	Snow ..	40	40	Fog.
2	40	35	Cloudy ..	48	40	Hazy ..	34	32	Hazy ..	48	40	„
3	44	38	„ ..	48	42	„ ..	41	33	Clear ..	46	40	Clear.
4	48	40	„ ..	48	41	Clear ..	42	31	Fine ..	47	39	„
5	47	39	„ ..	49	40	Hazy ..	42	32	Clear ..	50	40	„
6	50	34	„ ..	42	40	„ ..	43	31	Fog ..	51	40	„
7	44	43	„ ..	49	42	Thick fog ..	44	38	Hazy ..	51	41	„
8	47	36	„ ..	50	40	Rain ..	48	39	Rain ..	44	40	„
9	No record		„ ..	45	42	Hazy ..	43	39	Thick fog ..	46	41	Hazy.
10	44	38	Rain ..	49	42	Thick fog ..	44	34	„ ..	47	42	„
11	43	40	„ ..	51	41	Fog ..	43	37	„ ..	48	43	Fog.
12	43	38	„ ..	50	42	Clear ..	42	37	Fog ..	51	41	„
13	38	37	„ ..	50	40	„ ..	43	37	„ ..	48	43	„
14	43	37	„ ..	49	40	„ ..	43	38	„ ..	44	43	Rain.
15	42	37	Thick fog ..	52	42	„ ..	48	39	Rain ..	45	43	Fog.
16	43	37	Rain ..	50	42	„ ..	43	36	Fog ..	44	41	„
17	46	38	Cloudy ..	47	43	Hazy ..	45	37	Rain ..	47	42	„
18	49	38	Rain ..	48	42	„ ..	44	37	Clear ..	47	42	„
19	49	36	Clear ..	52	42	Fog ..	40	37	Fog ..	50	40	„
20	45	37	Cloudy ..	49	41	Clear ..	43	39	Fine ..	49	40	„
21	46	38	„ ..	49	43	Thick fog ..	45	40	Rain ..	54	44	„
22	45	38	„ ..	50	44	Rain ..	49	40	Clear ..	56	43	„
23	40	38	Rain ..	48	42	Hazy ..	49	39	Hazy ..	53	45	„
24	42	39	Thick fog ..	46	42	Fog ..	42	38	Fog ..	52	46	„
25	46	40	„ ..	50	42	Hazy ..	45	40	„ ..	52	45	„
26	49	40	Cloudy ..	44	44	Thick fog ..	42	38	„ ..	53	43	„
27	51	41	Clear ..	49	43	Hazy ..	44	39	„ ..	53	46	„
28	50	41	„ ..	48	43	Rain ..	44	38	Hazy ..	49	45	„
29	50	40	Cloudy ..	48	42	Fog ..	43	40	„ ..	48	44	„
30	50	40	„ ..	50	43	Hazy ..	42	39	„ ..	48	40	„
31	..	..	..	49	42	Fog ..	..	..	..	51	45	„

(H.)—TABLE showing the beginning of each Sealing Season on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George, from 1870 to 1890 inclusive, and the number of Fur-Seals accepted by the Lessees up to July 20 of each year.

(Taken by Alaska Commercial Company.)

Year.	St. Paul.		St. George.		Total Skins accepted.
	Season began—	Skins accepted.	Season began—	Skins accepted.	
1870*	..	..	..	..	..
1871	June 1	29,788	June 4	12,604	42,392
1872	„ 1	65,499	„ 3	21,563	87,062
1873	„ 3	68,035	„ 4	17,362	85,397
1874	„ 3	88,058	„ 1	8,554	96,612
1875	„ 1	83,890	„ 1	10.000	93,890
1876	„ 3	69,367	„ 1	10,000	79,367
1877	„ 4	58,732	„ 1	15,000	73,732
1878	„ 8	78,570	„ 10	16,709	95,279
1879	„ 2	80,572	„ 3	20,569	101,141†
1880	„ 1	80,000	„ 3	20,000	100,000
1881	„ 6	80,000	„ 9	20,000	100,000
1882	„ 2	80,000	„ 6	20,000	100,000
1883	„ 4	60,101	„ 4	11,123	71,224
1884	„ 3	83,092	„ 4	11,152	94,244
1885	„ 3	70,451	„ 1	15,000	85,451
1886	„ 4	72,120	„ 8	13,335	85,455
1887	„ 1	77,389	„ 9	13,381	90,770
1888	„ 2	73,808	„ 6	13,187	86,995
1889	„ 1	68,485	„ 4	10,138	78,623
1890	„ 6	16,833‡	„ 2	4,112‡	20,945†

* No record. † Accepted but not shipped in one year; balance carried over.
‡ Taken by North American Commercial Company.

(I.)—STATEMENT of Liabilities of the North American Commercial Company to the Natives of St. Paul Island, after the division and distribution of 1890, showing the Amount due to each individual on the 1st August.

Name.	Amount.	Name.	Amount.
	Dol. c.		Dol. c.
Artomonoff, Kerrick	182 37	Melovidoff, Antone	415 59
Ashshoff, Arseny	153 85	Melovidoff, Simeon	714 74
Burdukofsky, Apollon	196 04	Melovidoff, Mrs. A.	203 85
Butrin, Kerrick	207 42	Merculiff, Dorafay	103 00
Bogadanoff, Nicoli	155 22	Mandregan, Ustenia	60 00
Butrin, Korp	228 19	Merculiff, Auxinsa	27 74
Bellaglazoff, Ellen	65 00	Nederazoff, Stepan	188 19
Emanoff, George	220 42	Nederazoff, Martin	175 04
Fratis, John	172 37	Oustigoff, Peter	193 24
Gromoff, Nicoli	229 04	Pushinkoff, Peter, estate of	68 05
Glotof, John	158 85	Prokopuf, Vladimer	331 25
Galaktanoff, Alex	163 92	Paraushin, Daniel..	186 04
Haberoff, Paul	145 78	Pankoff, Parfiri	185 04
Hapoff, John, estate of	67 05	Popoff, Afanasia	66 00
Housen, Alex	218 97	Mandrigan, Nevu..	178 49
Kozerof, Stepan	186 04	Melovidoff, Alex	271 40
Kushin, Aggie	175 24	Popoff, Nodotia	28 74
Kootchuten, Jacob..	182 04	Rookarishnakoff, Zachar	189 04
Krukoff, Nicoli	188 79	Rezanzoff, Anna	122 00
Krukoff, Maxim	166 65	Stepeteni, Terrenti, estate of ..	257 85
Krukoff, Peter	259 04	Stepeteni, Dorafay	437 22
Kuzintzoff, John	81 27	Sidiek, Theodore	196 04
Kusheorsshoff, Eupheme	193 19	Sedule, Vasila	190 42
Kootchuten, George	217 04	Shabolin, Necon	145 85
Kootchuten, John	148 22	Stepetini, Elarcy	274 04
Kootchuten, Empheine	165 42	Shutyagan, Metzofan	155 85
Kozeroff, Paul, estate of	302 85	Shaishinkoff, Rev. Paul	158 19
Kuznitzoff, Pemin, estate of	735 30	Saroken, John	20 74
Krukof, Natalia	37 00	Shapashinkoff, Agafay	64 70
Kozeloff, Parascovia	7 50	Shabolia, Ceaser, estate of	116 13
Merculiff, Alex	79 10	Shaishinkoff, Valerian	165 09

Names.	Amount.	Names.	Amount.
	Dol. c.		Dol. c.
Shaishinkoff, Matrona	150 10		
Shaishinkoff, George	157 09	*Bank Account drawing 4 per cent.*	
Shane, Catherine	17 68		
Tarrakanoff, Kerrick	179 04	John Fratis	1,438 30
Tetof, Peter	192 04	Rev. Paul Shaishinkoff	3,341 74
Tetof, Nevu	132 85	Catherine Shutyagara	224 75
Tetof, Fedosia	64 68	Markel Volkoff	983 68
Terrustara, Anna	145 00	Ellen Volkoff	200 00
Volkoff, Markel	142 37	Ardotia Sediek	104 17
Volkoff, Ellen	158 08	Elizabeth Sediek	93 61
Yetzamauff, John, estate of	236 23	Zashar Sediek	104 18
Zaharaoff, Kereaka	66 00	Nedesda Shaishinkoff	165 09
Widows' fund	179 00	Kerrick Arlamanoff	2,281 09
		Kerrick Butesin	2,948 33
	13,378 90		11,884 94
Note.—From the North American Commercial Company ten widows receive weekly rations, and others will have to be added soon.		Total	25,263 84

LIST of Accounts transferred to the North American Commercial Company by the Alaska Commercial Company for Natives of St. Paul Island, May 24, 1890.

Name.	Occupation or Condition.	Amount.
		Dol. c.
Peter Krukoff	Sealer	192 85
Nicoli Krukoff	"	80 60
Maxim Krukoff	"	111 73
Estate of Pemin Koznelzoff (for minor heirs) ..	..	735 30
Aggie Kushin	Sealer	67 05
John Koznelzoff	"	32 17
Natalia Krukoff	Widow	57 00
Parascovia Kozeroff	"	43 50
Neon Mandregan	Sealer	90 30
Vasili Sedule	"	98 05
Testeuria Mandregan	Widow	81 90
Antone Melevidoff	Sealer	172 85
Simeon Melevidoff	"	601 92
Alex Melevidoff	"	223 73
Anexenia Merculiff	Widow	103 00
Alexander Merculiff	Sealer	20 17
Akoolena Nedarazoff	Widow	23 24
Martin Nederazoff	Sealer	66 85
Daniel Parauchin	"	77 85
Barbara Pohomoff	Widow	8 75
Parfaria Paukoff	Sealer	76 85
Vassilisia Peeshinkoff	Widow	78 05
Afanasia Popoff	"	76 00
Ardotia Popofl	"	58 74
Zachar Rookoorshinkoff	Sealer	80 85
Anna Rezauzoff	Widow	122 00
Agafy Shaposhinkoff	Minor	79 70
Theodore Sedisk	Sealer	87 85
Metrofan Shutyagin	"	69 29
Rev. Paul Shaishinkoff	Priest	128 40
Agrafina Shabolin	Widow	140 13
Neon Shabolin	Sealer	69 29
Elarcy Stepetin	"	165 85
Marina Stepetin	Widow	252 85
Dorafay Stepetin	Sealer	376 49
Valioian Shaishinkoff	Minor	165 09
Matrona Shaishinkoff	"	165 10
George Shaishinkoff	"	157 09
Catherine Shane	Widow	47 68
Kerrick Tarrakanoff	Sealer	70 85
Fedosia Tetoff	Widow	110 68
Peter Tetoff	Sealer	83 85
Neon Tetoff	"	76 29
Anna Yarantova	Widow	150 00
Markel Volkoff	Sealer	50 05

Name.	Occupation or Condition.	Amount.
		Dol. c.
Estate of John Yatzaamauff, held for minor heirs	..	276 23
Martha Saroken	Widow	20 74
Mrs. Alex. Melevidoff	"	223 65
Ellen Volkoff	Unmarried.. ..	25 00
Alex. Merculiff	Sealer	45 74
Fedosia Koshromikoff	..	10 62
Kerrick Artamanoff	Sealer	77 79
Arseney Arkashoff	"	68 29
Peter Oustegoff	"	65 05
Kerrick Butesin	"	121 05
Apollon Bourdeakofsky	"	81 85
Nicoli Bogodaniff	"	89 49
Ellen Belaglazoff	Widow	85 00
George Emanoff	Sealer	128 05
John Fratis	"	135 55
Nicoli Gromoff	"	135 85
Vladimar Prokopuff	"	302 52
John Glotoff	"	82 29
Paul Haberoff	"	75 05
Amissia Hopoff	Widow	75 05
Alex. Hansen	Sealer	114 40
John Katchooten	"	87 49
Jacob Katchooten..	"	73 85
Eupheme Katchooten	"	73 05
George Katchooten	"	113 85
Stepan Kozeroff	"	77 85
Kewekia Zacharoff	Widow	93 00
Karp Butesin	Sealer	113 85
Stepan Nedarazoff..	"	83 85
Eupheme Koshroenkoff	"	86 85
		8,870 73
On Special Deposit at 4 per cent. per annum.		
Kerrick Artamanoff	Sealer	2,281 09
Kerrick Butesin	"	2,948 33
John Fratis	"	1,525 00
Rev. Paul Shaishinkoff	Priest	3,341 74
Catherine Shutyagin	Widow	227 05
Markel Volkoff	Sealer	983 68
Ellen Volkoff	Unmarried ..	343 08
Ardotia Sedick	Minor	104 17
Elizabeth Sedick	"	93 61
Zachar Sedick	"	104 18
Nedesda Shaishinkoff	"	165 09
		12,117 02
Total	..	20,987 75

Distribution of Proceeds from Fur-Seals taken on St. Paul Island, 1890.

	Dols. c.
August 1, 1890—	
16,777 seal-skins, at 40 cents	6,710 80
53 seal-skins, cut, at 20 cents	10 60
156 seal-skins, rejected	62 40
40 sea-lion skins, at 1 dollar	40 00
Less provisions at N. E. Point	40 50
Total	6,783 30
First Class.	
1. Rev. Paul Shaishmkoff, priest	158 19
2. Antone Melevidoff, first chief	158 19
3. Karp Buterin, second chief	158 19
4. Jacob Kooehuten	158 19
5. George Kooehuten..	158 19
6. Theo. Sedick	158 19
7. Aggie Cushing	158 19
8. Martin Nedarazoff..	158 19
9. Stepan Kozeroff	158 19

	Dols. c.
10. Neon Mandregan ..	158 19
11. Peter Krukoff ..	158 19
12. Nicoli Krukoff ..	158 19
13. Kerrick Tarrakanoff	158 19
14. Daniel Paranchin ..	158 19
15. Apollon Burdukoffsky	158 19
16. Zachar Rookarishmkoff	158 19
17. Eupheme Kushirmkoff	158 19
18. Stepan Nedarazoff..	158 19
19. Parfiri Ponkoff ..	158 19
20. Nicoli Gromoff ..	158 19
21. Elarey Stepetein ..	158 19
22. Peter Tetoff ..	158 19
23. Peter Onstigoff ..	158 19
Total ..	3,638 37

Second Class.

1. Simeon Melevidoff ..	142 37
2. George Emenoff ..	142 37
3. Markel Volkoff ..	142 37
4. Kerrick Arlemonoff ..	142 37
5. Kerrick Buterin ..	142 37
6. Vasili Sedule ..	142 37
7. Eupheme Koochuten ..	142 37
8. John Fratis ..	142 37
Total ..	1,138 96

Third Class.

1. Metrofan Shntyogan ..	126 56
2. Arseney Arkoshoff ..	126 56
3. John Glotoff ..	126 56
4. Necon Shobolin ..	126 56
5. Alex. Hanson ..	126 56
6. Neon Tetof ..	126 56
Total ..	759 36

Fourth Class.

1. Darofay Stepetein ..	110 73
2. John Koolchutin ..	110 73
3. Nicoli Bogodanoff ..	110 73
4. Vladimer Prokopeiff ..	110 73
5. Paul Haberoff ..	110 73
Total ..	553 65

Fifth Class.

1. Maxim Krukoff ..	94 92
2. Alex. Golaktonoff ..	94 92
3. Alex. Melevidoff ..	94 92
Total ..	284 76

Sixth Class.

1. Alex. Merculiff ..	79 10
2. John Kuznitzoff ..	79 10
Total ..	158 20

Special Class.

Antone Melovidoff, first chief ..	50 00
Karp Buterin, second chief ..	50 00
Mrs. Terrinti Stepetein ..	50 00
Mrs. Peter Peeshenkoff ..	50 00
Mrs. John Hopoff ..	50 00
Total ..	250 00

TABLE showing Distribution of Earnings on St. Paul Island for taking Fur-Seals in 1889.

No.		Amount. Dols. c.
	First Class.	
1	1. Buterin, Karp, second chief	627 85
2	2. Kolehooten, Jacob	627 85
3	3. Kolehooten, George	627 85
4	4. Ledick, Theodore	627 85
5	5. Steptine, Terrentis	627 85
6	6. Viatpin, Terlampy	627 85
7	7. Kushin, Aggie	627 85
8	8. Nederazoff, Martini	627 85
9	9. Melovidoff, Antone, first chief	627 85
10	10. Kezeroff, Paul	627 85
11	11. Kezeroff, Stepan	627 85
12	12. Mandrigin, Neon	627 85
13	13. Krukoff, Peter	627 85
14	14. Krukoff, Nicoli	627 85
15	15. Torakanoff, Kerrick	627 85
16	16. Poranchin, Daniel	627 85
17	17. Bourderkofsky, Apollon	627 85
18	18. Rookareshinkoff, Zachar	627 85
19	19. Koshinkoff, Eupheme	627 85
20	20. Nedarazoff, Stepan	627 85
21	21. Fratis, John	627 85
22	22. Pankoff, Porfiri	627 85
23	23. Stepetin, Elary	627 85
24	24. Melorsdoff, Simeon	627 85
25	25. Tetoff, Peter	627 85
26	26. Gromoff, Nicoli	627 85
	Second Class.	
27	1. Volkoff, Markel	565 05
28	2. Artomonoff, Kiriek	565 05
29	3. Buterin, Kerrick	565 05
30	4. Peeshinkoff, Peter	565 05
31	5. Hokercff, Paul	565 05
32	6. Ledule, Vassiley	565 05
33	7. Kolehooten, Eupheme	565 05
34	8. Hapoff, John	565 05
35	9. Emanoff, George	565 05
36	10. Oustigoff, Peter	565 05
	Third Class.	
37	1. Thutyagin, Metrofan	502 29
38	2. Arkashoff, Arseny	502 29
39	3. Glotoff, John	502 29
40	4. Shabalin, Necon	502 29
41	5. Hanssen, Alexander	502 29
42	6. Tetoff, Neon	502 29
	Fourth Class.	
43	1. Stepetin, Darofay	439 49
44	2. Kotchooten, John	439 49
45	3. Bogdanoff, Nicoli	439 49
46	4. Prokopieff, Vladimer	439 49
	Fifth Class.	
47	1. Krukoff, Maxim	376 73
48	2. Galakinoff, Alexander	376 73
49	3. Melovidoff, Alexander	376 73
	Sixth Class.	
50	1. Shaishukoff, Alexander	251 17
51	2. Merculiff, Alexander	251 17
52	3. Kuznitzoff, John	251 17
	Special Class.	
	Shaishmkoff, Paul (priest)	1,000 00
	Two chiefs, each 100 dollars	200 00
	Estate of C. Shabolin	250 00
	Estate of A. Galkin	250 00
	Widows' fund	2,000 00
	Total	32,330 00

RECAPITULATION.

	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
83,724 seal-skins, at 40 cents		33,489 60
1,276 seal-skins (cut), at 20 cents		255 20
25 sea-lion skins, at 60 cents		15 00
	Dols. c.	33,759 80
Less, for provisions to N. E. P.	129 80	
	1,300 00	
		1,429 80
Total		32,330 00

	Dols. c.
Those in the first class should have received 234 dollars, leaving to their credit	171 00
Those in the second class should have received 208 dollars, leaving to their credit	152 00
Those in the third class should have received 182 dollars, leaving to their credit	133 00
Those in the fourth class should have received 150 dollars, leaving to their credit	144 00
Those in the fifth class should have received 143 dollars, leaving to their credit	132 00
Those in the seventh class should have received 104 dollars, leaving to their credit.. ..	96 00

If the accompanying instructions of the Treasury agent in charge had been complied with, the natives would have been in circumstances, financially, to meet their unfortunate, but not unexpected, condition, as is clearly shown by the amounts which should have been to their credit.

DR. ACCOUNT CURRENT. CR.

(J.)—THE North American Commercial Company in account with the United States at St. Paul Island, Alaska.

	Dols. c.
May 24, 1890—	
To oil fund transferred by Alaska Commercial Company	124 87
To natives general fund	182 55

DR. ACCOUNT CURRENT. CR.

(K.)—THE North American Commercial Company in account with the United States at St. George Island, Alaska.

	Dols. c.
May 24, 1890—	
To natives general fund	193 12

(L.)—CENSUS of St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 31, 1890.

Names.	Age.		Place of Birth.	Occupation.
	Males.	Females.		
Arlamonoff, Keruch	65	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Arlamonoff, Alexander, wife	..	39	St. Michael's ..	
Arlamonoff, Anxeima, daughter	..	24	St. Paul Island ..	
Iranoff, Eodakia, sister	..	18	St. Michael's ..	
Arkashoff, Aneny	25	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Arkashoff, Euphemia, wife	..	30	" " ..	
Austegoff, Peter	27	..	St. George Island ..	
Austegoff, Parascoria, wife	..	23	St. Paul Island ..	
Austegoff, Stepanida, mother	..	56	St. George Island ..	
Iranoff, Anastasia, niece	..	12	St. Paul Island ..	
Sharshurkoff, George, adopted	..	9	" " ..	
Bogdanoff, Nicoli	20	..	St. George Island ..	
Bogdanoff, Feronia, wife	..	21	St. Paul Island ..	
Bogdanoff, Zœhar, son	½	..	" " ..	
Bourdukopsky, Appolyon	38	..	Oonalaska	Sealer.
Bourdukopsky, Chioni, wife	..	31	St. Paul Island ..	
Bourdukopsky, Peter, son	12	..	" " ..	
Bourdukopsky, Onleta, daughter	..	7	" " ..	
Todoshuskoff, Evdokia, adopted	..	15	Oonalaska	
Butavin, Karp	38	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Butavin, Parascovia, wife	..	36	Oonalaska	

Names.	Age. Males.	Age. Females.	Place of Birth.	Occupation.
Butavin, Constantine, son	5	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Butavin, Ivan, son	½	..	,, ,, ..	
Mezukin, Mary, adopted	..	18	,, ,, ..	
Butarin, Kenich	61	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Butarin, Catherine, daughter	..	18	,, ,, ..	
Emanoff, George..	24	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Emanoff, Anna, mother	..	60	Oonalaska	
Koznetzoff, John, nephew	15	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Koznetzoff, Agafia, niece	..	12	,, ,, ..	
Fratis, John	46	..	Sadrone Islands ..	Sealer.
Fratis, Akoolena, wife	..	20	Oonalaska	
Fratis, Susanna, daughter	..	13	St. Paul Island ..	
Fratis, John, son..	5	..	,, ,, ..	
Glotoff, John	24	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Glotoff, Mary, mother	..	63	Oonalaska	
Gromoff, Nicoli	24	..	Alton	Sealer.
Gromoff, Ouleanna, wife	..	23	St. Paul Island ..	
Ledisk, Elizabeth, adopted..	..	..	..	
Haberoff, Paul	40	..	Kodiak	Sealer.
Kotehootin, Enphemia	48	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Kotehootin, Pelogia, wife	..	41	Oonalaska	
Bogdanoff, Mary, adopted	..	17	St. George Island ..	
Kotehootin, George	43	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer
Kotehootin, Maria, wife	..	29	Oonalaska	
Kotehootin, Peter, son	12	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Kotehootin, Trepon, son	6	..	,, ,, ..	
Kotehootin, Matrona, daughter	..	4	,, ,, ..	
Kotehootin, ——, daughter, infant	..	..	,, ,, ..	
Kotehootin, Jacob	40	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer
Kotehootin, Fevroma, wife	..	37	Unga	
Kotehootin, Onleta, daughter	..	17	St. Paul Island ..	
Kotehootin, Ellen, daughter	..	7	,, ,, ..	
Kotehootin, Theodora, son..	3	..	,, ,, ..	
Kotehootin, ——, son, infant	..	..	,, ,, ..	
Sodoshmkoff, Natalia, adopted	..	11	Unga	
Koohwinkoff, Enphem	37	..	St. George Island ..	Sealer.
Koohwinkoff, Ardolia, wife	..	31	St. Paul Island ..	
Koohwinkoff, Paul, son	8	..	,, ,, ..	
Kezeroff, Stepan	39	..	Oonalaska	Sealer.
Kezeroff, Anastasia, wife	..	40	,, ...	
Kezeroff, Trepon, son	7	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Kezeroff, Teonaby, daughter	..	3	,, ,, ..	
Nozekoff, Semion, stepson	15	..	Oonalaska	
Krukoff, Sukeria, adopted	..	16	,, ...	
Krukoff, Peter	39	..	Sitka	Sealer.
Krukoff, Anna, wife	..	35	St. Paul Island ..	
Krukoff, Meoli	41	..	At sea near Sitka ..	Sealer.
Krukoff, Catherine, wife	..	31	Sitka	
Krukoff, Metrofan, son	8	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Krukoff, Onsteana, daughter	..	½	,, ,, ..	
Krukoff, Maxim	35	..	Sitka	
Krukoff, Feoetesta, wife	..	26	St. Paul Island ..	
Krukoff, John, son	11	..	,, ,, ..	
Krukoff, ——, son, infant	..	..	,, ,, ..	
Kushin, Aggie	37	..	Kroosle Island ..	Sealer.
Kushin, Mary, wife	..	36	St. George Island ..	
Kushin, Sukeria, daughter..	..	14	St. Paul	
Kushin, Michael, son	7	..	St. George Island ..	
Shoposhmkoff, Yatiana, adopted	..	17	Oonalaska	
Mandreau, Aecn	34	..	St. George Island ..	Sealer.
Mandreau, Maria, wife	..	28	Alton	
Mandreau, Mary, daughter	..	7	St. Paul Island ..	
Mandreau, Zova, daughter..	..	5	,, ,, ..	
Sedich, Ardolia, niece	..	10	,, ,, ..	
Sedich, Zachar, nephew	6	..	,, ,, ..	
Melvudoff, Antone	36	..	Kodiak	Sealer.
Melvudoff, Agrafena, wife	..	34	Atka	
Melvudoff, Alexandria, daughter	..	10	St. Paul Island ..	
Melvudoff, Olega, daughter	..	6	,, ,, ..	
Melvudoff, Mary, daughter	..	4	,, ,, ..	
Melvudoff, Alexandra, mother	..	56	California	
Melvudoff, Alexander, brother	17	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Sharohmkoff, Matrona, adopted	..	7	,, ,, ..	
Nederozoff, Martin	37	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Nederozoff, Stepan	34	..	..	Sealer.

Names.	Age.		Place of Birth.	Occupation.
	Males.	Females.		
Nederozoff, Alexandra, wife	..	29	Alton	
Nederozoff, Mary, niece	..	10	St. Paul Island ..	
Nederozoff, Prokopy, nephew	6	..	,, ,, ..	
Nederozoff, Dormedont, nephew	4	..	,, ,, ..	
Pankoff, Pofaria	29	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Pankoff, Olga, wife	..	29	St. George ..	
Pankoff, Vulsie, son	3	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Kezanzoff, Natalia, mother-in-law	..	57	St. George ..	
Paranchin, Daniel	33	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Paranchin, Alexandra, wife	..	30	Oonalaska	
Prokopreoff, Flademar	20	..	Alton	Sealer.
Rookoorshmkoff, Jachar	38	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Rookoorshmkoff, Anissia, wife	..	26	Oonalaska	
Rookoorshmkoff, Stepan, son	10	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Rookoorshmkoff, Paroscovia, daughter ..	..	2	,, ,, ..	
Sedich, Theodore	44	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Sedich, Martha, wife	..	37	Oonalaska	Sealer.
Sedich, Anna, daughter	..	21	St. Paul Island ..	
Sedich, Anastasia, daughter	..	17	,, ,, ..	
Sedich, Mary, daughter	..	5	,, ,, ..	
Sedich, Innokeutu, son	7	..	,, ,, ..	
Sedich, Yustinia, daughter..	..	3	,, ,, ..	
Sedich, Phillip, nephew	13	..	,, ,, ..	
Shaeshmkoff, Rev. Paul	56	..	,, ,, ..	Priest, Greek Church.
Shaeshmkoff, Nadesda, niece	..	14	Oonalaska	
Shaeshmkoff, Valerian, nephew	12	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Shabolin, Trecon..	25	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Shabolin, Ontila, wife	..	22	,, ,, ..	
Shabolin, Agrefena, daughter	..	3	,, ,, ..	
Shabolin, Agrefena, mother	..	50	Oonalaska	
Shutyagin, Catherine	..	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Shutyagin, Metrofan	30	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Shutyagin, Onlita, wife	..	24	St. George ..	
Shutyagin, Paroscovia, sister	..	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Sedule, Vasely	49	..	Kodiak	Sealer.
Sedule, Elizabeth, wife	..	51	Oonalaska	
Sedule, Vora, daughter	..	11	St. Paul Island ..	
Stepetine, Elary	28	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Stepetine, Anna, wife	..	21	Oonalaska	
Stepetine, Ontanna, daughter	..	3	St. Paul Island ..	
Fratis, Ellen, niece	..	7	,, ,, ..	
Stepetine, Forofay	21	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Stepetine, Ardotia, mother	..	56	,, ,, ..	
Tarakanoff, Kerrich	38	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Tarakanoff, Anna, wife	..	34	Sitka	
Tetoff, Jonas	22	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Tetoff, Peter	27	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Tetoff, Mary, wife	..	31	St. George Island ..	
Tetoff, Zachar, brother	12	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Tetoff, Alexandra, sister	..	14	,, ,, ..	
Gleboff, Chronia, mother-in-law	..	51	St. George Island ..	
Gleboff, Tassa, sister-in-law	..	18	,, ,, ..	
Volkoff, Markel	47	..	Atka	Sealer.
Volkoff, Alexandra, wife	..	38	Oonalaska	
Volkoff, infant, boy	Infant	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Widows.				
Arkashoff, Martha	..	31	Oonalaska	
Zatzmenoff. Anxemia, niece	..	14	St. Paul Island ..	
Zatzmenoff, Tassia, sister-in-law	..	25	,, ,, ..	
Balakshin, Matrona	..	42	,, ,, ..	
Balakshin, Agapia, niece	..	13	,, ,, ..	
Shopoohinkoff, Parascona, adopted	..	25	..	
Belglazoff, Ellen	..	56	St. Paul Island ..	
Tarakanoff, Mary, adopted	..	15	..	
Krukoff, Natatia..	..	39	St. Paul Island ..	
Krukoff, John, son	11	..	..	
Hopoff, Anissia	..	24	Oonalaska	
Hopoff, Nekita, son	3	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Kozeroff, Aodotia	..	30	St. George Island ..	
Kezloff, Parascovia	..	33	Oonalaska	
Kezloff, Teodotia, daughter	..	13	St. Paul Island ..	
Kezloff, Michael, son	4	..	,, ,, ..	

Names.	Age.		Place of Birth.	Occupation.
	Males.	Females.		
Kezloff, Nicoli, son	3	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Serebremkoff, Olga, sister	..	27	,, ,, ..	
Mandregin, Yestenia	..	29	,, ,, ..	
Rookoorskuskoff, Anna, adopted	..	6	,, ,, ..	
Murenhoff, Anxemia	..	35	,, ,, ..	
Murenhoff, Alexander, son	16	..	,, ,, ..	Sealer.
Murenhoff, Martin, son	10	..	,, ,, ..	
Murenhoff, Ellen, daughter	..	12	,, ,, ..	
Murenhoff, Tutoff, daughter	..	14	,, ,, ..	
Murenhoff, infant, son	Infant	..	,, ,, ..	
Arderazoff, Akoopena	..	45	,, ,, ..	
Arderazoff, Agrofena	..	23	,, ,, ..	
Arderazoff (infant son of Agrofena)	..	..	,, ,, ..	
Pomohoff, Barbra	..	41	,, ,, ..	
Pomohoff, Salome	..	16	,, ,, ..	
Merculuff, John, adopted	..	..	,, ,, ..	
Pushrukoff, Vasselesia	..	32	,, ,, ..	
Popoff, Ardotea	..	32	Alton	
Popoff, Evrosenia, daughter	..	1	St. Paul Island ..	
Balakshin, Anna, daughter	..	8	,, ,, ..	
Popoff, Aranasea..	..	46	,, ,, ..	
Shityagin, Dana, adopted	..	11	,, ,, ..	
Rezenza, Anna	..	58	Koskogrume ..	
Galakleonoff, Claudia	..	12	Oonalaska	
Ledich, Dana	..	48	,, ...	
Katehootin, John, son	21	..	St. Paul Island ..	Sealer.
Katehootin, Zenoria, daughter	..	23	,, ,, ..	
Katehootin, Ellen, daughter	..	17	,, ,, ..	
Loroken, Marth	..	21	Oonalaska	
Shane, Catherine..	..	31	Sitka	
Shane, Mary, daughter	..	12	St. George Island ..	
Shane, Freokla, stepdaughter	..	22	,, ,, ..	
Shane, Parascoria Yuoklad, daughter ..	..	4	,, ,, ..	
Shane, Elevery Yuoklad, son	3	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Tetoff, Foducia	..	34	Kiverle Island ..	
Tetoff, Irene, daughter	..	7	St. Paul Island ..	
Tetoff, Sofa, daughter	..	5	,, ,, ..	
Tetoff, Anxemia, daughter (dead)	..	2	,, ,, ..	
Kotchergin, Ardotea, daughter	..	17	,, ,, ..	
Torentora, Anna	..	72	,, ,, .	
Torentora, Anna, daughter	..	39	,, ,, ..	
Volkoff, Ellen	..	36	,, ,, ..	
Krohin, Meria, niece	..	11	,, ,, ..	
Zacharoff, Kiracha	..	45	Oonalaska	
Zacharoff, Emanuel, son	11	..	St. Paul Island ..	
Zacharoff, Feodosia, daughter	..	15	,, ,, ..	

Recapitulation.

Total population, July 31, 1890	213
Males—	
Adults	42
5 to 17 years	23
Under 5 years	12
Females—	
Adults	73
5 to 17 years	41
Under 5 years	22
	213

(M.)—Census St. George Island, Alaska, July 31, 1891.

Names.	Age.	
	Males.	Females.
Lestenkoff, Rev. Inokenty	59	..
Lestenkoff, Elsavta, wife	..	55
Lestenkoff, Michael, son	17	..
Lestenkoff, Helena, daughter	..	24
Lestenkoff, Mary, daughter	..	20
Lestenkoff, Sarah, daughter	..	13
Shankingkoff, Julia, grand-daughter	..	13
Lestenkoff, Demetri, widower	26	..
Lestenkoff, Anna, daughter	..	2
Murenlieff, Mark, adopted..	4	..
Philamonoff, Andronie	23	..
Philamonoff, Zenvoia, wife	..	25
Philamonoff, infant	..	..
Galanin, Oelina, widow	..	27
Galanin, Evan, son	8	..
Prokopief, Peter..	25	..
Prokopief, Fedosia, wife	..	19
Prokopief, Apanasia, brother	12	..
Kezanzaff, Fedosia, widow	..	46
Kezanzaff, Inokenty, son	12	..
Kezanzaff, Terafmia, grand-daughter	..	..
Onstegoff, Alexa, widower	40	..
Galaktianoff, Alexander	39	..
Galaktianoff, Oxenia, wife..	..	18
Smetzoff, Eustin..	39	..
Smetzoff, Krestina, wife	..	33
Smetzoff, Gregorie, son	4	..
Philamonoff, Eoff, widower	45	..
Philamonoff, Gregorie, son	17	..
Philamonoff, Demetria, son	3	..
Philamonoff, Eogime, daughter	..	16
Gorokoff, Corinal	34	..
Gorokoff, Katerina, wife	..	35
Gorokoff, Anna, daughter	..	10
Galaime, Perfor, brother-in-law	16	..
Galaime, Alexander, adopted	4	..
Kuliknlieff, Evan	44	..
Kuliknlieff, Varvara, wife	..	45
Arkoloff, Erdokia, adopted	..	4
Shane, Raisha, widow	..	38
Shane, Ouletta, daughter	..	21
Shane, Michael, son	2	..
Morenlieff, Natalia, sister	..	29
Morenlieff, Nedesda, adopted	..	10
Oustegoff, Olleta, widow	..	28
Oustegoff, Simeon, step-son	26	..
Oustegoff, Agrafena, daughter	..	16
Oustegoff, Eproxia, daughter	..	10
Oustegoff, Michael, son	5	..
Oustegoff, Sosania, daughter	..	3
Oustegoff, Peligia, daughter	..	1
Reganzoff, Peter..	44	..
Reganzoff, Matrona, wife	..	48
Reganzoff, Fatiana, daughter	..	6
Philamonoff, Simeon	40	..
Philamonoff, Eodokia, wife	..	17
Philamonoff, Efriam, son	19	..
Philamonoff, Imokenty, son	15	..
Philamonoff, Fedosia, daughter	..	8
Philamonoff, Audrian	23	..
Philamonoff, Parascovia, wife	..	26
Philamonoff, Peligia	..	2
Malavansky, Mary, widow	..	54
Malavansky, Meole, son	25	..
Malavansky, Wassa, daughter	..	15
Malavansky, Repseima, daughter	..	30
Malavansky, Stepmeda, grand-daughter	..	10
Malavansky, Kleopatra, grand-daugher	..	7
Malavansky, Peter, son	1	..
Nederazoff, Arkenty	38	..
Nederazoff, Eogenia, wife	..	36
Nederazoff, Malima, daughter	..	16

Names.	Age.	
	Males.	Females.
Nederazoff, Meoli, son	12	..
Muenlieff, Frevonia, widow	..	36
Muenlieff, Joseph, son	18	..
Muenlieff, George, son	16	..
Muenlieff, Stepenida, daughter	..	13
Muenlieff, John, son (infant)	..	..
Muenlieff, Helena, daughter	..	5
Smetzoff, Poloxenia, sister	..	30
Smetzoff, Frevonia, daughter	..	12
Seeanoff, Stepan	21	..
Seeanoff, Peligia, wife	..	21
Seeanoff, son (infant)	..	..
Merenlioff, Waselesia, widow	..	38
Merenlioff, Evan, son	13	..
Merenlioff, Alexandra, daughter	..	11
Merenlioff, Eodokia, daughter	..	6
Merenlioff, Helena, daughter	..	3
Merenlioff, Anna (infant)	..	..

Recapitulation.

Total population	90
Males—	
Adults	19
5 to 17 years	10
Under 5 years	8
Females—	
Adults	24
5 to 17 years	19
Under 5 years	10

(N.)—List of Accounts transferred to the North American Commercial Company by the Alaska Commercial Company for the Natives of St. George, May 24, 1890.

Names.	Amount.	Names.	Amount.
	Dol. c.		Dol. c.
Ivan Kulikuliff	58 71	Meoli Maluoansky	187 00
Joseph Merenliff	70 00	Demetri Testrukoff	265 69
Peter Prokopeef	20 51	Gregorie Philamanoff	7 25
Okelena Galamu, widow	40 00	George Merenliff	10 25
Stepan Tekanoff	125 00	Andronie Philamanoff	123 50
Russa Shaen, widow	61 50	Serafinea Rezanzoff, orphan	61 20
Andrean Philamanoff	125 00	Nedesda Muenliff, orphan	201 49
Eoff Philamanoff	149 65	Ardokia Kikoliff, orphan	232 69
Mrs. Sebastin Merenliff	146 00	Mark Merenliff, orphan	211 39
Peter Rezanzoff	81 00	Ardokia Popoff	74 46
Arkenty Nedarazoff	164 00	Ogefinia Onstigoff, orphan	18 05
Alex. Galaktonoff	128 53	Fedoria Rezanzoff, widow	50 00
Simeon Philamanoff	166 00		
Eustin Swetszoff	164 00		3,691 87
Mike Testinkoff	10 50		
Natalie Merenliff	60 00	Rev. Irmokenty Testinkoff, priest ..	1,700 00
Irmokenty Rezanzoff	95 50	St. George Church	1,394 55
Mrs. Zachor Onstigoff, widow ..	127 50		
Connil Gorokoff	167 00		3,094 55
Alexia Onstigoff	163 50		
Simeon Onstigoff	125 00	Total	6,786 42

NORTH American Commercial Company, San Francisco, Cal. Division of proceeds of Sealing at St. George Island for the Season of 1890.

[4,112 seal-skins at 40 cents, 1,644 dol. 80 c.]

	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
First Class.		
Lestankoff, Dimetra	85 56	
Nederozoff, Arkenty	85 56	
Austekoff, Alexage	85 56	
Philamonoff, Eoff	85 56	
Philamonoff, Simeon..	85 56	
Gorokoff, Corneal	85 56	
Swetzoff, Ensten	85 56	
		598 92
Second Class.		
Malaranski. Meoli	72 72	
Philamonoff, Andronie	72 72	
Philamonoff, Andrean	72 71	
Sekarnoff, Stepan	72 71	
		290 86
Third Class.		
Kulikoloff, Evan	64 17	
Rezanzoff, Peter	64 17	
Onstekoff, Simeon	64 17	
Merculiff. Joseph	64 17	
Prokoploff, Peter	64 17	
Lestankoff, Mike	64 17	
		385 02
Special Class.		
Lestankoff, Rev. Innakentz	200 00	
Philamonoff, Gregorie	25 00	
Philamonoff, Ephraim	25 00	
Merculiff, George	25 00	
Galanin, Hafara	25 00	
Rezanzoff. Innakenty	25 00	
Nederazoff, Meoli	15 00	
Merculiff, John	15 00	
Philamonoff, Innakenty	15 00	
		370 00
Total		1,644 80

LIST of Natives' Accounts due them by North American Commercial Company.

Names.	Balance Cr.	Names.	Balance Cr.
	Dol. c.		Dol. c.
Simeon Philamonof..	216 56	Ephraim Philamonof	25 00
Alex. Onstegof	216 06	Pafara Galanin	25 00
Andrean Philamonof	170 21	Meoli Nedarazof	15 00
Andronie Philamonof	170 22	John Merculef	15 00
Eof Philamonof	202 21	Innakenty Philamonof	15 00
Jos. Merculif	112 17	Rev. Innakenty Lestankof	1,800 00
Peter Rezanzof	123 17	St. George Church	1,294 55
Stepan Sekhanof	170 21	Sebastian Merculif	115 00
Peter Prokopie	64 17	Nadesda Merculif	198 49
Simeon Onstegof	166 92	Zahar Onstekof	100 00
Uston Swetzof	209 56	Sorapheme Rezanzof	55 70
Arkenta Nedarazof..	208 56	Ruse Shane	45 00
Corneal Gorokhof	213 56	Fedosia Rezanzof	39 00
Meoli Malaranski	233 72	Okalina Galanin	27 25
Demetra Lestenkof..	286 25	Andotia Papoff	64 46
Mike Lestenkof	66 67	Eflokie Vickloff	228 19
Gregory Philamonof	25 00	Agzafina Onstekof	9 80
George Merculef	27 00	Natalia Merculeff	60 00
Innakenty Rezanzof	98 50	Mark Merculif	205 89
Evan Kulikoloff	102 88		

(O.)—*Receipts of Agents Lavender and Murray.*

Island of St. Paul, Behring's Sea, Alaska,
August 9, 1890.

This is to certify that 16,874 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the steam-ship "Arago," Captain Thomas commanding, and consigned to the North American Commercial Company of San Francisco. This being the total catch on St. Paul Island for the season of 1890.

(Signed) JOSEPH MURRAY,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

Island of St. Paul, Alaska, August 9, 1890.

Received this day on board the steam-ship "Arago," for the North American Commercial Company of San Francisco, 16,874 fur-seal skins.

(Signed) H. C. THOMAS,
Captain commanding "Arago."

Island of St. ———, *Behring's Sea, Alaska,*
August 11, 1890.

This is to certify that 4,121 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the steam-ship "Arago," Captain Thomas commanding, and consigned to the North American Commercial Companies of San Francisco. This being the total catch on St. George Island for the season of 1890.

(Signed) ALBERT W. LAVENDER,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

Island of St. George, Alaska, August , 1890.

Received this day on board the steam-ship "Arago," for the North American Commercial Company of San Francisco, 4,121 fur-seal skins.

(Signed) H. C. THOMAS,
Captain commanding "Arago."

Washington, D.C., April 29, 1890.

In case of absolute necessity, caused by scarcity of natives or otherwise, use best judgment and discretion in allowing killing seals for skins after the 20th July.

(Signed) W. WINDOM, *Secretary.*

Charles J. Goff,
Treasury Agent, Seal Islands,
(Care Collector of Customs, San Francisco, California).

(P.)—*Protest of George R. Tingle.*

North American Commercial Company, St. Paul Island,
Alaska, July 18, 1890.

Sir,

Your communication of the 8th instant was received, in which you notify me, as Superintendent of the North American Commercial Company, that said Company must cease killing seals on the 20th instant. The delay in replying thereto was with the hope that, as a result of our several verbal discussions of the propriety or necessity of your order, you would be convinced of the untenable position you have assumed and revoke the order, thus allowing the lessees to go on with their business as the law provides. Your announcement to me this evening that you will not revoke your order, and that your decision is final, leaves me but one thing more to do, viz., file this protest against the wisdom, justice, or necessity of enforcing on the lessees what we consider an arbitrary abridgment of our rights under and by virtue of the law.

The lease was executed by the Government of the United States in pursuance of Chapter III, Title 23, Revised Statutes. This Law authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe from time to time the Rules and Regulations by which

the Treasury Agents in charge of the seal fisheries shall be governed. There is nowhere in the Law any provision authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury, after he has fixed upon the number of seals the lessees shall kill in any one year, to cut down the time to such a date as to make it impossible for them to secure the number allowed to be taken.

The date you fix, the 20th instant, it is true, was named by the Secretary of the Treasury on your recommendation, but you received subsequently an order to extend the time or "use your best judgment." On the receipt of said telegraphic order the day before our ship sailed, you told the President of the Company, I. Liebes, and myself, that "it would be all right; it was as good as we wanted," &c., satisfying the President of the Company and myself that you would extend the time, otherwise we would not have sailed until we received from the Secretary a postive revocation of that part of his instructions which cut us off on the 20th from killing seals.

You said to-day that seeing that seals were so scarce determined you to stop the killing on the 20th, and yet you admit of having ordered Colonel Murray, on St. George Island, the Treasury Agent in charge, to stop our agent there from killing. This order was issued to Colonel Murray at an early date, before the killing of seals had hardly commenced, and it was not known whether they would be few or many. The law says the lessees shall give the natives a maintenance out of the taking of the sealskins. How can that provision of the law be carried out when the Government steps in and stops the lessees from killing when they are taking 1,000 seals a-day? By the enforcement of your order as the Representatives and Agents of the United States, you deprive the natives of a maintenance. You deprive the Government of large revenue. You cause the North American Commercial Company great loss. You turn over to the marauders and other natural enemies of the seals in the water many thousands of fine killable merchantable seals, which we could take without any detriment whatever to the rookeries.

We have every reason to believe, from the marked increase of new arrivals of fine seals, that if we were allowed by you to continue our killing under the law, we could fill our quota of 60,000 seals. Believing this, we will claim damages from the Government of the United States equal to the loss we sustained by your act limiting the time to the 20th instant when we shall cease killing. This limitation of time has no precedent in the past twenty years, while the quota for St. George and St. Paul Islands was several times changed. The law fixed the time when the killing shall cease, but the Secretary can fix the number to be killed each year—not exceeding 100,000.

In view of the foregoing facts, the North American Commercial Company respectfully claim the right to be allowed to proceed with the execution of their business under and by virtue of their lease.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEO. R. TINGLE, *Superintendent,*
North American Commercial Company.

C. J. Goff, Esq.,
Treasury Agent in charge of Seal Fisheries.

Office of Special Agent, Treasury Department,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 19, 1890.

My dear Sir,

Your communication hearing date the 18th instant received, and, in reply, will say, as a subordinate of the Treasury Department, I do not desire to discuss the subject-matter contained in your letter. I respectfully refer you to the Honourable William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, to whom your letter has been referred.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) CHARLES J. GOFF,
Treasury Agent in charge of the Seal Fisheries.

Hon. George R. Tingle,
General Manager, North American Commercial Company.

(2.)—TABLE showing Number of Fur-Seals killed for skins on the Island of St. George by the Alaska Commercial Company, and also for natives' food, from 1870 to 1889, inclusive; the Amount of Earnings received by the natives of this Island for taking and curing these skins; also Amount earned by St. George men on St. Paul Island and the distribution of said earnings; the Total Number of Fur-Seal Skins shipped from St. George Island by the Alaska Commercial Company from 1870 to 1889, inclusive.

Year.	Total Fur-seal Skins shipped.	Paid to Natives for taking and curing Skins.	Total Fur-seals killed.	Total rejected stagy.
		Dol. c.		
1870*	..	..	..	..
1871†	19,077	7,630 80	19,077	..
1872	25,000	10,000 00	25,000	..
1873	25,000	10,000 00	25,067	67
1874‡	10,000	4,000 00	10,000	..
1875§	10,000	4,000 00	10,034	34
1876	10,000	4,000 00	10,279	279
1877	15,000	6,000 00	15,143	143
1878	18,000	7,200 00	18,360	360
1879	20,000	8,000 00	20,316	316
1880	20,000	8,000 00	20,358	275
1881	20,000	8,000 00	20,233	126
1882	20,000	8,000 00	20,316	291
1883	15,000	6,000 00	15,076	..
1884	15,000	6,000 00	15,000	..
1885	15,000	6,000 00	15,145	120
1886	15,000	6,000 00	15,083	29
1887	15,000	6,000 00	15,166	76
1888	15,000	6,000 00	15,179	113
1889	15,000	6,000 00	15,082	40
Total	317,077	126,830 80	319,914	2,269

Years.	Distribution of Natives' Earnings for taking and curing Fur-seal Skins.							
	St. George Earnings transferred from St. Paul.	Received by St. George Church.	Received by St. George Priest.	Received by St. George Widows.	Received by St. George Aged and Sick.	Received by St. George Chief as Salary.	Received by Oonalaska Priest.	Received by St. Paul Priest.
	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
1870*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1871†	..	..	..	130 00	..	..	..	..
1872	..	..	..	20 00	..	..	..	..
1873	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1874‡	6,000 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1875§	5,600 00	340 00	..	..	..	..	300 00	340 00
1876	..	160 00	..	..	..	..	160 00	160 00
1877	..	250 00	..	..	..	..	250 00	250 00
1878	..	300 00	..	..	..	..	..	300 50
1879	..	380 00	..	..	..	..	..	375 00
1880	..	1,000 00	..	..	..	..	..	..
1881	..	172 00	..	..	..	..	..	..
1882	..	100 00	700 00	..	..	..	..	..
1883	..	..	375 00	..	..	90 00	..	..
1884	2,844 85	..	600 00	..	..	100 00	..	..
1885	3,036 05	..	800 00	..	..	100 00	..	..
1886	3,000 00	..	800 00	..	100 00	80 00	..	..
1887	2,500 00	..	800 00	50 00	..	100 00	..	..
1888	1,500 00	..	800 00	..	..	100 00	..	..
1889	1,300 00	..	800 00	250 00	..	100 00	..	..
Total ..	25,780 40	2,702 00	5,675 00	450 00	100 00	670 00	710 00	1,425 50

* No record of seals killed on St. George Island in 1870.
† 19 dol. 25 c. unaccounted for.
‡ 15,000 fur-seal skins shipped from St. Paul to St. George and credited to St. George.
§ 14,000 fur-seal skins shipped from St. Paul to St. George and credited to St. George.

RECAPITULATION.

Fur-seals killed for skins on St. George Island by the Alaska Commercial Company, and for natives' food, from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	319,914
Fur-seal skins shipped by the Alaska Commercial Company from St. George Island from 1870 to 1889	317,077
Fur-seal skins rejected and stagy	2,269
Destruction to seal life in securing catch on St. George from 1870 to 1889	568
	319,914
Earnings received by natives for labour on—	Dol. c.
St. George Island from 1870 to 1889	126,830 80
St. Paul Island „ „	25,780 40
	152,611 20
Donations	11,732 50
Unaccounted for	19 25
Expended by natives from 1870 to 1889	134,073 03
Balance to natives' account on May 24, 1890, and turned over by Alaska Commercial Company to North American Commercial Company	6,786 42
	152,611 20

Note.—Total number of fur-seal pups killed for natives' food on St. George Island from 1870 to 1889, inclusive, 29,060.

CONSOLIDATED Report showing the Total Number of Fur-Seals killed for skins on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George by the Alaska Commercial Company from 1870 to 1889, inclusive; also the Number of large young Seals and Pups killed for natives' food on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George from 1870 to 1889, inclusive; the Total Number of Fur-Seal Skins shipped from St. Paul and St. George Islands by the Alaska Commercial Company from 1870 to 1889, inclusive; the Amount of Earnings received by the natives of St. Paul and St. George for taking and curing skins, and the distribution of said earnings.

Fur-seals killed for skins on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George by the Alaska Commercial Company, and also for natives' food, from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	1,877,030
Fur-seal skins shipped from St. Paul and St. George by the Alaska Commercial Company from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	1,840,364
Fur-seal skins rejected as stagy at St. Paul and St. George from 1870 to 1889 inclusive ..	20,398
Fur-seals destroyed on St. Paul and St. George in securing the catch from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	16,273
	1,877,030
	Dol. c.
Earnings received by natives of St. Paul and St. George from 1870 to 1889, inclusive ..	755,672 87
Donations by natives of St. Paul and St. George from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	50,608 11
Paid to Chiefs on St. Paul Island (St. George's is included in donations)	3,050 00
Paid to St. George men for work done on St. Paul Island	25,780 40
Paid to Kodaïk men for work done on St. Paul Island	680 00
Unaccounted for	19 25
Paid to school teacher	50 00
Expended by the natives of St. Paul and St. George from 1870 to 1889, inclusive ..	643,963 10
Balance due to natives May 24, 1890, now held by the North American Commercial Company	28,117 02
Balance held by Alaska Commercial Company for Mrs. Melevidoff	3,404 99
	755,672 87
Fur-seal pups (five months old) killed for natives' food on— St. Paul and St. George Islands from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	92,864
St. Paul Island from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	63,804
St. George Island from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	29,060
	92,864

TABLE showing the Number of Fur-Seals killed for skins on the Island of St. Paul by the Alaska Commercial Company, and also for natives' food, from 1870 to 1889, inclusive; the Amount of Earnings received by the natives of this Island for taking and curing these skins, and the distribution of said earnings; the Total Number of Fur-Seal Skins shipped from St. Paul Island by the Alaska Commercial Company from 1870 to 1889, inclusive.

Years.	Total Fur-seal Skins shipped.	Paid to Natives for taking and curing Skins.	Paid to Natives for general Labour.	Total Fur-seals killed.	Rejected stagy Skins.
		Dol. c.	Dol. c.		
1870	6,017	2,406 80	..	6,017	..
1871	76,134	30,853 60	580 40	77,925	431
1872	74,941	30,416 00	221 97	76,698	1,536
1873	74,485	29,597 80	76 80	76,488	736
1874	89,924	29,849 60	217 53	97,932	596
1875	89,687	30,098 00	276 03	91,215	451
1876	80,000	31,848 20	113 40	79,199	1,979
1877	60,199	23,981 60	146 40	62,813	1,088
1878	82,000	32,654 00	2,218 38*	83,034	981
1879	80,000	31,908 60	1,910 86†	86,592	1,977
1880	80,000	31,889 00	215 40	80,276	275
1881‡	79,905	31,825 60	54 00	81,501	1,341
1882	80,000	31,750 80	250 50	81,420	1,414
1883	60,000	23,896 80	97 00	61,987	1,775
1884	85,000	33,785 60	240 00	86,013	941
1885	84,995	33,933 00	12 00	86,364	1,182
1886	85,000	33,941 80	134 00	85,689	635
1887	85,000	33,839 80	203 40	85,629	590
1888	85,000	33,834 60	15 60	85,271	196
1889	85,000	33,744 80	15 00	85,053	..
Total	1,523,287	596,056 00	7,005 67	1,557,116	18,124

Years.	Distribution of Natives' Earnings for taking and curing Fur-seal Skins.								
	Received by St. Paul Church.	Received by St. Paul Priest.	Received by St. Paul Widows.	Received by St. Paul Aged and Sick.	Received by St. Paul Church for translation of Church Service.	Received by Chiefs as Salary.	Received by Oonalaska Church.	Received by Oonalaska Priest.	Received by St. George Men for Work done on St. Paul.
	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
1870	150 00	..	77 20	..	..	..	..	109 30	..
1871	910 16	..	614 82	..	..	..	..	455 08§	..
1872	902 45	451 22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1873	870 62	435 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1874	859 06	429 53	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,000 00‖
1875	432 07	432 07	..	..	..	..	432 07	..	5,600 00¶
1876	757 12	..	..	..	..	..	378 40	756 80	..
1877	621 50	621 48	..	..	..	..	310 74	..	..
1878	855 78	855 78	500 00	..	..	300 00	..	855 78	..
1879	822 24	821 50	200 00	..	..	450 00	450 00	..	..
1880	813 10	813 10	150 05	200 00	1,219 65	450 00	..	..	..
1881‡	857 66	857 66	..	..	428 83	225 00	..	..	..
1882	..	1,000 00	2,650 00	..	..	..	..	..	..
1883	..	750 00	50 00	..	..	225 00	..	..	..
1884	..	1,000 00	300 00	..	..	300 00	..	..	2,844 35
1885	..	1,000 00	..	1,000 00	..	300 00	..	..	3,036 05
1886	..	1,000 00	200 00	600 00	..	200 00	..	..	3,000 00
1887	..	1,000 00	1,500 00	..	..	200 00	..	..	2,500 00
1888	..	1,000 00	150 00	..	..	200 00	..	..	1,500 00
1889	..	1,000 00	2,500 00	..	..	200 00	..	..	1,300 00
Total	8,851 76§	13,467 45§	8,892 07§	1,800 00§	1,648 48§	3,050 00	1,571 21§	2,176 96§	25,780 40

* 1,022 dol. 92 c. received by natives for making oil, under head of general labour.
† 1,666 dol. 06 c. " " " "
‡ 50 dollars received by school teacher.
§ 455 dol. 08 c. received by Dr. Kramer: first-class share.
‖ 15,000 skins credited to St. George men for labour; 680 dollars received by men from Kodiak for labour.
¶ 14,000 skins credited to St. George men for labour; 12 dol. 60 c. donated to Antone Melevidoff.

RECAPITULATION.

Fur-seals killed for skins on the Island of St. Paul by the Alaska Commercial Company, and also for natives' food, from 1870 to 1889, inclusive..	1,557,116
Fur-seals killed for skins shipped from St. Paul by the Alaska Commercial Company from 1870 to 1889	1,523,287
Fur-seal skins from St. Paul rejected, stagy	18,124
Destruction to seal life on St. Paul Island in securing catch from 1870 to 1889, inclusive..	15,705
	1,557,116
Fur-seals, of all classes, killed for natives' food on St. Paul Island from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	144,801
Fur-seals (large young seals) killed for natives' food, of which the Alaska Commercial Company accepted and shipped 62,873 skins	80,997
Fur-seal pups (five months old) killed for natives' food from 1870 to 1889	63,804
	144,801

	Dol. c.
Earnings received by natives of St. Paul Island from 1870 to 1889, inclusive	603,061 67
Donations received by natives of St. Paul Island	38,875 61
Paid to Chiefs	3,050 00
Paid to St. George men for labour on St. Paul	25,780 40
Paid to Kodiak men	680 00
Paid to school teacher	50 00
With Alaska Commercial Company for Mrs. Melevidoff	3,404 99
Expended by natives from 1870 to 1889..	509,890 07
Balance due to natives May 24, 1890, with North American Commercial Company ..	21,330 60
Total	603,061 67

2. *Report of S. R. Nettleton.*

Dear Sir, *St. Paul Island, Alaska, July* 31, 1890.

I have the honour herewith to submit my annual Report of the condition of affairs on this island during the time in which I had charge, to wit, from the 23rd September, 1889, the date of your departure, until June of this year, and also to comment briefly upon the condition of the seal rookeries and hauling-grounds of this island during the season which closed on the 20th instant.

I have found the natives of this island an exceedingly easy people to govern and control. The Government Agent in charge, being the sole representative and executive of the law, is, as you are aware, necessarily brought into very close and intimate relations with these people, having to do with the minutest details of their everyday life.

My comparatively brief experience in governing them convinces me that a policy of kindness with firmness, and an appeal to their manhood and womanhood, hold the best promise of good results, having in view their happiness and their advancement to a higher and a better civilization.

I believe that it would be difficult to find anywhere within the jurisdiction of our Government any people so easy to control, considering that they are kept in enforced idleness ten months of each year.

I regard their readiness to comply with any and all Rules and Regulations of this Office for their government as testifying to their manhood and good citizenship.

In this connection, it affords me great pleasure to report that during the time that I have had immediate charge there have been but three instances of violation of any Rule or Regulation. These were mild cases of partial intoxication during their holiday festivities.

There has been no drunkenness or brawling in the village streets or in the homes of the people, not a single breach of the peace.

It is a source of gratification to be able to state that the journals of this Office show that in this regard the winter just closed presents an exception to those of any of the preceding twenty years.

The fact is patent that but little advancement has been made by the natives of this island towards an intelligent American citizenship during the twenty years that they have been nominally citizens of the Republic; that not to exceed 10 per cent. of them, who during the time mentioned, have attended English schools, speak the English language. This may be explained by the well-known objection of the parents to their children learning to speak English, and to the further fact that the services of their Church, the Greek Catholic, are conducted wholly in the Russian and Aleutian language.

The small advancement made by the pupils in the schools is attributable also in large measure to the fact, that the schools have been conducted by persons not trained to the profession of teaching.

It is, in my opinion, to be regretted that the Department, in granting the new lease of the Seal Islands, did not reserve to itself the employment of the school teachers, who should hold certificates showing their qualification to teach, at least, the primary branches in our common schools.

In relation to the condition of the seal rookeries and hauling-grounds of this island, I do not feel called upon to go into details in view of the full and exhaustive manner in which the subject is treated in your Report of this year, and also in view of the forthcoming Report of Professor H. W. Elliott, who was sent by the Department especially to examine and report upon the condition of seal life on this and the Island of St. George.

But I desire to add my testimony to that of my associate as to the deplorable condition of the seal grounds upon this island. The large grass-grown areas of these grounds, until a comparatively recent period occupied *en masse* by seals, to be numbered by the millions, and now wholly deserted, the driving and redriving from all of the hauling-grounds on this island by the lessees during the present season in their efforts to obtain their quota, and the meagre results attained, tell, in stronger language than I can command, the sad story of the very near approach to the entire destruction of seal life upon this island.

It is hardly worth while for me to attempt to theorize as to the probable cause of the condition of affairs. I deem it sufficient for me, at this time, to corroborate and, if possible, to emphasize what you say in your own Report, as to the past, present, and the threatened future condition of seal life upon these islands.

The present depleted condition of the seal rookeries on this island urgently calls for prompt action by the Government to save this important industry from immediate and complete destruction.

I heartily concur with your views expressed in your Annual Report of 1889 in regard to the killing of pup seals for natives' food. The skins of these pup seals belong to the natives, to be disposed of by them as they choose, the only restriction imposed being that they shall not be exchanged for contraband goods. I desire, through you, to call the attention of the Department to the fact that these pup sealskins, being largely held by the natives for the purpose of barter for spirituous liquors with the seamen of any craft that may anchor in these waters, are a source of evil, and only evil, to the natives. In view of this fact, and also in view of the further fact that the seal life on this island is rapidly approaching extinction, I respectfully suggest that the best interests of the natives and the best interests of the Government will be the most effectually served by prohibiting the killing in the future of any pup seals for native food.

Some more economical substitute can, in my judgment, be readily supplied.

I am, &c.

(Signed) S. R. NETTLETON,

Assistant Treasury Agent.

Charles J. Goff, Esq.,

United States' Treasury Agent in charge of Seal Island.

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3. *Report of A. W. Lavender.*

Office of Special Agent, Treasury Department,
St. George Island, August 25, 1890.

Sir,

I have the honour to report to you that on the 14th August, and while the United States' revenue-steamer "Rush" was lying at anchor off our village, a schooner came in sight close in to the east end of the island. This was at 5·30 P.M. The "Rush" at once got under way and steamed towards him, and followed him in to the anchorage in front of the village, where she lay all night between the cutter and the shore. She proved to be the American schooner "Nettie Martin," Captain Ohlmitz, belonging to Kodiak. She is about 16 tons measurement, and has a crew of four white men and four Kodiak natives. She had on board ten sacks of salt and four shot-guns, also two sea-otter boats. The captain said that he was from Kusoquim, bound to Oonalaska. His papers show that he had cleared from Kodiak on the 20th June, bound on a trading and coasting voyage along the coast of Alaska, and for a further excuse he said that he was short

of provisions, and the wind had been blowing so long from the south that he must be supplied.

I did not take any stock in what he said, and would not allow him to come on shore, and told him that the cutter could supply him with all the provisions he required. I believed him to be a seal poacher, but there was nothing on board that we could attach. We were obliged to let him go, for which I have been mad at myself ever since, and as I had men watching the East Rookery, the only place where he could land upon the island, I had no fear of his ever going on shore; but early on the morning of the 15th I sent extra men around the island from Garden Cove to the eastward, and under the high bluffs at the east end of the island, about 2 miles from East Rookery, they found four dead cows and four dead pups, also three clubs, one of which was broken. These were made of drift wood, and two of them had a little flesh upon them. At this time of the year the cows and pups are scattered along the rocks on most all parts of the sea-shore of the island, and by chance the boat's crew that landed came upon a few of these, which they killed, and the schooners, while beating to windward to get into an anchorage under the high cliffs, came in sight from the cutter, and it is my opinion that the men on shore got into their boat as soon as they could and went on board the schooner.

They did not take any seal with them, and had to get out of the scrape the best they could, which they did to perfection. Had the schooner not been away at the time the natives brought the clubs into the village, I would have had them caught, but the schooner and cutter both being gone, I could do nothing but kick. If I again come across Captain Ohlmitz this far, I will endeavour to make it uncomfortably warm for him. If he had landed upon East Rookery he would have done some damage. It was blowing very hard at the time, and I have no doubt but he intended to anchor close under the cliffs, and go upon the rookery at night and get all the seals he could.

Since that time I have established a watch-house at Garden Cove, and keep two men there all the time. No vessels can come near the island on either side without being seen. There never was a watchman at Garden Cove before.

The seal are very scarce on this island, and in order to get enough for food for the natives I am obliged to kill seal whose skins will not weigh over $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and these the Company will not accept, and I am salting them for Government account, and shall probably have some 600 or 700. They are all good skins. Please obtain an order from the Secretary to ship them on one of the first Government vessels going to San Francisco the next season. I also request that you obtain permission to purchase a new carpet for the Government House on this island, as the carpet we now have on the floor is nearly worn out. Also please obtain from the Department for this island the following seeds: 4 lbs. good turnip seed, 4 lbs. good lettuce seed, and 4 lbs. good radish seed. I have never seen vegetables grow better in my life than they do here, and it would surprise you to see now what a fine bed of lettuce and radishes we have here now. In obtaining the seed, please get seed that has been grown as far north as possible. The natives of the island are a much superior race of people to what I expected to find, and I do not anticipate any trouble here this winter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. W. LAVENDER,

Assistant Treasury Agent.

Charles J. Goff, Esq.,

Treasury Agent, Clarksburgh, Washington, Virginia.

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4. *Report of A. W. Lavender.*

Office of Special Agent, Treasury Department,
St. George Island, October 24, 1890.

Sir,

I have the honour to report to you that United States' revenue-steamer "Bear" returned to this island on the 22nd instant from Oonalaska unexpected to us here. Captain Healy told me that orders had been sent from the Department to watch the rookeries very close, as there had been two schooners cleared from Victoria for Behring's Sea, and that they were going to raid these islands. I have not seen a schooner around here since I last wrote you, nor do I think that there is a single schooner taking seals in Behring's Sea at this writing, and unless they come within the next two weeks there will not be any seal upon the rookeries for them to kill. I have again to request you to do your best to obtain arms and ammunition for these islands, and hope that you will be able to secure them, for without them the rookeries cannot be protected in a proper manner. The old rifles that answered for the protection of the rookeries belong to the natives, and are of but little use. In addition to the five rifles owned by the natives, the Company has found small Colt's rifles and one large Sharp's, with very little ammunition for any of them.

We have had three deaths here this last week, all three females. At this writing every adult native on this island is either sick in bed or convalescent. Both church and school have been closed for the last two weeks, and I have been obliged to have boys only on guard at the rookeries. I think that the worst is now over, and do not apprehend that we shall have more deaths. There has not been any sickness among the white men up to this date, and everything upon the island is going along smoothly. On account of so much sickness, I have been obliged to issue coal to the natives sooner than I should have done under more favourable conditions, for these people must be provided with more fuel now that the catch of seal is so small they cannot secure near blubber enough, with what little drift wood they can collect, to last them through the winter, and to purchase coal from the Company at 30 dollars per ton of 2,000 lbs. is more than they can stand out of their earnings for killing seal. Their houses are small, with only two rooms each, and with a large family to be all sick at one time is almost certain death with nothing more to keep them warm than the few pounds of coal furnished them by Government, and the little water-soaked drift wood that they have been able to pick up around the island and bring home on their backs, for they have no other means of transportation; the fact is that the only places that drift wood can land upon this island is at the breeding rookeries, where they are not allowed to go during the season when the seals are there, and it is my opinion that these islands will soon be depopulated unless the Government comes to their rescue, for the few seal they will be able to kill here the next few years will not keep them from suffering.

Of Captain Healy, of the "Bear," and Captain Calson, of the "Rush," I cannot speak but in the highest terms. These gentlemen have been very courteous and obliging to the Government officers in charge of these islands, and have also extended all possible favours to the Company agents when it was not interfering with their instructions.

The weather here the past month has been very bad, and we have had three very heavy gales of wind, so that I cannot think it possible that a schooner should stop in Behring's Sea at this season of the year.

But I do think that they will follow the seal into this sea very early in the spring. As the seal begins to come upon the rookeries the last of April, I think the schooner will follow them very close. I would suggest that you place this letter before the Secretary, as well as my letters to you under the following dates, 14th August, 10th September, and 1st October, that he may know the true state of affairs upon this island.

Very respectfully, &c.

(Signed) ALBERT W. LAVENDER,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

Charles J. Goff,
Treasury Agent, Clarksburgh, Washington, Virginia.

5. *Report of A. W. Lavender.*

Office of Special Agent, Treasury Department,
St. George Island, October 30, 1890.

Sir.

I have the honour to report to you that the United States' revenue-cutter "Bear" is still in these waters, and at this writing is lying at anchor at Zapadine.

We have not seen but one schooner since the 18th ultimo, and that was the whaling-schooner "Alton," which anchored at Garden Cove to secure brine boats previous to leaving these waters for San Francisco. The only enemy the seal and seal-pups have around these islands now is the kitten whales, which are in large schools destroying pups in large numbers.

We have had very severe weather here most all the year, and I cannot think it possible that there is a sealing-schooner on Behring's Sea at this time.

The natives are most all on the improve, and we have only had one death since I last wrote you, and that was a young girl of 11 years old, and she died with scrofula and general debility.

The natives on these islands must have more furs, or they will suffer next season much more than they will this, as most of them have a little money to purchase wood, three sticks for 60 cents. They should have at least 70 tons of coal for this island alone; drift wood is very scarce, and they have no blubber this season.

The Secretary, in his instructions, should say how many rations are to be furnished to the widows and orphans on this island for every week in the year, and this also should be left in the hands of the officers in charge.

The seal are nearly all gone from the rookeries now, and it is almost impossible to get enough for native food.

I shall have about 600 rejected skins here in the spring, for which please get orders to ship on one of the first ships that goes down.

The Company will not take skins less than 6½ lbs., which is the cause of my having so many rejected. In order to get enough for food, I have been obliged to kill small seal.

I hope that you will be able to secure arms and ammunition for these islands, as they are needed here very badly, I will assure you.

If it is possible to change the school system here, it should be done, as the schools here now are only a farce, and I think if they were put under the charge of the Rev. Sheldon Jackson that it would be a big improvement; in fact, there could be no change that would not be for the better.

It looks strange to me that after twenty years' teaching that there is not a single one of the scholars on this island that can speak English, and most of them have no knowledge of the world outside of these islands. Hoping to see you up here early the coming season.

(Signed) ALBERT W. LAVENDER,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

Charles J. Goff, Esq.,
Treasury Agent, Clarksburgh, Washington.

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6. *Report of A. W. Lavender.*

My dear Sir, *Oonalaska, March* 19, 1890.

I am in receipt of yours of this date, asking me to visit the condemned schooner now lying near the head of this harbour, and to make you a Report as to the valuation of each one when new, also the present condition and valuation of each one as they now remain; and, in reply to same, I will say that upon receipt of yours of even date I went at once on board the steam-schooner "Thornton," of Victoria, British Columbia, and found her to be a small steam-schooner of about 45 tons measurement, built of soft wood, mostly Oregon pine, her engines about eight-horse power, her bottom yellow metalled; all her running gear was down in her hold among iron rust and dirty water, and of no value whatever. I did not find any sails on board, her anchors and chains are both attached to her, but are very light and rusty, most of her small spars are gone. I should think, when new, that 7,000 dollars would be a fair price for her, including her engines and all other accoutrements, ready for sea. Her present value is nothing more than her old rigging and metal would sell for, less freight and expenses, and 200 dollars would be a good price for her.

From the "Thornton" I went on board the schooner "Carolina," of Victoria, British

Columbia, and found her to be a small keel vessel of about 32 tons. The running gear was all down in the hold among iron rust and sea water, and is of no earthly use; her main boom and gaff and boom to the jib were all the small spars I could find belonging to her, only one small anchor and chain was on board, which is covered with rust, and is very small and of little value; her standing rigging is of wire, and, I should say, that when new and ready for sea that her cost would not exceed 2,500 dollars at the outside. I did not see any of her sails on board. The present valuation is nothing more than she would sell for as firewood, and 25 dollars is more than I would be willing to pay, and more, in my opinion, than the Government will ever receive for her. She is built of soft wood, mostly Oregon pine.

From the "Carolina" I went on board the "Angel Dolly," of San Francisco, and found her to be a small centre-board schooner of about 40 tons measurement. The main masthead was broken off, the standing rigging is of wire. The running gear was down in the hold, and in the same condition as that on the "Carolina" and "Thornton;" all her small spars are on board, both anchors and chains are attached. There were none of her sails on board. She probably cost when new 3,000 dollars all ready for sea; her present value is very little, and 100 dollars would be a good price for her as she now lies. She is also built of soft wood. The water rises and falls in her and in all the others as the tide ebbs and flows. I understand that her sails are in the Government warehouse here, also three of her boats.

From the "Angel Dolly" I visited the schooner "Onward," of Victoria, British Columbia, and found her to be a small two-masted schooner of about 35 tons, with hemp rope standing rigging; her small spars are on board, both anchors attached and in fair condition; her running gear was down in the hold, and worthless as the rigging of the other three schooners; there were none of her sails to be found on board. I should say that this schooner was built in Nova Scotia; she is made mostly of soft wood, principally pine, and when new was a fine little vessel, and probably cost ready for sea about 4,500 to 5,000 dollars. At the present time she is almost worthless, and I do not think that she would sell for more than 200 dollars, although she could be made, with about 1,000 dollars paid out in repairs, a vessel that would sell for about 2,500 dollars, provided her sails are in good condition. I also found nine canoes on the shore near the schooner which belongs to some of them, but, like the vessels, have gone to ruin through want of care. Should you require a more detailed Report than this please let me know, and on my return to Oonalaska I will be pleased to make it for you; and in the meantime I remain, &c.

(Signed) ALBERT W. LAVENDER,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

Charles J. Goff, Esq.,
Chief Treasury Agent, Seal Islands.

No. 2.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)

My Lord, *Washington, May* 11, 1891.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose an extract from the Cleveland "News and Herald" of the 4th instant, purporting to give the full text of Professor Elliott's Report to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 17th November last, on the condition of seal life at the Pribyloff Islands during the summer of 1890.

Your Lordship will remember that Professor Elliott was appointed Special Commissioner for the purposes of the above inquiry by Act of Congress, and that, as stated in my despatch of the 20th February last, his Report was not included among those of the other Government Agents which were transmitted to the Senate by the Secretary of the Treasury on the 9th February. It has not been yet officially published.

I am informed that the document published in the inclosed extract from the Cleveland "News and Herald" is incorrectly styled Professor Elliott's Report, and that it is only the introduction to his Report in the form of a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Report itself is a much more voluminous document, but the introduction gives its substance and its recommendations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Extract from the "Cleveland Leader and Morning Herald" of May 4, 1891.

Special Despatch to the "Leader."

Washington, May 3, 1891.

THE negotiations between Secretary Blaine and the British Minister for the settlement of the Behring's Sea troubles are likely to be resumed as soon as the "Sayward" case, taken into the United States' Supreme Court from the District Court of Alaska, is disposed of. Mr. Blaine is now in possession of exact and reliable information as to the condition of the sealing industry not at his disposal before, and which cannot fail to impress the British Minister, Lord Salisbury, and everybody else, with the necessity of an immediate enforcement of the policy adopted by our Government in seeking to prevent the killing of seal in the open waters of Behring's Sea. The information referred to shows a good deal more than that. It shows, what was perhaps unexpected, that the threatened extermination of the seal is due in large part to the legalized driving and killing on land by the lessees of the sealing grounds, which must also be suspended if seal life is to be preserved. With these facts established by evidence that no one can dispute, there ought to be no great difficulty in effecting an agreement between the United States and Great Britain for the immediate prohibition of any seal-killing by anybody the coming season, and a subsequent arrangement that will avoid any further conflict over this question.

When the "Sayward" case was appealed to the United States' Supreme Court, the negotiations were in what appeared to be a confused and unsatisfactory state. Sir Julian Pauncefote had embarrassed Mr. Blaine by quoting President Cleveland's Special Agent at the sealing grounds, Mr. George R. Tingle, who affirmed before a Committee of Congress that the seal was increasing in number, and that the rookeries were never in better condition; and Mr. Blaine was dilating at length upon the historical rights of the United States in Behring's Sea. But he was quietly doing a good deal more than that. He was having the actual condition of affairs at the sealing grounds thoroughly investigated by Professor Henry W. Elliott, of the Smithsonian Institution, a Special Commissioner appointed in pursuance of the Act of Congress approved on the 5th April, 1890, who is the best living authority on seal life; so that he might be able to demonstrate the falsity, or gross inaccuracy, of Mr. Tingle's testimony, which could not be refuted in any other way.

Following is Professor Elliott's Report, submitted to the late Secretary Windom, in November last, and which is now made public:—

Hon. William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir, *Cleveland, Ohio, November* 17, 1890.

On the 7th April last I received from your hands my appointment as the Special Agent created in Act of Congress, approved the 5th April, 1890: this Act orders and provides for a thorough examination into the present status of the fur-seal industry of our Government as embodied on the seal islands of Alaska, so as to make known its relative condition now as compared with its prior form and well-being in 1872, and for other kindred lines of inquiry.

I may as well frankly confess at the outset that I was wholly unaware of the extraordinary state of affairs which stared me in the face at the moment of my first landing, last May, on the seal islands of Alaska. I embarked upon this mission with only a faint apprehension of viewing anything more than a decided diminution of the Pribyloff rookeries, caused by pelagic sealing during the last five or six years.

But from the moment of my landing at St. Paul's Island on the 21st May last until the close of the breeding season those famous "rookeries" and "hauling grounds" of the fur-seal thereon, and of St. George's Island, too, began to declare and have declared to my astonished senses the fact, that their utter ruin and extermination is only a question of a few short years from date unless prompt and thorough measures of relief and protection are at once ordered on sea and on land by the Treasury Department, and enforced by it.

Quickly realizing, after my arrival upon these islands, that a remarkable change for the worse had taken place since my finished work of 1874 was given to the public in that same year and the year also of my last survey of these rookeries, I took the field at

Once, carrying hourly and daily with me a series of note books opened under following heads :—

1. The "rookeries," their area, position, and condition, in 1872, 1874-90.
2. The "hauling grounds," their appearance in 1872, 1874-90.
3. The method of "driving" and taking fur-seals in 1872, 1874-90.
4. The selection of skins, grade, and supply, in 1872, 1874-90.
5. Character, condition, and number of natives in 1872, 1874-90.
6. Conduct of native labour and pay in 1872, 1874-90.

To these heads I add the following sections in their order as mentioned, thus constituting the full body of my Report, which is preceded by this letter of transmissal :—

7. The protection and preservation of these fur-bearing interests of our Government on the Pribyloff Islands, the immediate action necessary, viewed in the full light of existing danger.

8. Appendix, in which the author's daily field notes appear, *verbatim et literatim*, in order of day and date.

9. Revised general Maps of St. Paul and St. George, showing the area and position of the hauling grounds of the fur-seal thereon in 1872-74, and again in 1890.

10. A series of special Maps showing the exact topography, area, and position of the breeding rookeries of St. Paul and St. George Islands in 1872-74, and again in 1890, together with an illustration of each rookery drawn from life by the author.

Although I was unable to detect any sign of existing danger or injury to these interests of our Government on these Islands of Pribyloff in 1872-74, yet the need of caution on the part of the Agents of the Government and their close annual scrutiny was pointed out and urged in my published work of 1874* in the following language (pp. 75-77) :—

"Until my arrival on the seal islands, April 1872, no steps had been taken towards ascertaining the extent or the importance of these interests of the Government by either the Treasury Agent in charge or the agent of the Company leasing the islands. This was a matter of no especial concern to the latter, but was of the first importance to the Government. It had, however, failed to obtain definite knowledge upon the subject on account of the inaccurate mode of ascertaining the number of seals which had been adopted by its agent, who relied upon an assumption of the area of the breeding 'rookeries,' but who never took the trouble to ascertain the area and position of these great seal grounds intrusted to his care.

"After a careful study of the subject during two whole seasons, and a thorough review of it during this season of 1874, in company with my associate, Lieutenant Maynard, I propose to show plainly and in sequence the steps which have led me to a solution of the question as to the number of fur-seals on the Pribyloff Islands, together with the determination of means by which the Agent of the Government will be able to correctly report upon the condition of the seal-life from year to year.

"At the close of my investigation for the season of 1872, the fact became evident that the breeding seals obeyed implicitly a fine instinctive law of distribution, so that the breeding ground occupied by them was always covered by seals in an exact ratio, greater or less to the area to be held; that they always covered the ground evenly, never crowding in at one place and scattering out at another; that the seals lay just as thickly together where the rookery was a small one of only a few thousand as at 'Nah Speel,' near the village, as they did where a million of them came together, as at North-east Point.

"This fact being determined, it is at once plain that, just as the breeding grounds of the fur-seal on these islands expand or contract in area from their present dimensions, so the seals will have increased or diminished.

"Impressed, therefore, with the necessity and the importance of obtaining the exact area and position of these breeding grounds, I surveyed them in 1872-73 for that purpose, and resurveyed them this season of 1874. The result has been carefully drawn and plotted out, as presented in the accompanying Maps.

"The time for taking these boundaries of the rookeries is during the week of their greatest expansion, or when they are as full as they are to be for the season, and before the regular system of compact even organization breaks up, the seals then scattering out in pods or clusters, straying far back, the same number covering then twice as much ground in places as they did before, when marshalled on the rookery ground proper; the breeding seals remain on the rookery perfectly quiet, and *en masse*, for a week or ten

* A Report upon the Condition of Affairs in the Territory of Alaska, by Henry W. Elliott, Special Agent, Treasury Department. Government Printing Office, 1875. (Pp 277-80)

days during the period of greatest expansion, which is between the 10th and 20th July, giving ample time for the agent to correctly note the exact boundaries of the area covered by them. This step on the part of the Government officer puts him in possession every year of exact data upon which to base a Report as to the condition of the seal-life as compared with the year or years previous. In this way my record of the precise area and position of the fur-seal breeding grounds on St. Paul's Island in the season of 1872, and that of St. George in the season of 1873, correctly serves as a definite basis for all time to come upon which to found authoritative Reports from year to year as to any change, increase, or diminution of the seal life. It is, therefore, very important that the Government should have an Agent in charge of these novel and valuable interests, who is capable, by virtue of education and energy, to correctly observe and report the area and position of the rookeries year by year."

Therefore, in the light of the foregoing you will observe that, although I was unable to detect myself any danger to or diminution of the seal life on the Pribyloff Islands after three seasons of close study in the field, ending with the season of 1874, yet I was deeply impressed with the need of an intelligent careful search every year for the signs of or real existence of such danger, that I urged the Department to select men who were fit to make such a search, and who could be trusted to do it honestly and thoroughly. I made this request on the 16th November, 1874, as I gave in my detailed Report above cited to the Secretary of the Treasury, who ordered it to be published at once, and caused it to be widely circulated by the Department.

In 1872-74, I observed that all the young male seals needed for the annual quota of 75,000, or 90,000 as it was ordered in the latter year, were easily obtained every season, between the 1st June and the 20th July following, from the "hauling grounds" of Tolstoi, Sukannon, and Zoltoi Sands, from these hauling grounds adjacent to the rookeries or breeding grounds of Tolstoi, Sukannon, Reef, and Garbotch, all of these points to supply being not more than 1½ miles distant from the St. Paul village killing grounds, the Zoltoi drive being less than 600 feet away.

At North-east Point on this island Webster got all the seals desired towards filling the above-cited quota of 90,000 from that sand-reach between the foot of Cross Hill and the Big Lake sand drives on the north-shore beach.

Then, that immense spread of hauling grounds covered by swarms of young male seals, at Zapodnie, at South-west Point, at English Bay beyond Middle Hill west, at Polavina, and over all that 8 long miles of beach and upland hauling grounds between Sukannon Bay and Webster's House at Novostoshnoh—all of this extensive sealing area was not visited by sealing gangs, or spoken of by them as necessary to be driven from.

Therefore, when attentively studying in 1872-74 the subject of what was the effect of killing annually 100,000 young male seals on these islands (90,000 on St. Paul and 10,000 on St. George), in view of the foregoing statement of fact, I was unable to see how any harm was being done to the regular supply of fresh blood for the breeding rookeries, since those large reservoirs of surplus male life, above named, held at least just half of the young male seal-life then belonging to the islands: these large sources of supply were never driven from—never even visited by the sealers, and out of their overwhelming abundance, I thought that surely enough fresh male seal-life did annually mature for service on the breeding rookeries.

Therefore, when summing up in my published work of 1872-74, I was positive in declaring that although I was firmly convinced that no increase to the then existing number of seals on these islands would follow any effort that we might make (giving my reasons in detail for so believing), yet I was as firmly satisfied that as matters were then conducted, nothing was being done which would injure the regular annual supply of male life necessary for the full demand of the rookeries. I then declared "that provided matters are conducted on the seal island in the future as they are to-day, 100,000 male seals under the age of 5 years and over 1 may be safely taken every year from the Pribyloff Islands without the slightest injury to the regular birth rates, or natural increase thereon, provided also that the fur-seals are not visited by any plague, or pests, or any abnormal cause for their destruction, which might be beyond the control of men." ("Monograph of the Seal Islands of Alaska," p. 62.)

I repeatedly called attention to this fact in my published Report, that all of the killable seals required were easily taken in thirty working days, between the 14th June and the 20th July in every year, from those points above specified, and that those reservoirs of surplus male life at South-west Point, Zapodnie, English Bay, Polavina, Tonkie Mees, &c., were full and overflowing, that more than enough was untouched which sufficed to meet the demands of nature on the breeding grounds. But to make certain

that my theory was a good one, and would be confirmed by time, for I qualified my statement at that time as a theory only, I made a careful and elaborate triangulation of the area and position of the breeding grounds in 1872-73 on St. Paul and St. George Islands, aided and elaborated by my associate in 1874, Lieutenant Washburn Maynard, United States' navy; this I did in order that any increase or diminution following our work could be authoritatively stated—that a foundation of fact and not assumption should exist for such a comparison of the past order with that of the present or the future.

Sixteen years have elapsed since that work was finished; its accuracy as to the statements of fact then published was at that time unquestioned on these islands, and it is to-day freely acknowledged there; but, what has been the logic of events? Why is it that we find now only a scant tenth of the numbers of young male seals which I saw there in 1872? When did this work of decrease and destruction, so marked on the breeding grounds there, begin, and how? This answer follows:—

"1. From overdriving without heeding its warning first begun in 1879, dropped then until 1882, then suddenly renewed again with increased energy from year to year, until the end is abruptly reached, this season of 1890.

"2. From the shooting of fur-seals (chiefly females) in the open waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Behring's Sea begun as a business in 1886, and continued to date."

Thus the seal-life candle has been literally "burning at both ends" during the last five years.

That day in 1879 when it became necessary to send a sealing gang from St. Paul village over to Zapodnie to regularly drive from that hitherto untouched reserve was the day that danger first appeared in tangible form since 1870—since 1857, for that matter.

The fact then that that abundant source of supply, which had served so well and steadily since 1870-81, should fail to yield its accustomed return to the drivers— hat fact ought to have aroused some comment—ought then to have been recorded by the officer in charge in behalf of the Government at the close of the season's work in 1882, but it did not; possibly, the gravity of the change was not then fully appreciated by the sealers themselves, either through ignorance or inattention.

But, when in 1882 it became absolutely necessary to draw from that time on until the end of the present season, heavily and repeatedly, upon these hitherto untouched sources of supply for the rookeries, in order to get the customary annual quota—at that time that fact, that glaring change from the prosperous and healthy precedent and record of 1870-81, should have been—it was ample warning of danger ahead; it seems, however, to have been entirely ignored—to have fallen upon inattentive or incapable minds; for not until the Report for 1889 from the Agent of the Government in charge, who went up in the spring of that year for his first season of service and experience—not until his Report came down to the Treasury Department has there been the slightest intimation in the annual declarations of the officers of the Government of the least diminution or decrease of seal-life on these islands since my work of 1874 was finished and given to the world.

On the contrary, strange as it may seem, all the Treasury Agents since 1879 have, whenever they have spoken at all, each vied with the other in their laudation of the "splendid condition of the rookeries," "fully up to their best standard," &c., and one Report in 1886 and 1887 declares a vast increase over the large figures which I published in 1872-74, which is again reiterated by the same officer in 1888.

But how could these gentlemen reconcile their statements with that remarkable evidence of the decrease in supply of young males from the records made and before them—staring them in the face—of 1872-74? When they saw and daily recorded the fact that sealing gangs were being daily sent out from the village, miles and miles away to hitherto undisturbed fields, for killable seals—the regular customary hauling grounds, then at the point of exhaustion, from which an abundant supply had been easily secured during the last thirty years, and grass growing all over the hauling grounds of 1871, how, indeed, did that fact escape their attention? It did, however; it was utterly ignored.

I can see now, in the light of the record of the work of sixteen consecutive years of sealing, very clearly one or two points which were wholly invisible to my sight in 1872-74. I can now see what that effect of driving overland is upon the physical well-being of a normal fur-seal, and, upon that sight, feel warranted in taking the following ground.

The least reflection will declare to an observer that, while a fur-seal moves easier on land, and freer than any or all other seals, yet, at the same time, it is an unusual and laborious effort, even when it is voluntary; therefore, when thousands of young male seals are suddenly aroused to their utmost power of land locomotion, over rough, sharp

rocks, rolling clinker stones, deep loose sand, mossy tussocks, and other equally severe impedimenta, they in their fright exert themselves most violently, crowd in confused sweltering heaps one upon the other, so that many are often "smothered" to death; and, in this manner of most extraordinary effort, to be urged along over stretches of unbroken miles, they are obliged to use muscles and nerves that nature never intended them to use, and which are not fitted for the action.

This prolonged, sudden, and unusual effort, unnatural and violent strain, must leave a lasting mark upon the physical condition of every seal thus driven, and then suffered to escape from the clubbed pods on the killing grounds; they are alternately heated to the point of suffocation, gasping, panting, allowed to cool down at intervals, then abruptly started up on the road for a fresh renewal of this heating as they lunge, shamble, and creep along. When they arrive on the killing grounds, after four or five hours of this distressing effort on their part, they are then suddenly cooled off for the last time prior to the final ordeal of clubbing; then when driven up into the last surround or "pod," if the seals are spared from cause of being unfit to take, too big or too little, bitten, &c., they are permitted to go off from the killing ground back to the sea, outwardly unhurt, most of them; but I am now satisfied that they sustain in a vast majority of cases internal injuries of greater or less degree, that remain to work physical disability or death thereafter to nearly every seal thus released, and certain destruction of its virility and courage necessary for a station on the rookery even if it can possibly run the gauntlet of driving throughout every sealing season for five or six consecutive years; driven over and over again as it is during each one of these sealing seasons.

Therefore, it now appears plain to me that those young male fur-seals which may happen to survive this terrible strain of seven years of driving overland are rendered by this act of driving wholly worthless for breeding purposes—they never go to the breeding grounds and take up stations there, being utterly demoralized in spirit and in body.

With this knowledge, then, the full effect of "driving" becomes apparent, and that result of slowly but surely robbing the rookeries of a full and sustained supply of fresh young male blood, demanded by Nature imperatively, for their support up to the standard of full expansion (such as I recorded in 1872–74),—that result began, it now seems clear, to set in from the beginning, twenty years ago, under the present system.

Had, however, a check been as slowly and steadily applied to that "driving" as it progressed in 1879-82 upon those great reserves of Zapodnie, South-west Point, and Polavina, then the present condition of exhaustion, complete exhaustion of the surplus supply of young male seals, would not be observed—it would not have happened.

But, however, no attention was given whatever to the fact that in 1882 the reserves were suddenly, very suddenly, drawn upon, steadily and heavily for the first time, in order that a prompt filling of the usual annual quota should be made before or by the usual time of closing the sealing season for the year, viz., 20th July; and until the Report for 1889, above cited, of the Treasury Agent in charge, came into the Treasury Department, not a suggestion ever had been made in official writing, from 1872-74 to that hour, of the slightest prospect even of the amazing diminution of seal-life which is now so painfully apparent.

Naturally enough, being so long away from the field, on reading Mr. Charles J. Goff's Report for the season's work of 1889, I at once jumped to the conclusion that the pelagic sealing, the poaching of 1886-88, was the sole cause for that shrinkage which he declared manifest on those rookeries and hauling grounds of the Pribyloff Islands—such a great shrinkage as to warrant him in the declaration which he makes in that Report, that he believes that not over 60,000 young male seals can be secured here in 1890, and if more can be, that they should not be taken.

Still, even then, charging it in this manner all to the poachers was not quite satisfactory to my mind. I could figure out from the known number of skins which these hunters had placed on the market a statement of the loss and damage to the rookeries —to the females and young, born and unborn, for that is the class from which the poacher secures 85 per cent. of his catch; and I was prepared to find by these figures that the breeding grounds had lost heavily, but that did not even then satisfy me as to his statement, which came so suddenly in 1889, that little more than half of the established annual quota of 100,000 hollenschickie suitable for killing could or would be secured here in 1890; for, great as my estimated shrinkage on the breeding grounds was, due to the work of the poachers, yet that would not, could not, explain to my mind the nine-fold greater shrinkage of that supply from the hauling grounds which must exist, or else 60,000 young males might be easily taken, judging from my notes of such work in 1872. Therefore, I landed here much confused in thought as to what I should observe.

I began at once, and finished by the 9th June, an entire new topographical survey and triangulation of the landed area of the seven rookeries of the St. Paul's Island and those of the St. George Island on the 19th and 20th July, so as to have these charts ready for instant use when the time came in which to observe the full form and number of the breeding seals as they laid upon this ground, viz., 10th to 20th July inclusive; thereafter until the closing of the season on St. Paul, 19th July, and on St. George up to 4th August, I have daily recorded the full details of the hauling, the driving, and the killing of seals there, the condition of the breeding animals, their arrival and behaviour, &c. A thousand varied incidents have been faithfully observed, as my field notes will testify, and which appear in all their detail in the following Appendix to this Report.

The present condition of these fur-seal preservers is nothing new to the history of their case while in the hands of the Russians. Twice before, in the comparatively short period of a century since they were first opened to the cupidity of man, have they been threatened with the same ruin that threatened them to-day; in 1806 and 1807 all killing was stopped to save them, but resumed again in 1808—too soon; for, after seventeen years of continual adoption of half-way measures, the full and necessary term of rest was given to them in 1834; the story of this "Zapooska" of the Russians in 1834, and the causes which led them to the threatened extermination of those fur-seal interests on the Pribyloff Islands, is one that is now timely in its repetition, and should be heeded.

When these islands were first discovered, in 1786-87, an indiscriminate rush was made to them by the representatives of every Russian trading organization then in Alaska—by every one then able to fit out a vessel and hire a number of men. These eager, greedy parties located on and near all of the large rookeries and hauling grounds, and killed as many as they could handle; in those days all the skins were air-dried and not salted, and that made the work of sealing then far slower and much more difficult than it is now, since the present system of salting skins practically offers no delay whatever to the work of killing and skinning. In my mind, there is no doubt but that this inability to cure rapidly the skins for shipment in 1786-1805, as fast as they could then be killed and skinned—not one-tenth as fast as they can be to-day,—that this delay alone saved the Pribyloff rookeries from utter extermination in those early days. Certainly it was and must have been the cause, for at least thirteen different trading organizations had their vessels and their men around, and on these two islands of St. Paul and St. George engaged to their utmost ability throughout full seventeen years in unbroken succession in taking fur seal-skins.

Had these early Russian fur hunters then possessed the knowledge and means of curing skins in salt that we now have, together with those appliances in use to-day on the seal islands of Alaska, I am well satisfied in my own mind that they would have killed every fur-seal that remained to show itself in less than three years after they began operations—that they would have swept every animal from these grounds, long, long before the old Russian America Company assumed autocratic control of these interests in 1799, and all Alaska as well.

But fortunately for us, and the world as well, they did not know anything about curing skins in salt—they had but one method, and that was to stretch out the green skins and air-dry them upon frames in long low-drying houses, or in bright weather during August, September, and October to peg them out upon the ground.

Thus, this tedious process in a climate as damp, foggy, and stormy as is that peculiar to the seal islands of Alaska made these Slavonian sealers spend ten times as much time in the act of curing their fur-seal pelts as it took them to drive and kill; then, too, in those early days they were remote from a market, had no prompt, economical means of transportation to London, and depended wholly upon the idiosyncrasies of the Chinese trade viâ Kiachta; but even with this extraordinary hindrance, it seems that they took in that laborious and risky manner at least 100,000 fur seal-skins every year.*

They took so many that by 1803 several hundred thousand of these air-dried pelts had accumulated over the ability of the old Russian Company to dispose of them in time to prevent their decay—moulding and damp, then abruptly decaying—rotting in huge piles as they were stacked up in the warehouses at Kodiak, so "it became necessary to

* "In the first years on St. Paul's Island from 50,000 to 60,000 were taken annually, and on St. George from 40,000 to 50,000 every year. Such horrible killing was neither necessary nor demanded. The skins were frequently taken without any list or count. In 1803, 800,000 seal-skins had accumulated, and it was impossible to make advantageous sale of so many skins, for in this great number so many were spoiled that it became necessary to cut or throw into the sea 700,000 pelts!"—(Bishop Veniaminov, "Zapieskie," &c., 1848, vol., chap. xii.)

cut or throw into the sea 700,000 pelts" during that year. Naturally this loss of labour, time, and money cooled the ardour of the sealing gangs which were working the Pribyloff Islands—they worked slower when they did work, and most likely never worked at all in wet weather; obliged to bow to the caprices of the climate or lose their labour, they were thus obliged to spare the seals, and this enforced delay in 1788–1806 has saved the Pribyloff rookeries from that swift destruction which the keen, quick-witted American and English sealers visited in 1806–26 upon the great breeding grounds of the fur-seal in the Antarctic; they, our countrymen, then used the kench and salt; they never were bothered with the question of how to dispose of their skins after killing and skinning so as to save them, and they brought their methods of 1806–26—the same methods of to-day—up to these seal islands of Alaska for the first time in 1868.*

No one can state, with more than mere estimation on his part, the full number of fur-seals slaughtered by the Russians on the Pribyloff Islands from 1786 to 1817; no lists, no checks whatever on it appear to have been made, and the record certainly never was made, since Bishop Veniaminov, who, from 1825 up to 1838 was at the head of all matters connected with the Church in this Oonalashka district, where the seal islands belonged, and who had the respect and confidence of the old Russian-American Company, made a zealous search for such a record in 1834–35 among the archives of the Company at Sitka, where he had full access; but the result of his painstaking search he sums up in the following terse statement: "Of the number of skins taken up to 1817 I have no knowledge to rely upon; but from that time up to the present writing I have true and reliable accounts," which he puts into the Apppendix of his published work.†

The Bishop (who is the only Russian who has given us the faintest idea of how matters were conducted in his time upon these islands) seems to have witnessed them in a steady condition of decline as to yield, for in the time of his writing and up to its closing in 1837 the record was one of steady diminution until 1834; the killing seems to have been permitted with all sorts of half measures since 1817, adopted one after the other, to no good result whatever; finally, however, the supply abruptly fell from an expected 20,000 to 12,000 only from both islands in 1834—"all that could be got with all possible exertion."

Then the Russians awoke to the fact that if they wished to preserve these fur-bearing interests of the Pribyloff Islands from ruin, that they must stop killing, wholly stop for a number of years—stop until the renewal of the exhausted rookeries was manifest, and easily recognized; this Zapooska of 1835, which they then ordered, is the date of the renewed lease of life which these rookeries took, and which by 1857 had restored them to the splendid condition in which they were when they passed into the hands of the United States; and which now, after twenty-two years of killing since 1868 and under the recent Regulations of 1870, together with the pelagic sealing since 1886, we find again threatened with speedy extinction unless full measures are at once adopted for their preservation and restoration on land, and in the sea—half measures will not do —they failed in the Russian period signally, and they will as signally fail with us if we yield in the slightest degree to any argument for their adoption.

It is interesting, therefore, to study the figures which Veniaminov gives us of the yield from these islands during that period extending down from 1817 to 1837—study it in connection with his statement of what those attempts were, and which were being made, futile efforts by the old Company to build up the business, and yet continue sealing; until, finally, after seventeen years of continual diminution and repeated introduction of half-way methods of restoration, the end came abruptly, and what ought to have been done at first was finally forced in 1834—the absolute rest of the rookeries in 1835 came, and practically continued until 1846-50; then a gradual rise above 10,000 "holluschickie" or young male fur-seals per annum began to be safely taken; and, by 1854, the exhausted and nearly ruined rookeries of St. Paul and St. George were able to yield 35,000 prime fur-seal pelts without the slightest injury to them, and by 1857-60 they were so numerous that the Russians ceased to regard them as objects of care, and thereafter governed their annual catch by the demand outside alone—taking as the market called for them anywhere from 40,000 to 80,000 annually.

As matters stand to-day on the seal islands the situation is very much the same as it was in 1834. Then it was expected that 20,000 seals would be taken, but only 12,000 were secured "with all possible exertion." This year it was expected that 60,000 fine

* They began at once that system of disciplined exhaustive slaughter which has proved so effective in their hands throughout the Antarctic—took nearly 300,000 seal-skins on these islands in the short space of four months, ceased then only for want of salt; but, happily, the Government intervened before they could resume their work of swift destruction.

† "Zapieskie ob Oonalashkenskaho Otdayla:" St. Petersburgh, 1842; 2 vols, 80. A full translation of that chapter which treats of this question will follow this introduction.

skins would be taken, but only 21,000 have been secured with all possible exertion, nearly half of this catch being small, or 5½-6½ lb. skins—raking and scraping the rookery margins without a day's intermission from the opening to the closing of the season; of this work of 1890 I give you in this Report the fullest detail of its progression, day to day, the merciful ending of it, ordered so happily by you.

It will be promptly observed from a study of this record of the Russians which has been so plainly and so honestly given to us by Veniaminov and Shaiesnickov, that the Russians, during their control, were faced at two periods with the prospect of a speedy extermination of these fur-seal rookeries of Alaska; in 1806 and in 1807 they stopped all killing on these Islands of St. Paul and St. George, but began to kill again in 1810—too soon. Veniaminov's record and account shows that from 1817, in spite of everything that they could do, save stopping short of all killing, "only made matters worse."

Finally, in 1834, with the second and positive threat of swift extermination again facing them, the Russians reluctantly surrendered, and ordered a rest which lasted seven years, ere any beginning was fairly made to kill more than a few thousand young male seals annually. In the first year only 100 of such animals were taken, the number being very slowly raised year after year until 1847-50.

A careful review of my investigation, therefore, warrants me in respectfully urging—

1. That no driving and killing of fur-seals for tax and shipment on the seal islands of Alaska be permitted by the Government for a period of at least seven years from date; and

2. That the co-operation of Great Britain and Russia be secured in perfecting our international close time, by which all killing of fur-seals in the open waters of Behring's Sea will be prohibited during the breeding season of these animals, and in order that the Representatives of Great Britain and Russia may see the truth of my statement as to what threatens to exterminate these animals if pelagic sealing as well as terrestrial sealing is not at once stopped; that a Commission of British, Russian, and American experts be invited to visit the seal islands next summer and report fairly upon the subject.

In concluding this introduction to my work of the past season, and its result, I desire to say that I have been exceedingly careful in gathering my data upon which I base all statement of fact and opinion, and to secure these data I have literally lived out upon the field itself, where those facts alone can be gathered honestly, or else they had better not be gathered at all.

I now submit, most respectfully, my detailed Report covering the above-mentioned heads, together with those field-sketches and maps which I deem necessary to give a more distinct, clear, and full idea of my meaning and understanding of the subjects treated.

Trusting that it will meet with your approval, I am, &c.

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

To the above may be added, furnished by Professor Elliott, the following Table showing numbers of fur-seals on the breeding grounds of the Pribyloff Islands, Alaska, during 1872-74, and again in 1890:—

Island	Rookeries.	Seals, Male, Female, and Young, 1872–74.	Seals, Male, Female, and Young, 1890.
St. Paul	Reef	301,000	140,500
,, ...	Garbotch	183,000	84,000
,, ...	Lagoon	37,000	9,000
,, ...	Tolstoi	225,000	62,400
,, ...	Zapadnie	441,000	121,205
,, ...	Ketavie	165,000	28,000
,, ...	Lukannon	170,000	72,500
,, ...	Polavina	300,000	142,000
,, ...	North-East Point ..	1,200,000	217,875
,, ...	Nahspeel	8,000	Disappeared
St. George	Zapadnie	18,000	12,500
,, ...	Starry Arteel	30,420	16,000
,, ...	North	77,000	38,500
,, ...	Little Eastern	13,000	4,800
,, ...	Great Eastern	25,000	9,000
	Grand total ..	3,193,420	959,393

The grand total of 3,193,420 breeding seals and their young for 1872-74 represents a division of its sexes and ages of about 1,600,000 breeding females or "cows," 1,450,000 newly-born seals or "pups," and some 145,000 to 160,000 able-bodied virile males or "bulls" over 6 years of age (the proportion of farrow or "barren" cows too small for notice then).

The grand total of 959,393 breeding seals, male and female, for 1890 is divided into different proportions as to sex and age, owing to deadly causes at work on land and sea since 1874. The proportion of the above total for 1890 is 350,000 bearing females, and some 250,000 not bearing, or not served last year and this; 350,000 pups, and between 8,000 and 9,000 old males, many of them absolutely impotent at the beginning of the season of 1890, most of them becoming wholly so as the season advanced.

In 1872-74 Elliott and Maynard estimated the number of surplus young males or "killable" seals at 1,500,000; this year of 1890 Elliot makes a rigid calculation which shows a scant 100,000 males left above 1 year old.

UNITED STATES. No. 2 (1891).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Behring Sea Seal Fisheries.

[In continuation of "United States No. 1 (1891):" C. 6253.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. June 1891.

LONDON:
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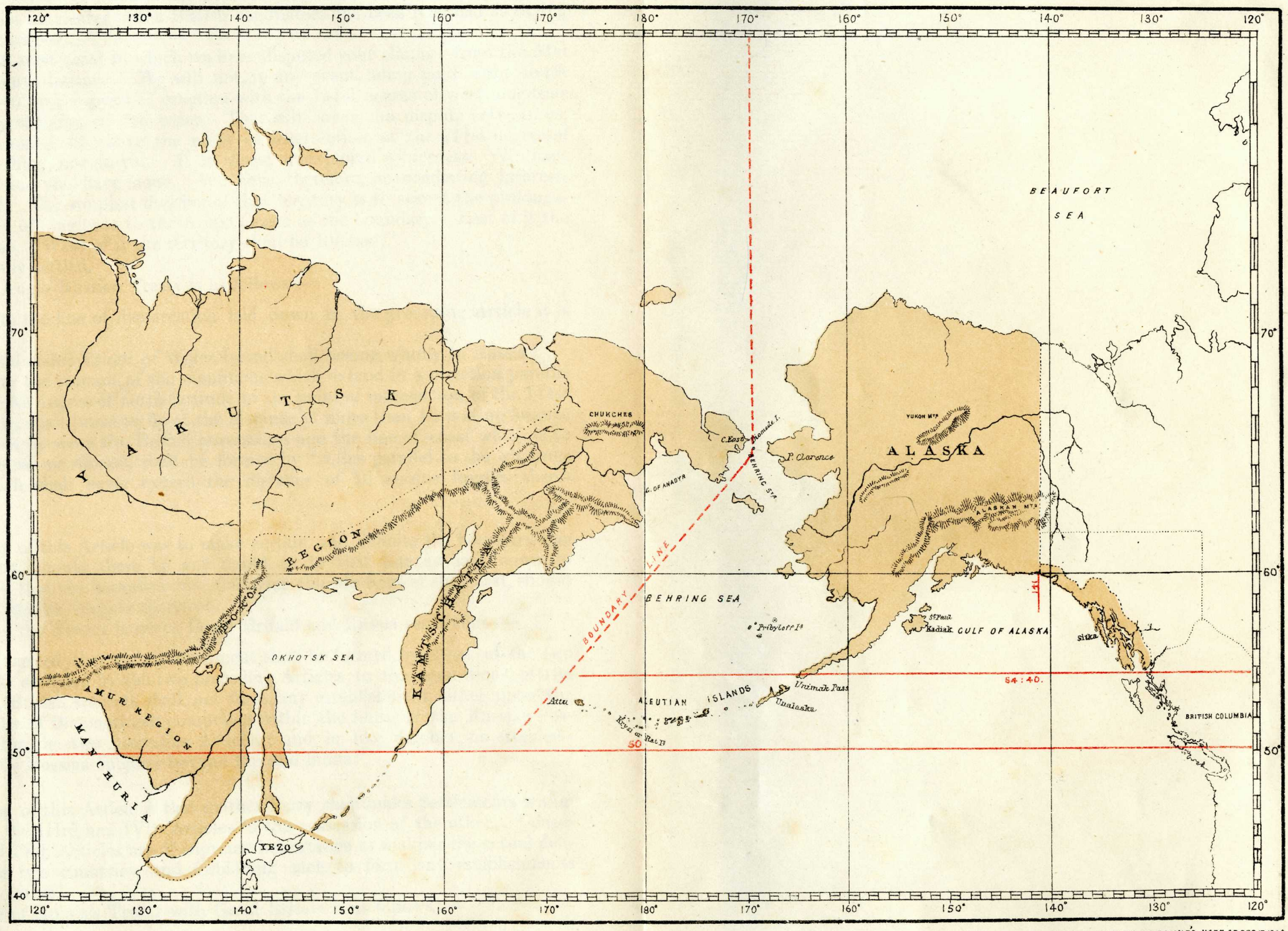
SECTION OF A TRACK CHART OF THE WORLD, COVERING THE BEHRING SEA.



OUTLINE OF MAP No 2 ACCOMPANYING Mr BLAINE'S NOTE OF DEC. 17. 1890.