

neck, long sleeves, ankle length.

\$1.70 suit. Friday, Saturday \$1.39 and Monday .....

BARRETTES-A nice assortment of Hair

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YOUNG MENS OVERCOATS

## Are the Seals Decreasing

It would appear that our scaling masters differ in their opinion as to the gradual decrease in the number of seals on our coast during the past twenty-five or thirty springs. Some maintain that they are as plentiful as ever if they could get at them. This is a question that should occupy the minds of our sealing masters, as well as the Government. For our part we firmly believe that they have very considerably decreased, and further that this decrease was foreseen by many of our old seal-killers as far back as half a century ago. It is a regrettable fact that very few of our famous seal-killers in the old days left any records as to the movements of the seals at different seasons of the year. For instance, where do they go in summer time? Do they have more than one young one, and do they pup twice a year? We distinctly remember one of the most famous, experienced and educated of our old sealing masters who stoutly maintained that he had known two seals to be whelped by the mother seal, and further that he was convinced that they had their young twice a year-first on our coast and later further North, perhaps, in the vicinity of Spitzbergen. He maintained that they did not carry their young for eleven months, and all sealers were aware that they coupled in April, when returning North. This famous veteran kept a most interesting account of his experience for many years, but, when he passed away, those left after him did not value his knowledge, and the books were lost, which we consider a national calamity.

What gives strength to our belief that all the seals do not deposit their young on the ice at, or near the same time, is, in speaking to the late Hon. Dr. Skelton, some years ago, he informed us that a man named Pond, saw young harps whitecoats on the ice, at Labrador, in June. And further we have been informed on reliable authority that the Esquimaux on Northern Labrador stated to our informant that they killed young harps about the 25th and last of March, at the same time our steamers were getting their trips in the neighborhood of Cape John. This goes to show that the young seals are not confined to one patch, but that there are several such, in addition to the elusive "main patch" of the past few years.

For several years we have had steamers going to the far North, such as Hudson's Bay, Greenland, etc., but, as far as we know, it never occurred to any person to make enquiries as to the movements of the seals in that direction, or if any knowledge had been received there from whalers and others who frequented these waters. Perhaps it may not be too late to seek such information now, although if the prophecy of one of our most experienced and successful seal-killers and master mariners had anything in it, we fear that all attempts will fail. Anyhow the following letter, written forty-eight years ago, will prove that



with embroidered voke 1 collar.

Monday .....

\$1.90. Friday, Saturday and \$1.67

LADIES' NIGHTGOWNS-Cream Flannel-

Saturday and

AUSTRALIAN BLANKETS-

Monday .....

1.48

WHITE CURTAIN MUSLINS

-A couple of pieces of

Pure White Muslins, a