

little pups are calling for their mothers and gradually starving to death. In 1896, 16,000 pups were starved on St. George and St. Paul Islands.

Under the supervision of a government officer, only males, two and three years old, are allowed to be killed. This plan has steadily increased the herd until about 1883 when the pelagic sealers began to kill the seals indiscriminately.

The young male seals (holostiak), from which the annual quota of skins are obtained, gather in places entirely separate from the breeding grounds. The drives are made during the months of July and August. Early in the morning several natives slip quietly in between the seals and the sea shore. Then it is an easy task to drive them to the nearest killing-grounds, where the eligible seals are despatched. The skull is so thin that a sharp blow with a hard-wood club is sufficient to kill them. The pelts are then removed by the native skinners, who are remarkably quick and sure in their work.

The sea-lion also visits these islands annually. While the meat of the fur-seal furnishes a supply of food for the natives, the various parts of the sea-lion are put to uses that are somewhat peculiar. The skins are deftly sewed together and made into boats, bidarrahs as they are called. The throats of the sea-lion are distended, cleaned and allowed to dry. Then they are used as boot-tops, the soles being made of the flippers. The intestines are treated similiarly and sewed into rain-garments (kamlickas). The stomach walls, when distended and dried, serve to hold dried seal-meat, to be used during the winter.

Vast numbers of sea-fowl—auks, arries, parrots, gulls, etc., build their nests every year on the cliffs surrounding the islands. Walrus Island, which is merely a large basaltic rock, was literally covered with these birds and their eggs.

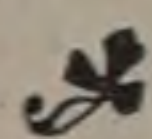
The "Bear" returned from the North about the middle of October and by the 25th we were on our way homeward. Seattle was safely reached, November 9th, after an uneventful voyage across the Pacific.

"Unsubstantial as a dream
Does my lone Mist-Island seem,
With its flower-bespangled moss.
Wet by wayward waves that toss
Flotsam from the farthest lands
Over Zoltoi's shining sands,
While the mist still broods above;
Sleep-cap of the Pribilof!"

CHAS. H. ROESCH.



Explanation of Views



No. 1. Killing-scene on St. Paul Island, June 23d. Out of the 1,200 seals driven that morning, over 700 were killed. The others were allowed to return to the sea.

No. 2. Killing-scene on St. George Island late in October. Several hundred seals were killed for food; the native-women cut the meat into strips, and allowed it to dry in the open air. Then it was packed in the stomach walls of the sea-lions.

No. 3. The native-skinners are very quick and dexterous in the use of the skinning knife. The usual time taken to remove a pelt is from one to two minutes.

No. 4. This picture shows the landing at St. George Island, with the village to the right.

No. 5. A native family. The characteristic features of the native, as can be seen in the picture, are the small, wide-set eyes, high cheek-bones, straight black hair and brownish-yellow complexion.

No. 6. St. Paul Village.

No. 7. The greater part of the shore-line of the islands is of such basaltic formation as shown in the picture. By long continued action of the waves and the ice in the winter, large blocks of lava are loosened and gradually rounded into boulders.

No. 8. The male seal generally weigh from 600 to 700 pounds, and are remarkably quick in their movements. They can travel over the rocks very fast, but only for a short distance.

No. 9. A view of the harbor and the two villages Unalaska and Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Peninsula. Unalaska is the headquarters of the revenue cutter fleet in the summer.

No. 10. The sea-lions, several thousands of which visit the Pribilofs each year, are immense creatures, of a tawny, yellowish color and weighing about 1,200 to 2,000 pounds. Their skin is worthless except for use in making the native boats (bidarrahs).

No. 11. Apollon Bowedurfsky, one of the more intelligent natives, was formerly the chief.

No. 12. Bering Sea is almost continually covered with banks of heavy fog. The rainy-day suits used by the party were little used, as the weather was exceptionally good during the summer. The temperature ranged from 40 to 55 degrees.

No. 13. The survey-party.

No. 14. The revenue-cutter fleet consists of five boats very much like the "Bear." They are comparatively small boats and can roll and pitch at the least provocation, as we soon noticed.