

Q. What has become of this property? A. I turned it over to the United States marshal at Sitka, and it is now in his custody.

JOHN U. RHODES.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 9th }
day of September, A.D. 1886, after having }
been read over by me to deponent. }

[Seal.]

ANDREW T. LEWIS, *Clerk U. S. District Court.*

J. H. DOUGLAS, being duly sworn, deposes and says:—

Q. State your name, age and occupation? A. J. H. Douglas; am over the age of 21 years; am a pilot in the revenue marine service of the United States, and have been so for the seven years last past. I am now, and on the first of August, 1886, was pilot on the revenue steamer "Corwin."

Q. State what occurred on the last named day in connection with the schooner "Thornton?" A. We sighted a boat on our port bow and soon after saw another boat; steamed to the first boat and ordered her to come alongside, which she did. The name "Steamer Thornton" was on the stern of the boat. There were two or three men in the boat with arms, and six or eight dead fur seal which had the appearance of having been lately killed. I asked the men what luck they had had. One of them replied: "We have six or eight, but not as good as some days." We took possession of the boat and contents by order of Captain Abbey. We then picked up the second boat, finding it engaged in the same business; then we sighted a schooner drifting without sail or steam, which proved to be the steam schooner "Thornton." On coming up with her she was seized, by order of Capt. Abbey, and taken in tow. We then picked up two more boats belonging to the "Thornton," having dead fur seal on board. This was in Behring Sea, about 65 miles south-east from St. George's Island, and about 500 or 600 miles to the eastward of the western boundary line of Alaska territory.

Q. State what experience you have had in the fur sealing business, and your knowledge of the habits of the fur seal? A. I have been cruising for more than fifteen years off and on in Alaskan waters, always as an officer or pilot, and have visited the Pribiloff Islands, St. Paul and St. George, several hundred times, and am perfectly familiar with the sealing business as conducted on those islands and understand the migrating habits of the fur seals. From about the 1st of May to about the 1st of July of each year the fur seal is migrating north and mostly through the Unimak and Akutan Passes to these islands for breeding purposes. They go to no other place in the known world except these islands and Copper Island for breeding purposes.

After the breeding season of about a month they begin to migrate south and until November of each year are migrating south through Behring Sea. During this season, from May till November, the fur seal are plenty in the waters adjoining the Pribiloff Islands, and are migrating to and from these islands, and are at all times very plenty between Unimak Pass and said islands, in a track about thirty miles wide, which seems to be their highway to and from said islands. The schooner "Thornton" and her boats when seized were directly on this track.

J. H. DOUGLAS,

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th }
day of September, A.D. 1886, having been }
read over by me to deponent. }

[Seal.]

A. T. LEWIS, *Clerk U. S. District Court.*