

CHANGING ERAS.

Signs are not lacking pointing to trade, commerce, labor, finance and all industries, slowly yet steadily, adjusting themselves to changed conditions. It seems to be the history of civilized countries in general, that business depressions and also prosperity come in about so many years. In tracing these eras it must be admitted that they spring primarily from man's inventive brain. Take for instance steam as a motor and it revolutionized all business interests. By it the output of every article farmed and every article manufactured were largely increased and at the same time at a lessened cost. Transportation was influenced in a similar manner. Teams gave way to railways, and sailing vessels to steamers, thus annihilating space and time. With steam came improved machinery of every description, which also played an important part. These changed conditions naturally caused over production, trade depressions, financial disturbances and labor unrest with its twin brother, strikes, the order; all of which continued with more or less severity until contending forces had time to adjust themselves to the new order of things. Following steam came electricity. The catching and chaining of this ether to do man's work has brought about a new era notwithstanding its seeming infancy. As a motor it promises to out rival steam in cheapness and horse-power, while in other ways it is superceding the old order of things. By it distant points denied facilities for generating steam power at a low range of cost, are now placed in position to secure a motor much more powerful. With electricity comes improvements in machinery which act an important part in increasing the output of manufactured goods of every kind. As these cheapened under an over-supply, all industries, labor as well, felt its unfavorable influence, causing depressions and more or less demoralization along all lines. It is this, from which we appear to be emerging, but until idle labor thrown out of work by changed conditions find employment in other directions, unrest will still be the order; yet it would seem as if the new conditions are being slowly but surely accepted by all interests, and as this obtains, confidence returns and prosperity grows until another new era of productive forces are ushered in.—San Francisco Herald of Trade.

"KILL OFF THE SEALS!"

Disgruntled and disappointed because they cannot have a free hand with the seal of the Pacific coast, that the tribunal to which they referred their al-



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leged grievance against Great Britain has decided against them and that the regulations upon whose adoption they had counted so much have proved to be utterly disappointing, certain members of the U. S. Congress are endeavoring to promote legislation to provide for the killing of all the seal upon the Pribyloff islands. There is no pretension on the part of the promoter of the bill or the members of the Congress that the regulations have in any way been departed from, but while observing them to the letter, since their adoption the sealers have been able to take more seals than ever before. This, by the way, has been on the coast and in Behring Sea during the open season. A report on the subject written by Mr. Wilson, who takes the responsibility of advocating the massacre, shows that from the years 1886 to 1889, inclusive, the catch averaged about 103,000 seals yearly, it dropped to 25,701 in 1890 and to 14,406 in 1891, which is about 600 less than the catch for the last year. "We thus witness," the report adds, "a steady increase in the American herd of seals killed at sea year after year, accompanied by a steady decrease in the number taken on the Pribyloff islands, until the climax is reached in the season just expired, when more than 55,000 were killed at sea, as against 15,000 on the islands.

Special reference is made to the allegation that three-fourths of the pelagic catch were gravid female seals, while the island catch were carefully selected males. However this may be, the fact remains—

and it has been duly authenticated—that if female seals have been taken, many more of them have been discovered in the takes of the American sealers than in the far larger total catch of the British Columbia schooners. Throughout this miserable sealing matter our neighbors have manifested a meanness and disregard for truth and facts that is to their supreme discredit, and whether or not their general allegation be true that the race of seals is rapidly passing out, it is foolish for them having agreed to be bound by the findings of a tribunal to whose selection they were parties of the first part to propose to utterly destroy those which are to be found in their own waters. Even should Great Britain consent to the proposed alternative of another joint conference it is hardly likely that its members will endorse the pretensions of our neighbors, who bound themselves by the decisions of the Paris tribunal, but finding the results against them, now propose a sort of *coup de theatre*, which, however, it might succeed as between individuals is not the sort of thing to exercise an influence among nations. We have, however, only another demonstration of the lengths to which their avarice and greed will lead an otherwise respectable and generally considered honorable people.

When terrified, the ostrich is said to travel at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour and clears twelve to fourteen feet at a stride.