

FUR SEALS.

The Last "Herald" Paper to be Presented.

HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW.

The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number is Subservient to the Protection of the Seals.

After reviewing the history of seal fishing for a century, the policy pursued by the Russian Government and by that of the United States, and showing the grounds on which both Russia and the United States claim the right to protect seal life in the waters of Alaska, the Herald reaches its last chapter in this interesting study. The purpose at this immediate time will be to show that by the present policy of the Government the greatest good to the greatest number is subserved. In other words the humanitarian side of the question will be presented in this paper. The Government report compiled by the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the 50th Congress, at the head of which was Gen. Poindexter Dunn, now of this city, paid particular attention to this view of the case. Gleaming widely in the volume of over 400 pages containing the report, this branch of the subject subdivides into three sections. These are the effects of protecting seal life in the perpetuation of the industry, thereby continuing forever to the world a supply of sealskins; thereby insuring perpetual labor for a large class of operatives engaged in the curing of the skins and their manufacture into garments; and lastly, the securing to the natives of the seal islands the means of subsistence.

The plea of the poachers is, of course, that by allowing them to pursue their unrestrained methods of seal hunting means of subsistence and enrichment are opened to a number of human beings, who are driven by the present policy to seek these means in some other walks of life. A sufficient answer to this plea is made if it can be shown that the present policy guarantees forever such means to as many souls. It has been clearly demonstrated that to allow the killing of the seal to be free to all comers is to destroy the animal completely from the face of the earth in a few years. Then will come to an end forever the means of livelihood now demanded by the producers. If it can be demonstrated that the policy of the United States secures as good means of gaining a livelihood to as many people for all time, then it is better the poachers be restricted by as much as the perpetual exceeds the merely temporary. If it can be shown that a policy of protection secures a perpetual means of livelihood to a hundred times more people than the opposite policy, then the wisdom of such protection is that many times more apparent.

The present laws allow 200,000 seal skins to be taken annually. By protecting the animals from indiscriminate slaughter this number of skins can be taken for all time to come. These are taken on the Pribilof islands during four months of each year. From there the skins are shipped to San Francisco, and thence by rail to New York. Here the major part of the skins are shipped to London. The few that remain in this country are dressed in the vicinity of New York. Those that go to London are sold at auction and taken to several points in Europe to be dressed. Much more than half of all the skins taken on the Pribilof islands are dressed in London. The dressing of the skins is a very tedious and nice process, requiring much time and labor. There are hundreds of hands employed in this work for many months each year. If the people employed in dressing seal skins in London were to all turn poachers and go out to Alaska to catch seals, as the poachers do their work, the islands to be thrown open to them, they would take nearly a million skins the first year, and in five years there would be a hundred seals in the waters of Alaska. If one follows the skins from the dressing factories to the shops where they are made into garments, another larger army of people will be found engaged in this work. Were they to give up their present occupation and go out to catch seals, the same destruction of seal life would follow and there would be no more labor or profit for anyone in fur seals. There would be none of the animal's life left. In either of these armies of toilers who find employment year in and year out in dressing furs or converting them into garments, there are probably ten times as many people as in all the poacher gangs on the seas.

If now the mind is diverted from the dressers of skins, and from the army of people who make the furs into garments, to the natives of Alaska, there will be found a people whose existence depends on the protection of the seals. The seal-skin dressers of London, and the people who make the furs into garments, if driven from these lines of employment would have some chance in the fierce struggle for life to gain a livelihood at some other occupation, although London is sufficiently furnished at present with toilers who cannot find work. But there is not a ghost of a chance to live left the Aleuts of these islands if seal life is destroyed. There are hundreds of these natives on the islands where the sole means of subsistence is the seal. All the channel open to them for the earning of a dollar is in the taking and skinning of the seals, the salting of the skins and the loading of them on the ships. The only food that they have and the staple of life is the seal's flesh. It is to these natives what bread is to the poor of other lands. Cut off the seal and the natives must perish. Under the humane management of the Government of the United States, these people must be provided with decent homes in which to dwell. A rate is paid them for their labor and a school is maintained for the education of their children. They are making excellent progress in a civilization and have considerable sums of money deposited to their credit in the savings banks of San Francisco. Were all restrictions taken off of killing the seals at the coming session of Congress, these half civilized Aleuts would remain in the islands until the seals come ashore next May. These natives, knowing how to kill and skin the animals and ship the skins, would simply turn loose and kill every seal, male and female, old and young, that comes ashore, and sell the skins to the best buyers who might visit the islands during the summer. That would end the whole matter, and then the entire native population, having no other means of subsistence, would die of starvation during the following winter.

There is a wish in what Canada is innately clamoring for, if the United States has no authority to maintain the police inspection now in force over the seal fisheries, then no one has that right. If the Canadian poachers have a right to kill the seals when, where and how they please, then that is a right which any other poacher may claim and exercise. These seals will quickly be exterminated. The Aleuts will perish for want of food. There will be no more skins for poachers or anyone else to get. The rich of the whole world will be compelled to do without sealskins forever, and the poor of London will get no more bread for dressing sealskins, or for making them into garments. The United States will lose a revenue of half a million a year, and the world will lose a valuable industry. And all for what? That a few Canadian poachers may for one or two years shoot 1,400,000 seals and get less skins than are now taken under the United States laws, in a manner that makes the industry perpetual. Canada is like a spoiled child, that needs just now a little application of the birch. The Imperial Government of Great Britain will in all probability do the necessary job; but if she does not the United States will.

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RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

The Methodist Conference—Notes from the Churches.

The Southern California Methodist Conference has been in session at San Bernardino during the past week, and has accomplished a great deal of business. Bishop Randolph S. Foster, of Boston, acted as Presiding Elder, and H. J. Crist, of Alhambra, as Secretary. Those who were present were as follows: A. Inwood, Coronado; E. J. Inwood, Garvanza; M. Judy, Fresno; J. S. Kline, Newport; W. A. Knighten, Los Angeles; J. W. Leach, Tulare; C. Leach, Huemene; I. M. Leiby, Santa Monica; I. M. Lovjoy, San Jacinto; W. D. Lowde, La Canada; R. S. Macley, San Fernando; W. S. Mathew, University; J. A. McMillian, Colton; J. G. Miller, Pasadena; A. B. Morrison, Visalia; J. W. Morris, Glendora; F. Myer, San Bernardino; C. W. F. Nelson, Oro Grande; A. M. Osborn, National City; J. M. Peters, Grangeville; A. Peterson, San Diego; W. Phelps, Pomona; J. M. Rich, Orange; T. E. Thompson, Monrovia; I. L. Rogers, Rialto; I. L. Spencer, Lompoc; W. M. Sterling, Santa Ana; W. Stevenson, Monrovia; C. W. Stowell, Traver; C. W. Farr, South Pasadena; S. P. Sowden, South Riverside; F. C. Thomas, Murrieta; S. A. Thomson, San Diego; E. Thomson, Los Angeles; T. S. Uren, Compton; J. W. Van Cleave, Los Angeles; C. A. Weaver, Los Angeles; J. H. White, Tulare; G. W. White, Fall Brook; F. S. Woodcock, Florence; W. A. Wright, Pasadena; S. B. Woolport, Lancers; R. S. Badger, Goleta; S. G. Blanchard, Santa Barbara; Adam Bland, Lancaster; M. M. Bovard, Los Angeles; Geo. T. Bovard, San Gabriel; P. T. Bresser, Pasadena; A. W. Bunker, South Pasadena; E. S. Chace, San Diego; F. B. Cherrington, Los Angeles; D. Cobb, Los Angeles; M. F. Colburn, San Diego; Geo. L. Cole, Long Beach; W. G. Cowan, Ontario; H. L. Cox, East Los Angeles; H. J. Crall, Delano; H. J. Crist, Alhambra; J. D. Crumer, Los Angeles; W. L. Douglas, San Buena Ventura; G. N. Elwood, Long Beach; A. N. Fields, Santa Maria; S. J. Fleming, Los Angeles; J. B. Greene, Tulare; S. De Gulterson, Santa Paula; J. C. Gowen, Oceanside; J. H. Henry, Garden Grove; B. F. Hewlett, Poway; A. A. Holden, Otay; J. B. Holloway, Boyle Heights; E. Hoskyn, Elsinore; Isabel Hough, Los Angeles; J. O. Healey, Santa Paula; A. O. Williams, Los Angeles; J. O. Walberg, Los Angeles; E. F. Wolff, Whittier; J. E. Fischer, Moro; F. M. Morrill, Los Angeles; G. W. Wood, Covina.

CHURCH NOTES.

Rev. Dr. Russell, of the First Presbyterian church, has been feeling unwell for a few days back. Yesterday morning he was unable to conduct the services to their conclusion, and he dismissed the congregation shortly after 11 o'clock. It is not thought that Rev. Dr. Russell's illness is serious, but that it was produced by overwork. Rev. Mr. Russell occupied the pulpit at Dr. Russell's place at the evening service. The annual meeting of the Baptist Sunday School Convention will take place at San Diego Monday evening, October 7. The committee in charge have arranged a programme which will include carefully prepared essays and addresses on interesting topics appropriate to the occasion. A reduced rate for the round trip has been secured, and a generous hospitality will be provided for all Christian workers who attend. The Hebrew New Year will commence Wednesday night. The musical programme of the Reform congregation is under the direction of Professor Loeb. Bishop Wingfield will be here next Sunday to consecrate the Memorial Church of the Angels at Garvanza, which has been built by Mrs. Campbell-Johnston.

Rev. Dr. Pendleton was in his pulpit in Grand Opera House Hall as usual yesterday and gave in the evening another Gospel-land lecture on "Scenes Around Galilee." Rev. Dr. Frost, whose remarkable Bible readings last week in the First Baptist church created such wide-spread interest, preached for Dr. Pendleton in the morning a very impressive sermon on "The Wonderful Love of God." New members were added to this young church and it is proposed to convene a Recognition Council on the 7th of October. They also expect to occupy Glover Hall on Fort street near Temple for week-night services beginning tomorrow evening.

The Vacant Commissionership.

Among those who are backing D. E. Miles, of Boyle Heights, for Fire Commissioner, to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Frank Marsh, are E. P. Johnson, Germain Fruit Co., W. H. Ferry L. & Co., Morgan, Schroder, Johnson & Co., Hayden & Lewis Co., E. F. Spence, F. A. Gibson, H. Jenve, A. D. Smith, Warren & McLean, Conant & Johnson, Ben E. Ward, S. O. Houghton, Jr., W. W. Phelps, O. W. Krause, Boyt & Holmes, Childs & Sirent, R. W. Poindexter, Neustat & Pilet, Mead & Elsbach, Rust, Allen & Snyder, C. A. Sumner & Co., R. M. Thompson, Henry Lyndall, G. Bradber, R. G. Lunt, McNulty & Camfield, E. L. Blanchard, L. Butler, Bryan & Kelsey, Lam-bull & Bill, Pauby & Calkins, W. R. Burke, Kremer, Campbell & Co., W. W. Ross, Hellman, Haas & Co., W. J. Broderick, Miles D. Tillotson, Hy. D. Hinson, W. A. Bayage, Coleman & Childers, W. J. Fisher, Golsh & Baldwin, M. L. Sampson, Scott & Slocum.

Holiday Services.

Talmud Torah Congregation will hold their services at Masonic hall, South Spring street, commencing September 25th, 1889. Those wishing to secure seats can do so by calling on the Secretary at the White House Clothing Co., corner Spring and Franklin streets.

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AN IMPORTANT STEP.

The Reorganization of the Produce Exchange.

IT BEGINS ITS CALLS TODAY.

The Nature of the Institution—Good Work Which it Will Accomplish, Its Value to the Farmers.

This morning at 11 o'clock the Produce Exchange will meet in the rooms of the Board of Trade and resume calls. The institution is several years of age, and prior to the event of the boom was in a very flourishing condition. Its books still show a balance of nearly \$700 to its credit, with no liabilities. At the time the boom was at its fiercest the Exchange had forty-five members. A great many of these abandoned the regular daily calls to go into the real estate business, and in the unsettled condition of the markets which prevailed at that time, owing to the sudden and extraordinary increase in population, the remaining members found that they could do a very satisfactory business without relying upon the calls. For that reason the Exchange fell into a state of innocuous desuetude.

The effort to resume calls, which practically means the re-organization of the Exchange, has at last been successful. During the period while the Exchange was dormant, a number of efforts were made to revive it, but in each instance they failed. A good deal of credit attaches to the President, General John R. Mathews, and the small committee that aided him, for the work which they have accomplished in bringing in new members and arousing the old. The organization begins work today with a membership of seventy-six, which it is very probable will soon swell to a hundred. It contains all the principal commission produce dealers and wholesale houses that handle agricultural articles, as well as several banks and a number of individuals doing miscellaneous business or acting as agents for houses at a distance. General John R. Mathews will continue to act as President and T. H. Ward, the Secretary of the Board of Trade, will act as Secretary.

The meetings will be held every business day in the week at 11 o'clock in the morning, and the calls will commence about half an hour. Large blackboards have been prepared covering the walls of the room, on which the highest prices asked and offered for various articles of produce will be recorded. Unlike many of the organizations of a similar character in the great cities, the Produce Exchange does not deal in futures, and for that reason cannot be used for injurious speculation, nor to effect corners. All calls are for delivery within twenty-four hours. A committee of arbitration settles all disputes as to the terms of a contract and the quality of the produce sold, and in this way much litigation is avoided.

The prime great advantage in the existence of this Exchange—an advantage which will be shared not only by its members and the farmers who have produce to sell, but by the entire community—will be the establishment of definite market quotations for all articles produced in this vicinity. For some time past the local produce market has been in a lamentable state of chaos. The daily newspapers regularly present to their readers what purport to be the quotations obtained from local dealers. Some of the papers have been in the habit of obtaining all of their quotations in any one line of produce from a single firm. In many cases this fact is acknowledged in the column of local reports. The Herald has made an effort to obtain fair estimates by interviewing a number of rival dealers. Whichever method is used the result is very unsatisfactory, as frequent complaints prove. However honest a dealer may be in his intentions, he will naturally quote not at a true general market price, but merely at the figure which he at the time happens to be willing to give. Producers at a distance, who depend upon these reports, are apt to find themselves sadly misled. Cases are numerous where farmers coming in town with produce which they had hoped to sell at the figure they had seen quoted, have spent the best part of the day in hunting for some one who stands ready to buy at that figure, and have then been compelled to dispose of their goods as best they might.

With the establishment of daily regular calls, from which definite quotations are obtained, the whole matter is simplified for the producer, the commission man and the retail dealer. The producer has in advance a figure which he can depend upon; he, owing to changes during the day, he can improve upon it, he is just that much ahead. The commission merchant keeps himself informed as to the condition of the market, and can both buy and sell to a better advantage. The retail dealer, also, has a basis upon which he can figure. In business transactions of this character, organization is of advantage to every one along the line from the original producer to the final consumer.

One of the reasons why the calls ceased several years ago was that agricultural production in this vicinity had considerably fallen off. The awakening of the Exchange will immediately bring to life the fact that during the last year the farmers have been getting down to work again, and that, except in very few respects, such as hoes, eggs and chickens, this section is producing enough for its own needs. With a proper distribution of all produce, through the medium of this Exchange, it is very probable that a considerable residuum will be found available for export. During the spring of the year, for example, this county ships a considerable quantity of potatoes, cauliflower and other vegetables to Arizona. With a better organization of the local market there can be increased and considerable gain made in other lines. The prospect is, therefore, that while the organization of the Produce Exchange will not increase prices to the consumer, it will occasion a better demand, which is to the advantage of the farmer.

The impression is very common among farmers that organizations like the Produce Exchange are in the habit of effecting combinations which tend to the disadvantage of the producer. This is a mistake which the experience of the farmers of this vicinity during the time while there were no calls has probably corrected. Efforts have been made from time to time to effect a union of the farming interests. In the Produce Exchange there is such a union, for it is to the advantage of all of its members to obtain the largest quantity of goods possible at the lowest price, and at the highest figure that can be obtained.

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