

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

WILLIAM D. BYERS.

Declared before me at Victoria, British  
Columbia, this 18th day of November,  
1893.

[Seal.] A. R. MULNE,  
Collector of Customs.

#### APPENDIX No. 19.

DECLARATION OF ABEL DOUGLAS, MASTER OF THE SEALING SCHOONER "ARIETAS," 1893.

Port of Victoria, {  
British Columbia. }

I, Abel Douglas, 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 as master of the schooner "Triumph;" in which vessel I went sealing along the coast in 1881, 1882 and 1883. In 1886, I went as a hunter in the schooner "Challenge," sealing along the coast. In 1887, I went as hunter in the same vessel along the coast and to the North Pacific Ocean. In 1888 and 1889, I went to the North Pacific Ocean and Behring Sea, as hunter on board the "Annie C. Moore." In 1890, I went to the same waters as a hunter in the schooner "Triumph." In 1891, I was master of the schooner "May Bell," and went to the North Pacific Ocean and Behring Sea, being warned out of Behring Sea under the *modus vivendi*. In 1892, I went to the North Pacific Ocean and to the waters around Copper Island, as master of the schooner "Arietas;" and this year, 1893, as master of the same vessel, I went to the Japan coast and to the waters around Komandorsky Islands.

I cleared from the Port of Victoria on the 6th day of February and sailed direct to the Japan coast, reaching Yokohama on the 26th day of March. I left Yokohama on the 1st day of April, and took my first seals on the Japan coast on the 7th day of that month, in latitude 37° 35' N., longitude 144° 33' E. The last seals I got on that coast were taken on the 24th day of June, in latitude 44° 07' N., longitude 147° 30' E. Between these dates, and along that coast, my positions ranged from 37° 28' N., latitude to 44° 07' N., latitude and from 143° 00' to 147° 30' east longitude.

The seals taken on the Japan coast were principally young seals—about half male and half female—early in the season. The females were virgin seals which had not yet bred. This was in April. Later on I got more females, a large number of them being in pup. There were also quite a number of barren females, adults, having no young or no show whatever of milk. This was in June off Yesso Island. I also got young males and females non-breeders in this vicinity. There are more of this latter class of seals taken on the Japan coast than on the American side.

I left Nikotan on the 24th day of June for the waters around Komandorsky Islands, arriving off Copper Island on the 10th July.

The first seals I took in this vicinity were got on the 13th day of July, in latitude 53° 20' N., longitude 168° E. The last seals taken in these waters were got on the 5th day of September in latitude 52° 41' N., longitude 169° 26' E.; my positions between these dates ranging from latitude 53° to 54° N., longitude 166° 51' to 169° 26' E.

The seals secured around Copper Island were mixed cows and males. I cannot say what percentage there was of females but there were a few more than males, and a large number of non-breeding seals—young males and females.

I noticed particularly that of the females taken, comparatively few had a full flow of milk, these being the first caught. Most of the females which had a show of milk were drying up, and I am of opinion that their pups must have been weaned.

Towards the end of the season the milk had almost entirely dried up, the slightest traces only being observable.

I know of no "banks" to the southward of Copper Island. I have tried for fish but could get no soundings. In some places, the water sometimes has the appearance in colour as though soundings existed, and this doubtless accounts for any reports as to "banks." There are plenty squid and salmon off the island in July and August. Most of the seals are taken from 45 to 60 miles off.

In the stomachs of both male and female seals, I have frequently found a variety of fish—squid, small fish similar to herring, and salmon.