

## BEHRING SEA CLAIMS COMMISSION.

A return furnished the U.S. House of Representatives in 1896 gives a statement of the number of seals taken for all purposes on the seal islands during the years 1870 to 1889, both inclusive, together with the respective amounts paid by the lessees each year as rental and tax for the privilege; \* as also the number of seals taken by the lessees of said islands since 1890, the amounts received by the Government from the said lessees in return for the privilege of taking seals on the islands, and the amounts which remain due to the Government and unpaid by the lessees on account of this privilege during the same years.†

The figures showing the catch of seals on the part of pelagic sealers sailing from British Columbia, and contained in the last report of the Canadian Department of Marine and Fisheries, are: in 1889, 35,310; 1890, 43,325; 1891, 52,365; 1892, 49,743; 1893, 70,592; 1894, 95,048; 1895, 73,614.

It was in 1886 that the United States attempted to assert

* Year.	Seals taken.	Rental and tax.	Year.	Seals taken.	Rental and Tax.
1870.....	23,773	\$101,080 00	1880.....	105,718	\$317,594 50
1871.....	102,960	322,863 38	1881.....	105,063	316,885 75
1872.....	108,819	307,181 12	1882.....	99,812	317,295 25
1873.....	109,177	327,081 25	1883.....	79,509	251,875 00
1874.....	110,555	317,494 75	1884.....	105,434	317,400 25
1875.....	106,460	317,584 00	1885.....	105,024	317,489 50
1876.....	94,657	291,155 50	1886.....	104,521	317,452 75
1877.....	84,310	253,255 75	1887.....	105,760	317,500 00
1878.....	109,323	317,447 50	1888.....	103,304	317,500 00
1879.....	110,511	317,400 25	1889.....	102,617	317,500 00

† Year.	Seals taken.	Amounts paid.	Amounts due and unpaid.
1890.....	20,995	\$269,673 88	\$47,403 00
1891.....	13,482	46,749 23	133,628 64
1892.....	7,549	23,972 60	108,686 52
1893.....	7,500	.....	132,187 50
1894.....	16,031	.....	214,298 37
1895.....	15,000	.....	204,375 00