

NEWFOUNDLAND SEALS.

WHEREIN THEY DIFFER FROM THE BEHRING SEA PRODUCT.

The Value and Hoop of the Industry—A Plethora of Sealers—Statistics of Profits and Great Risks—Statistics of the Trade—The Various Species.

Rev. P. Touque lately gave the Canadian Institute, Toronto, an interesting account of the Newfoundland seal fishery. In the course of his paper he said that the seal fishery is one of the most important of the north-western coast of North America, and that it is the technical or scientific name given to the harp or half-moon seal. A young seal will weigh from 30 to 50 pounds, and an old seal from 80 to 200 pounds. It is calculated that the fat of 80 young seals will produce a ton of oil. The seal fishery is a constant scene of bloodshed and slaughter. Hear you behold a heap of seals writhing and craning the neck with their blood, rolling from side to side in dying agony. There you see another lot, while the last spark of life is not yet extinguished, being stripped of their skins and fat, their writhings and heaving marks upon the ice and in the water, and the sea is soiled with their blood. The seal fishery being prosecuted during the vernal equinox is rendered particularly dangerous, as it is a voyage of hope and fears, trials and disappointments, and the prosecution of it causes more anxiety, excitement and solicitude than any other business in the island. Sometimes the seals are sought after at a distance of from two to four miles from the vessel, over high rugged masses of ice, and during this toilsome journey the men have to jump from one piece of ice to another, across horrid chasms, where yawns the dark blue water ready to engulf them. Sometimes "blows," or waves caused by the action of the waves and covered with snow, is mistaken for hard ice, and the poor sealers leaping upon it are

in from 20,000 to 40,000 seals. A number of seals are taken in seal nets in winter and spring. A few years ago 150,000 seals were taken to the shore by persons who had walked on the ice in some of the northern bays of the island. Some years ago the ice was packed and jammed so tight that in some of the bays for several weeks the seals on it could find no opening to go down, and numbers of them crawled upon an island, when some people happened to land upon the island and discovered them: 1,500 seals were there slaughtered among the bushes. Seals have been known to travel several miles over land. The number of seals taken yearly on the coast of Newfoundland is from 400,000 to 600,000, producing, commercially, no less a sum than \$1,500,000. The seals are sold by weight, the old at from \$4 to \$5 per cwt. The young are sold at from \$2 to \$3 per cwt. The price, however, is regulated by the value of the oil in the British market. A young seal will weigh from 30 to 50 pounds, and an old seal from 80 to 200 pounds. It is calculated that the fat of 80 young seals will produce a ton of oil. The seal fishery is a constant scene of bloodshed and slaughter. Hear you behold a heap of seals writhing and craning the neck with their blood, rolling from side to side in dying agony. There you see another lot, while the last spark of life is not yet extinguished, being stripped of their skins and fat, their writhings and heaving marks upon the ice and in the water, and the sea is soiled with their blood. The seal fishery being prosecuted during the vernal equinox is rendered particularly dangerous, as it is a voyage of hope and fears, trials and disappointments, and the prosecution of it causes more anxiety, excitement and solicitude than any other business in the island. Sometimes the seals are sought after at a distance of from two to four miles from the vessel, over high rugged masses of ice, and during this toilsome journey the men have to jump from one piece of ice to another, across horrid chasms, where yawns the dark blue water ready to engulf them. Sometimes "blows," or waves caused by the action of the waves and covered with snow, is mistaken for hard ice, and the poor sealers leaping upon it are

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FACTS

The Horse Power of a Whale. The horse power of a whale has been made a subject of study by the eminent anatomist, Sir William Turner, of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in connection with the equally eminent Glasgow shipbuilder, John Henderson. The size and dimensions of a great humpbacked whale are given as follows: Length, 100 feet; girth, 20 feet; height, 10 feet; and weight, 100 tons. It is estimated that a whale can swim at a rate of 10 miles per hour, and that it can maintain this speed for 12 hours.

Handsome Spiders. The bodies of the spiders of Ceylon are very handsomely decorated, being bright gold or scarlet underneath, while the upper part is covered with the most delicate slate colored fur. So strong are the webs that birds the size of larks are frequently caught therein, and even the small but powerful scaly lizard falls its victim. A writer says that he has often sat and watched the yellow monster—measuring, when waiting for his prey, with his legs stretched out, fully six inches—striding across the middle of the net, and noted the rapid manner in which he winds his stout threads round the unfortunate captive.

Better Than a Post Card. A new "letter card" has just been issued by the British postoffice. It is a copy of our letter sheet idea, and is spoken of as filling "a much-felt want." The idea is as follows: It is a card of the size of a post card, and is printed with a letter. The letter card simply folds once across the middle, and the edges can be gummed down. The space available for writing is 6 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches.

Why She Lost Her Teeth. A contributor to a New York paper says: "I met a hotel chambermaid the other day whose lower teeth were nearly all missing. She had a singular case. She had been for a great many years in the habit of holding the pillow in her teeth while she drew up the covers. She was so used to this that she lost her teeth gradually, and it resulted in the loosening and gradual loss of those teeth upon which the strain was the greatest."

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TORONTO POSTAL GUIDE—DURING THE month of April, 1892, units used are as follows:

Table with columns for units used and rates for various locations including G.T.R. East, G.T.R. West, G.T.R. N.W., G.T.R. S.W., G.T.R. N.E., G.T.R. S.E., U.S.A., U.S.W., U.S.N.Y., U.S.Western States.

English mails close on Mondays and Thursdays at 4 and 10 p.m. The following are the latest London mails for April: 7, 11, 14, 15, 21, 28, 29.

There are Branch Post Offices in every part of the city. Residents of each district should transmit their Savings Bank and Money Order Business at the Local Office nearest to their residence, taking care to notify these correspondents to make orders payable at such Branch Post Office.

T. G. PATTERSON, P. M.