

where it is not likely to be sprung, except by the Otter's feet; secondly, the trap can generally be set and visited in a boat without disturbing the shore, or leaving foot-prints and scent about the "slide." A sliding-pole should be used.

Other trappers prefer to set the trap several feet from the shore, on the path which the Otter takes in ascending to the top of the "slide." It should be set in the same manner as I have described for taking the animal when coming on to the "slide," on a preceding page. J. P. Hutchins recommends this method.

THE SEA-OTTER.

Along the northern shores of the Pacific Ocean, especially in Kamtschatka and Russian America, another species of Otter exists, called the Sea-Otter or Kalan. It is much larger than the fresh water Otter, weighing from sixty to eighty pounds. During the colder months of the year this Otter dwells by the sea-shores, where it is very active in the capture of marine fish. When warm weather approaches, the Kalan leaves the coasts, and with its mate proceeds up the rivers till it reaches the fresh water lakes of the interior, where it remains till cold weather again approaches. It is a rather scarce animal and not very prolific. The head and body measure from three to four feet in length. The tail is about seven inches long. Their food consists of fish, crustacea, mollusks, &c. This Otter haunts sea-washed rocks, around bays and estuaries, lives mostly in the water, and resembles the seals more than the Otters in its habits. It is very timid, and prefers the neighborhood of islands where it can find both food and shelter.

The fur of the Sea-Otter is very beautiful and of great value. Its color is variable, but the general hue is a rich black, slightly tinged with brown on the upper parts of the body, while the under portions and legs are of a lighter hue. About the head there is occasionally more or less white. The principal market for the skins is in China, where they are greatly prized by the official classes.

I cannot learn that any method of trapping the Sea-Otter