

come upon which to found authoritative reports from year to year, as to any change, increase or diminution of the seal-life. It is therefore very important that the Government should have an agent in charge of these novel and valuable interests who is capable by virtue of education and energy, to correctly observe and report the area and position of the rookeries year by year.

Therefore, in the light of the foregoing you will observe, that although I was unable to detect myself, any danger to or diminution of the seal-life on the Pribylov Islands, after three seasons of close study in the field, ending with the season of 1874, yet I was deeply impressed with the need of an intelligent careful search, every year for the signs of or real existence of such danger : that I urged the Department to select men who were fit to make such a search, and who could be trusted to do it honestly and thoroughly. I made this request on the 16th of November, 1874, as I gave in my detailed report above cited to the Secretary of the Treasury, who ordered it published at once, and caused it to be widely circulated by the Department.

In 1872-1874 I observed that all the young male seals needed for the annual quota, of 75,000 or 90,000 as it was ordered in the latter year, were easily obtained every season, between the 1st of June and the 20th of July following, from the "hauling-grounds" of "Tolstoi," "Lukannon" and "Zoltoi Sands" — from these hauling-grounds adjacent to the "rookeries" or breeding-grounds of "Tolstoi," "Lukannon," "Reef" and "Garbotch." All of these points of supply being not more than one and a half miles distant from the St. Paul village killing grounds — the "Zoltoi" drive being less than 600 feet away.

At North-east Point on this island, Webster got all the seals desired towards filling the above cited quota of 90,000, from that sand reach between the foot of Cross Hill and the Big Lake sand-dunes on the north shore beach.

Then, that immense spread of hauling-ground covered by swarms of young male seals, at Zapadni, at South-west Point, at English Bay beyond Middle Hill, west, at Polavina, and over all that eight long miles of beach and upland hauling-ground between Lukannon Bay and Webster's House at Novostoshnah — all of this extensive sealing area was not visited by sealing gangs, or spoken of by them as necessary to be driven from.

Therefore, when attentively studying in 1872-1874, the subject of what was the effect of killing annually 100,000, young male seals on these islands (90,000 on St. Paul and 10,000 on St. George), in view of the foregoing statement of fact I was unable to see how any harm was