

It has been estimated that 16,000,000 seals haul out annually on St. Paul, and 3,000,000 on St. George Islands. The Commercial Alaska Company controls these and other islands by lease from the American and Russian Governments. I am of opinion, that many fur seal pup on kelp fields along the British Columbia coast. I have had reliable information from practical hunters and fishermen, who bear me out on this point. Morris Moss, of Victoria, states that during the year 1870, he was engaged trading on the coast near Bella Bella during the months of March and April, when he saw hundreds of fur seal pups from three to five months old, which had become separated from their mothers, and on account of a heavy storm were blown on shore, and caught by the natives. Captain Alexander McLean, of Victoria, states that he killed a number of fur seal pups off Cape Cook, which had likewise been blown ashore during a storm. James G. Swan's report for 1880 and 1883, goes to show that the Indians of Cape Flattery, capture fur seal pups each season, and keep them as pets around the camps. It is impossible that these pups may have come from Behring Sea at that age, as Mr. Elliott states they do not leave the Islands before the month of November, and those that Mr. Swan speaks of are caught early in the spring. The majority of our hunters contend that, there are over 7 per cent. of pups in the entire catch of fur seals on the coast; while in Behring Sea the catch does not exceed 1 per cent. But, they cannot deny the fact, that over 60 per cent. of the entire catch of Behring Sea is made up of female seals.

DOG-FISH.

These are still found in the bays and inlets of this coast in countless numbers, but, so far, they have not been utilized as a food fish. The supply of oil which is principally extracted from them has decreased by 43,000 gallons; the Skedigate oil factory falling short of 10,000. The oil from those fish is growing more in favor, and prices are looking up, with indications of a firmer market.

WHALES.

None of our vessels have ventured in this business, and until there are more ships and greater competition in sealing, I don't think it will be attempted.

TROUT.

These fish find a ready sale in the markets of this Province, and as the demand increases they are more fished for. They are not very plentiful in the rivers of the coast, but are so in the interior lakes and streams. Constant fly fishing in the summer by whitemen, netting and spearing by Indians and the use of explosives by Chinese will, I apprehend, cause them great injury. With an officer on each stream in this country it would even be a difficult thing to guard them.

The introduction of speckled trout in Kamloops, Shuswap and Okanagan Lakes would be a great benefit to that district.

WHITEFISH.

On referring to my reports for 1886 and 1887, it will be noticed that I mentioned the existence of whitefish in some of our lakes; but I learn from Mr. Max M. Mowat, who made an examination of the interior last summer, that they were few in numbers and inferior in quality. I have already recommended the planting of eastern whitefish in the Shuswap, Kamloops and Okanagan Lakes, and am satisfied they would do well there.

MIXED FISH.

Herring were consumed in about the same quantity as during the previous seasons.

Tooshqua (*Cultis cod*)—The numbers taken are in excess of the previous season, owing to a better local demand.