

people expected that, in accordance with the dictates of ordinary humanity, the seals would be allowed a little rest, if not for recreative, at least for procreative, purposes. This they are now going to get, so far at least as the fiat of the two nations can secure it to them. This is unquestionably as it should be, and humane people everywhere will approve the rule, even if it does incommode, to some degree, the sealers of this Province. The unquestionably tendency of the indiscriminate and unrestricted slaughtering of seals, which has been going on heretofore, was towards the ultimate extinction of the race of *phoca*, and should have been, long ago, stopped. The close time for seals is just as natural and just, as that assigned by statute for other hunted animals, and no better proof of this can be found than in the extinction of the buffalo in America, simply because, like the seal, its pelt was in demand.

As to the prohibition of the use of firearms, we are not sure that it is wise or reasonable, but we are quite sure that its enforcement will be found almost impossible. At any rate the patrolling cruisers, charged with its prevention, will find their hands full in preventing it. As to the contention of Professor Macoun that the ruling will practically kill sealing by white men, and give a monopoly of the business to Indians, because only an Indian uses a harpoon, it looks to us perilously near being an absurdity, for surely a white man can learn to use a harpoon as deftly as a Siwash. At least he does, or did, in whaling, and there seems no valid reason why he should not attain the same proficiency in the capture of seals by the same method. The objection to the use of firearms is the high percentage of seals, wounded by that means, which are lost, whereas, when once a hunter gets "fast" to a seal by the harpoon, the quarry is very sure to lose his fur. This provision, too, if it errs, does so on the side of mercy.

The United States, as we have said, utterly failed to make good any one of the legal points it raised, and the award is an undeniable slap in the face to the over-weening national self-confidence which is so characteristic of our cousins on the other side of the line. In this respect it is highly satisfactory, not only to Canada, but to all the other nations who have anything to do with Uncle Sam. Of course the result cannot be entirely, or even measurably, satisfactory to the sealers on this coast, because it touches their pockets, but we believe the grievance is only temporary, and that the men who have invested in the industry will, by and by, when they become accustomed to the new conditions, find the capture of seals and the sale of sealskins anything but an unprofitable business. Anyhow, it will be found much freer of risk than the smuggling of dope, and more substantial than laying traps to catch tourists.

An unexpected result of the award of the Arbitration Board has struck the North American Company, who are the lessees of the Pribyloff Islands from the United States Government, between wind and water. President Lloyd Tevis has been informed by Secretary Carlisle that the reductions of rental, to correspond with the enforced reductions of the catch, which the former administration allowed, were illegal, and the Company will have to pay an arrearage of \$289,718.16. "This is rough on the Company, but Uncle Sam cannot have his corns trod on by European arbitrators without having his revenge on somebody, and the Commercial Company will, no doubt, have to stand the brunt of the old gentleman's resentment. It is hard to see why the reductions made in the catch were not as illegal as the reductions in the rental of the rookeries, and why the Company should not be as much entitled to compensation for said reductions as the lessor is to the payment of the arrearages. Of

course there is some significance in the fact that California is, at present, and was, at last election, overwhelmingly Republican, so far as its business men were concerned; and in this other fact that the Americans will have a long bill of indemnities for illegal seizure of so-called "poachers" to meet, and, the balance of the Alabama award funds not being available, the money must be found somewhere.

Alderman Towler has for once landed on his legs—a fact that must be as surprising to himself as to us, seeing that he has, for some considerable time past, been exerting all his skill in the futile endeavor to stand on the head of him, and been bowled over, most ingloriously, every time. He is the putative parent of an amendment to the Market By-law, which shows more sound horse-sense than we ever gave the worthy alderman credit for possessing, and more than we feel inclined to credit him with even now. The object of the amendment is to put down Chinese peddling of vegetables from backdoor to backdoor. This is one of the "cheap-and-nasty" methods of patronizing the Mongol which, unfortunately, too many of our citizens indulge in, and which ought to be discountenanced emphatically. If the man who makes his living and has his home and family in this city has not sufficient sense to see that, in patronizing the Chinese, he is diverting just so much money to increase the resources of the Celestial Kingdom, and robbing himself and his fellow citizens of all chance to obtain any return, direct or indirect from what he expends for market produce, then he is on the same intellectual plane as the man who is said to have cut off his nose to spite his face, and stringent municipal legislation ought to be enacted to bring him to his senses. The aldermen who, it is understood, will, to-night, oppose the amendment ought to blush for their behavior in so doing, if they have not lost all sense of shame (which, by the way, we do not believe) in championing the Chinese, as they will do in their fight to "down" the Caucasian market gardener.

Of course, everybody understands that white men cannot possibly compete with the Chinese on equal terms, in this or any other class of industry. The Chinaman, by nature and habit, lives at a lighter cost than a white man can. He does not maintain a family; he pays nothing for the support of schools, for charity or any other good public object, and he is content to exist by paying the very smallest possible proportion of public expense. And all that he saves is sent to China. The white market gardener, on the contrary, has his home here, raises his family here, and contributes, liberally and intelligently, to the treasury of the community. Surely he is entitled to consideration and protection, apart altogether from the superior quality and cleanliness of the produce he markets.

Besides, the method of running the Market proposed is the only one by which it can be made really a market and not simply a general store. It is all nonsense to say that people at a distance will necessarily have to go to the Market for all their garden truck. There is no grocery store in any part of the city that would not keep the products of the white market gardeners on sale, if it paid them to do so, getting their supply from the Market. But so long as the peddling by Chinese is permitted it will not pay them to do so, nor will it pay market gardeners to pursue their avocation. It must be remembered that they (the gardeners) have a hard row to hoe. The early vegetables are supplied from California, and the money expended by our citizens goes there. When the products of our gardens in British Columbia are ready to market, the growers have to compete with the Chinese and the money paid to their rivals goes to China. The double drain is something surely worth considering, to say nothing