

HOT SPRINGS NEWS.

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TEN CENTS.

HOW SEALS ARE CAPTURED.

If the temporary agreement for protecting the seals of Alaska, known as the "modus vivendi," had not been renewed, the whole piratical fleet of sealers would enter Bering sea next July and wipe out in one season the entire Pribilof herd, destroying the sealing industry in those waters forever. To make this understood it is only necessary to explain the astonishingly scientific system of slaughter adopted by the pelagic sealers. Suppose that there were a single great herd of 1,000,000 valuable fur-bearing beasts which travel continually over a kite-shaped track, many thousands of miles in circuit, on the great plains of the West. Imagine that these animals devoted eight months in every year to traversing this route, never varying from it, so that their entire company was always sure to be at a given point on the road at a certain date, though halting together in an isolated spot for four months annually to breed and rear their young. How long would it be before the greedy hunters would have wiped them all out? If the latter were permitted to surround them at their breeding place, a single season would suffice for their extermination. That is precisely the situation of the seals. The herd—there is only one—leaves the Pribilof islands about November 10, each year, to spend the winter in warmer waters. Passing southward through the Aleutian chain and out of Bering sea, the animals swim in a southeasterly direction, toward Santa Barbara, about 400 miles south of San Francisco, on the Pacific coast. There they turn and go northward—nearly a million strong—hugging the coast, past Oregon and Washington and along the southern shore of Alaska into Bering sea, reaching the Pribilof islands again by July 10. Upon these lonely rocks they breed and nurse their young four months, at the end of which time the pups are weaned and big enough to accompany the annual migration. The track they follow is never varied from, and each week in the year finds them at the same stage of their route, so that no difficulty in discovering the herd is experienced by the hunters, who pursue the poor beasts relentlessly month after month, killing, killing, killing—until they get back into Behring sea again and are safe for a while. No present project for putting a stop to this is entertained. The modus vivendi and the seizures of vessels have merely related to the exclusion of the pelagic sealers from Bering sea itself, where they are anxious to go and wipe out the whole breeding herd while it is assembled on two small islands, thus making an end of the species at once and for good.

Before explaining in detail the remarkably effective method by which this result would be accomplished, some very interesting points may be mentioned respecting the extraordinary business of pelagic sealing. For the pursuit of this industry small schooners of from forty to sixty tons are equipped. Each such vessel starts out on a voyage with three or four months provisions, a quantity of salt, a supply of repeating rifles and fifteen or twenty men. Usually the crew includes a few Indians from Vancouver island and Neah bay Washington. The schooner sails out into the path of the herd of seals. She has no trouble in discovering when the right point is reached by the popping up on all sides in the water of the animals' heads. Then she lies-to, unless the weather is too rough, and lowers into the sea a number of small dories. Each boat is occupied by two men. One of them sits in the bow with a Winchester rifle or fowling-piece loaded with buckshot across his lap, while the other rows. The effort is to extend from the vessel a line of from seven to ten dories, which shall be within hail of each other, so that they could find their way back in case of a fog

or storm. Having taken their positions they wait for the chance of a seal's head popping up within range. The animals, while traveling, only appear on the surface at the intervals necessary for breathing, taking a quick and cautious look around and immediately diving again to swim and fish. They do all their swimming and fishing under water. When the hunter sees a head pop up, if he is quick enough, he may have time to aim and fire before the seal has taken an instantaneous survey of him and dived. Usually, when the animal comes up close alongside the boat, its fright is so great that it disappears too suddenly for a shot, but if it pops up at a distance of 50 or 100 yards, perhaps it may pause for two or three seconds and afford an opportunity to the marksman. At best the aim is necessarily very uncertain, inasmuch as both boat and seal are tossing about in the lumpy water. No matter whether it is hit or not, the seal disappears instantly. If killed outright it sinks; but, if the marksman, by keeping his eye on the spot where the carcass went under, can so direct the boat as to get there quickly enough, he may be able to see the body of the animal going down in the crystal-clear water. In that case he whips out his gaff-pole and fishes it up. To succeed in this, however, he must arrive in time at the exact spot where the game sank, since it is only from just above that it will be visible through the choppy waves, which show not a bubble for a guide. A dead seal will sink from 6 to 10 feet while a skiff is rowed 50 yards. There is more skill in finding the prey after it is hit than in shooting it. Supposing that the seal is slightly or mortally wounded, it dives and swims away in most cases to perish later. If merely stunned it flounders about on the surface and is easily taken; but that seldom occurs. From this brief description some notion can be formed of the enormous waste of life in this kind of hunting, which, according to the testimony of the sealers themselves, destroys fifteen animals for every one secured. After a few days the herd thus intercepted by the schooner will have passed by. This is discovered from the fact that no more heads of seals are seen popping up in the water. Have the unfortunate beasts at length made their escape from the predatory vessel? By no means. She simply spreads her canvas to the breeze, sails for 60 or 100 miles, overhauls the animals and proceeds as before. So it continues week after week, month after month, until they have been pursued to Bering sea, into which some bold poachers follow them, lying off the Pribilof islands in the fog, which hardly ever rises, and shooting the breeding mothers that venture out into the ocean. In 1886 there were 7 vessels engaged in the sealing industry on the northwest coast. There were 22 in 1887, 33 in 1889, 45 in 1890, and 110 last summer. This year there will be about 125 schooners in the business. All of these craft and more than 2000 Canadian, American, Japanese, and Indian hunters are devoted to the indiscriminate slaughter of this herd of valuable creatures, which are today almost 90 per cent females. They are at this writing passing up the coast by Vancouver island. Of those which are now being killed, 86 per cent are heavy with unborn young. By July 10 the entire herd will be on two islands in Bering sea, breeding and nursing their young. The pups are all born by July 20, and up to November 10 the mother seals are constantly going out to the ocean fishing banks for food. They nurse their offspring at intervals of from one to four days, and travel in search of fish 50 to 300 miles away from the islands. The fleet entering Bering sea in July would draw a cordon around the islands, practically annihilate all the mothers before the helpless young are weaned in November, and leave the infant seals to starve by myriads on the rocks. While not literally exterminating the species, the result of this would be to destroy the sealing industry forever. True, the pelagic sealers would ruin their own business, but they belong to a class of people who care only for today and do not look forward to the morrow. If people could see one of these sealers thrust his gaff-hook into the carcass of a nursing female

seal and drag the body over the gunwale into the boat; if, as this ruthless destroyer cuts the hide from the animal, he could watch the milk spurt on which a poor little family of baby seals depend for sustenance, how quickly would he cry shame upon such beastly, barbarous butchery. How long would it be before the protection of the persecuted creatures would be completed? It is most unfortunate that the details of this inhuman business have not hitherto been made familiar to the public. The Indian hunters carried by the sailing vessels take an important part in the chase. They are turned loose on days when calm weather has succeeded a storm. At such times the seals, which have been so tossed about in the water as to have had no sleep for a considerable period, indulge in the luxury of sound naps on the ocean billows, lying on their backs at the surface with only their noses and "heels" showing. Thus rocked in the cradle of the deep, they peacefully repose, doubtless enjoying pleasant dreams, while the savage in his canoe approaches silently from the leeward. When within striking distance, the hunter drives a toggle-headed spear into the unconscious animal, drags the prey up to the boat and knocks it on the head. This method of slaughter, though not less indiscriminate than that adopted by the white man, has the advantage that no seal that is struck is lost. The pelagic sealers have asserted that the breed of seals hunted off the straits of Fuca and Vancouver island is not the same as that of the Pribilof islands, and that the Alaskan seals frequent more or less the Russian seal islands on the other side of Behring sea, seals from the latter, known as Commander islands, sometimes joining the Pribilof herd. As a matter of fact, every seal which journeys through eastern waters of the north Pacific was born and bred on the Pribilof islands. Never within historic times have the animals composing the Pribilof herd "hailed out" to breed anywhere else than on these islands, which they doubtless selected because they were uninhabited, not being discovered until 1876, while the mainland and the islands of the Aleutian chain were overrun very anciently by savage men. That no Russian seal was ever taken on the Pribilof islands, or vice versa, is proved by the records of market sales of the skins in London. The Russian pelts are readily distinguishable from the Alaskan, being much lighter in color. Presumably the warmer water about the Commander islands, the temperature being about 10 degrees higher, has made the difference in the course of generations. The Russian skins are only worth about half as much as the Alaskan. The herd which breeds upon the Commander islands is about as large numerically as the Pribilof herd at present comprising somewhat less than a million individuals. It spends the winter in the Japan sea and in the neighborhood of the Kurile islands. Thus far it has not been attacked to any extent by pelagic sealers, simply because their attention has been centered upon the more valuable Alaskan animals. However, as soon as the Pribilof herd has been wiped out the Russian seals will be attacked. Russia claims no jurisdiction over Bering sea beyond 3 miles from the shore, and she can only save her seals by joining the United States and Great Britain in the international agreement, which constitutes the only hope for the preservation of these useful creatures. If a 10-mile or 30-mile zone of protection can be established, there is no reason why a zone of 300 or 500 miles should not be maintained. Such an agreement once made, the seals would be saved. Some notion of the rapidity with which they are being exterminated can be got from the report of United States commissioner Elliott, who, in 1874, counted 3,000,000 of seals on the Pribilof islands. In 1890 he found there only 959,000, old and young. In 1874 there were 1,200,000 "bachelor seals"—males under 6 years old—which are not allowed by the bulls to come upon the breeding rocks. A liberal estimate in 1880 placed the number of bachelors at 100,000. So that if some permanent restrictions are not placed upon the hunters, the seal will soon follow the buffalo and be a thing of the past.

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Hot Springs News.

THE MODERN GUY FAWKES.

The Paris dynamiter, Ravachol, avows his crimes and glories in them with the frankness and hardihood of Guy Fawkes. He is seemingly as sincere and high-spirited an assassin as ever threw a bomb at a czar, stabbed a police superintendent, tried to blow up Russell Sage, or took a pot shot at a president of the United States. All such persons, filled with this insane philosophy of righting political or social wrongs by assassination are the proper fruit of the gallows in Europe or America. The knife was thrust in vain into the heart of Marat; the bomb blew up Alexander II of Russia to no purpose; the dagger of Joe Blake paralyzed Parnell's work for a time; the murder of lord Leitrim only increased the pains of Ireland, just as the bullet of Booth hardened the heart of the north against the south at the moment when Lincoln, had he lived, would have melted it to tears. The whole philosophy of political assassination is a bloody blunder and crime when undertaken in the name of popular liberty. If public opinion is really behind the dagger there is no need and therefore no excuse for using it, and if it is not behind it there is certainly no excuse for a few malcontents to butcher a government that has its roots in the hearts of the people. Political assassination is more absurd and fatal to the welfare of society than even lynch law, for lynch law sometimes, as in San Francisco in 1856, has represented fairly the will of the people, undertaken through irregular courts, but conducted with all the deliberations and solemnity of legal proceedings, but political assassination, whether wrought in Russia or Ireland, in Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Spain, or America, has always been an act of insane folly, a crime and a gross blunder executed under a noble name. All persons imbued with this same political philosophy of righting political wrongs or social abuses by dynamite or the dagger ought to be hunted down mercilessly to death, because, whether sincere or insincere, they have a bee in their bonnet that is liable at any time to sting somebody to death. Chicago anarchists or Paris anarchists or Russian nihilists are doubtless all sincere scoundrels, and exceedingly dangerous because of their sincerity. It is no argument that the Russian and the Irish nihilists have received deep provocation through misgovernment, while the Chicago anarchist has not been wronged by the government; because there are all degrees of political insanity, and the difference between the dagger and dynamite in Russia and Ireland and the dagger and dynamite in Chicago is only a difference of degree in the absurd faith that daggers kill kingdoms when they kill kings; that bombs blow up social and political systems when they destroy a czar or murder a president. These political assassins all hold in common the insane philosophy of recasting a government by murder; of terrorizing a tyrant by violence into breaking his sword and surrendering his scepter. As well might you try to terrorize a leopard into changing his spots. A tyrant understands what a popular uprising means, but assassination is as absurd and insane an effort to abate political outrages as it would be to try to destroy the railway system of America by shooting the engineer in his cab. Men

who expect to upset tyrants and found free states by the dagger of private assassination rather than by the sword of insurrection and the voice of agitation are either insane enthusiasts or destructive knaves; half mad wolf; half sentimentalist pleading that his motives were sincere and his provocation great.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S BLUNDERS.

The German emperor is now reaping the consequences of his egotistic and arrogant repudiation of the advice given him by Bismarck. When the new sovereign came to the throne Bismarck was preparing to secure from the reichstag an extension of the laws against the socialists, the great chancellor logically holding that no compromise was possible between the monarchy and the semi-democratic party, which agreed that the existing order should be overthrown, and only differed as to the means to the end. The young emperor treated this warning with contempt, and undertook to transform the socialists into loyal subjects. He allowed the reichstag to see that he personally desired the anti-socialist laws to expire by limitation, and Bismarck found himself unable to get them renewed. Then came the imperial scheme of the international labor conference, which, as Bismarck predicted, proved abortive. Emperor William has tried to placate the demands of the German workmen by vague promises and verbal blandishments, but he has done nothing for them. Even the workmen's insurance laws were devised and passed by Bismarck. Emperor William is a man born out of his time; he belongs to the age of paternal absolutism represented by the brutal, half-crazy father of Frederick the Great; he has discovered that the socialists are not gullible folk, for at the last general election to the reichstag they refused to support the government nominees, cast a vastly increased vote for their own candidates, and obtained a much larger representation in the German parliament. The only difference between the German socialist radicals and conservatives is that the conservatives believe in constitutional agitation against the monarchy, while the radicals prefer more expeditious and violent measures. Emperor William now sees that Bismarck was right, and he is now trying to educate the growing generation of Germans into monarchists by making sectarian Catholic or Protestant education compulsory in all schools. Socialists and anti-monarchy Germans are generally free-thinkers and non-church-goers, so emperor William stupidly believes that he can educate Germany into absolutism by making all the schools teach either Roman Catholic or Protestant orthodoxy. The passage of this law would, of course, undo all that Bismarck accomplished by the passage of his anti-clerical laws, which were directed against the Catholics, and it would not be surprising if emperor William at no distant day had to choose between calling Bismarck back to the chancellorship, and finding himself confronted in the German parliament by Bismarck as leader of the opposition. Emperor William, when he forced Bismarck to resign, determined to be his own Bismarck, and he has made a botch of it. The emperor will live to find out that his young hands cannot bend the bow that none but Bismarck can wield. His grandfather, William I, was nothing but a rude soldier until he found Bismarck; Bismarck became his brains; Prussia became arbiter of the fate of Germany; the king of Prussia became emperor of Germany. This was the work of Bismarck. The present emperor cannot see that he owes his imperial throne to the brain and patriotism of his great

subject; he thinks that the man who is heir to a valuable watch is also heir to the skill that constructed its mechanism and keeps it in order and proper repair. Emperor William II has been fooling with the splendid works of the watch, that Bismarck made and hung around the neck of emperor William I, so long that the watch begins to show signs of injury to its mechanism. Emperor William II cannot make a watch; he cannot repair a watch; cannot even clean a watch, but he can break a main spring or stop a watch with all the ability of a little, guiltless child. Emperor William is likely to see perilous days, when he will feel like saying: "Oh, for an hour with Bismarck."

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Rumors have been circulated for the past few days concerning the Union Pacific in the near future. The statement is to the effect that the Gould faction have accomplished their object in getting control of the Union Pacific, that is, to build up the Missouri Pacific and other Gould lines, hence the desire to drop the line now. The same authority declares that the entire management will be effected, even to the petty officers. The resignation of Charles S. Mellen as general traffic manager of the Union Pacific is said to be the first tangible evidence of this gigantic turning over in railway circles. The resignation takes effect on April 1st, and Mr. Mellen has accepted the general managership of the New York & New England road. The near approach of the annual meeting of the Union Pacific stockholders and the rumor of a probable change in the management, led some railroad men to conclude that Mellen has improved the opportunity to anticipate a big revolution in the company's affairs. The traffic managership will be abolished as a distinct office by the new faction. The most thoughtful railroad men have come to the conclusion that the traffic manager is a fifth wheel. The general freight and general passenger agents are his subordinates and have to refer many things to him for his approval or rejection. The traffic manager's business calls him away from headquarters a great deal, and it has been the experience of the Union Pacific that his action on important matters has often been delayed two weeks. This is a great hindrance to the work of the freight and passenger departments, but it is unavoidable under the present system. The road, it is alleged, will remain in the control of the Boston capitalists, but will be operated in the interest of the Northwestern.

Hungarian Types of Beauty.

The Hungarian women are among the most beautiful in the world. They are not languishing, diaphanous creatures, composed of cobwebs, and the odor of musk, with a sickly pallor or hectic flush in their cheeks. No, erect and straight as a candle, hearty and vigorous to the core, they are pictures of good health and abounding vitality. They are gifted with small feet, full arms, plump hands with tapering fingers, and wear long braids. The sun has spread a reddish-golden tint or a darker tone over the complexion. The Hungarian woman is not a beauty of classical contour, nor does she perhaps frequently present a riddle to the psychologist, and ethereal poets will scarcely find a theme in her for hypersentimental reveries. She is rather the vigorous embodiment of primeval womanhood. As her exterior, so her whole character is enchantingly fresh and positive. She likes to eat well, is fond of a drop of wine, takes naturally to swimming, dancing, gymnastics, and has not the least objection to being admired. Grace and beauty know no difference between the high and low, and often bestow upon a poor, barefooted, short-skirted peasant girl (with her face framed in a handkerchief tied under chin) the same enchanting form the same graceful walk, the same magically attractive glance as upon her more favored sister.

Ravachol is Proud of His Deed.

Ravachol, in a confession made to the magistrate before whom he was tried in Paris on the 4th, said "I am proud of what I have done. You will not get a word of repentance out of me. If I had not been arrested I would have continued my explosions, sparing nobody connected with the condemnation of other anarchists. I would like to blow up the chamber of deputies, for imposing upon the dynamites the penalty of death. Let nothing stand in the way of the anarchist propaganda. I murdered the two sisters Marcon and others simply to procure money to assist in the cause. I could never stoop to begging. No anarchist begs. I won't work. Labor is an injustice as long as it enriches the employer, who gives the workers just enough to keep body and soul together. Everyone having nothing ought to rob and murder. Were there many men like me the rich would soon come to terms. I am a martyr in the humanitarian cause."

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AN IDYL OF THE PACIFIC.

On the lonely wind-swept island of San Nicolas, 80 miles off the coast of Ventura county, where as far back as the memory of man runs hundreds of grisly white skeletons have dotted the valleys and hillsides, local archaeologists are now busy gathering the relics of a strange, extinct race. The island is 10 miles long and oval in shape, being 4 miles across at the widest part. Strange utensils of serpentine, sandstone, and steatite are found there among the human bones, and the island and its erst while inhabitants have a history so curious that it is difficult of comprehension. In 1835 the padres of Santa Barbara, learning that there were but 16 of the strange Indian race then living there, determined to rescue them from the island. They went over in a sloop and succeeded, as they thought, in getting all on board. At the last moment an Indian woman returned for her child, and one of the frequent storms of the Channel islands springing up, the sloop was driven away without her. The sloop went on the rocks at Point Conception and all on board were lost. Sixteen years later captain George Nidever and two men went from the coast on a sloop to hunt otter off San Nicolas. On looking they were, like Crusoe, astonished to discover human footprints on the sand. They saw no one, however, and a storm compelled them to put to sea. It was two years thereafter that the adventurous captain, revolving in his mind the sight of the footprints in the uncanny island, determined to go and discover and bring over the lonely woman of whom he had vaguely heard. Men accompanied him, and at length they saw on the surf-beaten shore a woman with long tawny hair dressed in a queer garb of colored birdskins and scraping with a bone knife the blubber of a seal. They surrounded and approached her stealthily, and although suddenly confronted, she did not appear in the least afraid, but smiled, and then falling on her knees prayed to the sun. The wild woman made no objection when by signs she was made to understand that she was to go with them in the boat. They reached Santa Barbara across

the rough sea, and the first thing the woman saw was Dr. S. L. Shaw, now 80 years old and yet living there, riding a horse. She had never seen nor heard of any object like it, and thought the man and horse were one, and she knelt on the shore and offered her devotions to it. Two weeks afterwards the last inhabitant of the rock-ribbed, tempest-tossed San Nicolas died from eating food to which she was unaccustomed, furnished by her rescuers, and the curtain fell on her strange race forever. Wild dogs had eaten her child. Her dress of red and blue feathers, a wonderful creation of barbaric hands, was sent to the pope of Rome. Relic hunters have gathered mortars, pestles, ollas, toy steatite canoes, and other curious things there for some years past and shipped them to various eastern and European universities. Skeletons and parts of skeletons have also been collected in large numbers, but today the bones of thousands of Indians are scattered about there. Some lie face down, indicating that they have fallen in battle. There are so many human relics there that San Nicolas is known as the "Isle of Skulls." The lonely island, whose highest part is but 1040 feet above the sea, is noted for the high artistic class of many of its relics. Had the woman rescued, then 52 years old, not died, a story passing strange would no doubt have been told of the race so long hemmed in by the waste of waters about. As it is, much of the strange story is shrouded in mystery forever.

Fire at Sand Point.

A destructive fire occurred at Sand Point on the morning of the 2nd between 2 and 3 o'clock. The office of the Pend d'Oreille News, Richter's saloon, Baldwin & Bradley's lodging-house, with their saloon adjoining, and the Brewery saloon were burned, and a drug store torn down to prevent the further spread of the flames. The fire started in the Brewery saloon and spread rapidly. Baldwin & Bradley saved part of their liquors and a portion of their furniture. Their loss will be about \$3000; insurance \$1500. The Brewery saloon is a total loss, and had the wind been blowing from the east, as usual, the entire town would have been burned, as water is hard to get.

CREAM OF THE WORLD'S NEWS.

Three steamship companies will run weekly boats this summer between Montreal and Glasgow. The Allan, Donaldson, and Columbia are the three companies.

Mrs. Montague, wife of Robert Acheson Cromie Montague, who was convicted in Dublin, Ireland, for killing her daughter by severe and inhuman treatment, has been sentenced to one year imprisonment with hard labor.

Slavin and Mitchell have dissolved partnership. Slavin has cabled from London for his brother to go over to train him for his coming match with Sullivan.

Ramauldo Pacheco, United States minister to Guatemala, has arrived at San Francisco on a two-months leave of absence. He reports perfect tranquility there and no truth in the reported dissensions.

Henry M. Flagler, John W. Mackay, Austin Corbin and Andrew Carnegie have become largely interested in the Nicaragua Canal Company, and this will be likely to still further increase the confidence of the people of the Pacific coast in the undertaking. The management is only waiting for an improvement in the financial situation to place the bonds of the canal in the principal markets of the world.

Up to March 9th lieutenant Hetherington had not been tried at Yokohama for killing George Gower Robinson, who had insulted his wife, and the Yokohama papers are complaining at the delay. There has been considerable newspaper discussion over the action of the coroner's jury in charging Hetherington with willful murder, as it is claimed that the evidence did not show that he killed Robinson.

It is stated at Washington that the Chinese minister has indicated to senator Sherman, who is chairman of the foreign relations committee that if the extreme Chinese Exclusion bill became a law in the form it has passed the house the Chinese government would sever all diplomatic relations with the United States.

Lord Arthur John Edward Russell has died in London. He was born in 1825, and was a brother of the late duke of Bedford.

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N. B. Having bought the stock and book debts of the late firm of E. S. WILSON & CO., all parties having
outstanding accounts are requested to call and settle them as soon as possible.

Telephone 58.