

slides, and gave interesting facts regarding the habits and life-history of the seals.

When the Russians first visited the seal islands descriptive words were coined for animals of the two sexes and various ages. The breeding males were called "old bulls"; the females, "cows"; the non-breeding males, "holluschickie" or bachelors; and the young seals "pups." The old bulls live to a considerable age and attain great size, animals weighing 600 pounds or over being not uncommon. The cows are much smaller, seldom weighing more than 100 pounds. The males reach maturity when six or seven years old, the females the second year. Seals are polygamous animals, each male gathering around him as many females as he can secure. The average size of the harems, as they are called, was in 1914 sixty. As the sexes are born in about equal numbers, it is evident that a very considerable percentage of the male life may be taken without injury to the main herd providing a sufficient surplus is left to furnish scope for the working out of natural selection.

While the fur-seals are born on the land their natural element, of course, is the water and there they spend the greater part of their lives and secure their food. At the present time the fur-seals which go in the summer to the Pribiloff and Commander islands are distributed over the North Pacific Ocean south of the Aleutian Islands, the main body of the so-called American herd living off the coasts of Washington, Vancouver Island and southern Alaska, but even when their numbers were greater not many were seen from ships. The distribution depends chiefly, of course, on the food supply, which is made up chiefly of surface fishes and squid. They have frequently been found as far south as San Francisco. When pelagic sealing was at its height the schooners left Victoria and other ports about the month of March or later, the date of sailing depending upon the willingness of the hunters and boatmen to brave the storms of winter and early spring. As the seals moved north they approached the coast, one of the favorite hunting grounds being just north of Sitka where they were found in large numbers. Following the coast north and west and travelling quickly from one feeding ground to another the first seals reach the Pribiloff Islands towards the end of April, the adult females and older bachelors arrive there early in June, the two-year-olds mainly in July and the yearlings in the latter part of August and September. While on the islands the old bulls do not feed at all. In fact from the day they arrive and take up the station of their choice they neither eat nor drink until they return to the sea in September or later. During this time they not only take part in continual fights but exercise an almost perfect control over their harems, no "cow" being allowed to leave until she has been fertilized. The "cows" do not usually come ashore until they are about to give birth to their