

ern methods of steamers and steam launches, they are seldom found outside a few favorably secluded spots. The steamer and the steam launch carry crews of white hunters into every nook and cranny on the coast and otter-hunting grounds where an animal is to be found, and every one of them is either killed or chased away from home—chased out to sea in many instances, where, if they happen to elude the hunter, they die of starvation, for they can not go down for food in deep water.

None but native hunters should be permitted to hunt sea otter, because it is almost the only support of all the native people from Cooks Inlet to Atton Island, and, if left to them exclusively, their simple methods of hunting on the water in skin boats, in which they dare not venture far from land, can not possibly drive the animal away from its customary haunts nor exterminate it.

I include in the term native hunters all whites who were married to Indian women prior to 1893, when the ruling was changed. The original ruling of the Department, made some twenty years ago, remained in force until 1893, and in the meantime many white hunters married native women, made homes, and raised families, and became natives of Alaska to all intents and purposes.

All their earthly possessions are invested in sea-otter hunting property, their families have been brought up to that business exclusively, the men themselves have made it their life work, and are now too old to change or to go away from home to attempt to make a living at any other business, and therefore it would be an act of gross injustice to disturb them at this late day. With the white man who married a native woman after the Department had given fair warning that he would not be given the rights of a native hunter the case is altogether different, and in his case the ruling of the Department ought to stand. The farther away from the native settlements the average Alaskan white hunter can be kept the better for the natives.

FUR SEALS.

Sailing from Sitka June 2, on board the U. S. revenue cutter *Rush*, Capt. C. L. Hooper commanding, I landed at St. George June 18, where I learned that the preceding winter had been one of unusual severity, that ice had lain around the island until June 15, and that, up to the date of my landing, very few female seals had appeared upon the rookeries.

The same story was repeated on St. Paul Island, where I spent the 19th and 20th of June visiting the principal rookeries and hauling grounds, after which I sailed away and visited many of the native settlements along the Aleutian chain, particulars of which will be given in my report on the condition of the native tribes.

I returned to the seal islands early in July and spent the 6th, 7th, and 8th on the rookeries observing their daily growth and expansion, as the cows were now arriving and the harems were well defined and the pups becoming numerous.

Being well aware of the fact, however, that it is not till about July 20 the rookeries are full for the season, I continued to follow the instructions which called me to other fields until July 18, when I returned to the seal islands, where, all being ready, I entered on the most careful and thorough inspection of the rookeries ever made by me. The result is shown in the inclosed table marked Exhibit A.

Beginning at St. Paul Island July 21, and completing the work at St. George August 14, I walked over the several rookeries and counted