

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act respecting extra-judicial oaths.

Declared before me at Victoria, in the )  
Province of British Columbia, this ) ABEL DOUGLASS.  
16th day of November, 1893. )  
[Seal.] A. R. MILNE.

*Collector of Customs.*

#### APPENDIX No. 20.

DECLARATION OF OTTO BUCHOLZ, MASTER OF THE SEALING SCHOONER "CASCO," 1893.

Port of Victoria, )  
British Columbia. }

I, Otto Bucholz, of the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, Dominion of Canada, do solemnly, declare that:—

My first experience in the sealing business was in 1890. That year I went along the coast and into Behring Sea, as sailing master of the schooner "Minnie."

In 1890, I went sealing in the same localities as master of the schooner "Sea Lion" I was warned out of Behring Sea.

In 1892, I went to same places in the "Sea Lion," as master.

This year, 1893, as master of the schooner "Casco," I visited the Japan coast and the waters around Komandorsky Islands on a seal hunting voyage.

I cleared from Victoria on the 18th January, leaving the vicinity of Vancouver Island on the 3rd of February, and shaped my course direct for the Japan coast, arriving off that coast on the 27th March, my position being  $33^{\circ} 15'$  north latitude,  $142^{\circ} 59'$  east longitude, off the Island of Nipon. I cruised up the coast in search of seals until the 18th day of April, when I put into Akishi, Yesso Island, having picked up a few seals on the road. I left Akishi on the 21st day of April, and on the 24th I began sealing in latitude  $40^{\circ} 31'$  north, and longitude  $143^{\circ} 42'$  east. I continued sealing on the Japan coast with success up to the 21st day of June, upon which date I took my last seals on the Japan coast. On that day my position was: latitude  $43^{\circ} 25'$  north, longitude  $146^{\circ} 28'$  east. During my stay on the Japan coast, after I began sealing (24th April) my positions ranged between  $39^{\circ}$  and  $43^{\circ}$  north latitude and  $142^{\circ}$  and  $146^{\circ}$  east longitude. The seals taken along this coast were got at distances from 40 to 45 miles off shore. The majority of my catch were males. I have never seen so many male seals as this year. Females in pup were taken all along, but of course they were heaviest towards the end.

Off Yesso Island, we took several adult barren females. These females were not with pup nor had they pupped, as they did not show the least sign of milk. There is no doubt but that they were barren cows. If it had occurred to me to notice this point particularly, I believe I could have observed quite a percentage of this class of seal all along.

On the 19th day of July, I sighted Copper Island about 40 miles distant. On the 23rd day of July, I got my first seals off the Komandorsky Islands, my position being latitude  $53^{\circ} 36'$  north, longitude  $167^{\circ} 01'$  east. The last seal I took in this neighbourhood was on the 21st day of August, in latitude  $53^{\circ} 59'$  north, longitude  $168^{\circ} 28'$  east, and between these dates my positions varied from  $53^{\circ}$  to  $55^{\circ}$  north latitude and  $163^{\circ}$  to  $169^{\circ}$  east longitude.

Of the seals taken off the Komandorsky Islands, fully one half were males and in a very poor and starved condition.

I cannot say as to the different stages of condition of females in milk, as it never struck me to observe this at the time.

I have no knowledge of any "banks" to the southward of the Komandorsky Islands. Last year when there was no limit around the islands, I was as close as fifteen miles, and as far as one hundred miles from the islands. This year I kept off an average distance of (45) forty-five miles, and I never found any banks; although I have sounded trying for bottom fish, I have never been able to get soundings with 120 fathoms of line. All the sealers I have spoken to on the subject have had the same experience. Fresh fish is a luxury on board a sealer on so long a voyage, and we all try for fish. This applies also to the Japan coast, where the seals are taken entirely out of soundings.

My experience this year as to the migration route of the seals to the Komandorsky Islands, is that I met them in April and May, along the coast off Nipon, at a distance of between (20) twenty and (70) seventy miles. I lost the herd in the latter end of June off Sikotan, about the beginning of the Kuriles.

I can tell a seal that has come off the islands by the discoloration of the hair on the belly, and by the condition of the flippers. The flippers of a seal long at sea are