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Closed Season for Alaska Fur Seal

Interesting Data on its Effects—Views
of Dr. Evermann

The Japanese fur seal herd is found on Robben reef in the sea of Behring and the Kurile islands and numbers about 7,000. The Russian herd breeds on the Bering and Copper islands off the coast of Kamchatka and was estimated in 1911 to contain about 24,000 seals. The Alaska fur seal breeds on the Pribilof islands in Bering sea and its pelt is regarded as superior to either the Japanese or Russian. In 1918, there were 530,492 seals in the Pribilof herd as compared with 127,745 in 1911 and 2,250,000 in 1873.

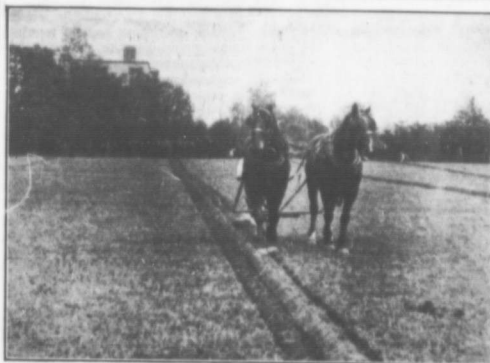
From the discovery of the Pribilof islands in 1786 till they passed under the control of the Russian-American Co. in 1799, the seal herd was exploited without any thought of conservation. This company carried on its operations until Alaska was sold to the United States in 1867. From 1870 to 1890, the Alaska Commercial Co. possessed the privilege of killing a maximum of 100,000 seals per annum. In 1890, the islands were leased to the North American Commercial Co., without any limitation as to number killed except that, in 1890, it was not to exceed 50,000.

The Alaska seal spends the winter on the coast of California, migrating in the spring to its breeding grounds on the Pribilof islands and returning to California in the autumn.

In the late "eighties" it was discovered that the Alaska seal could be profitably hunted during a northward migration. It has been estimated that, from 1890 to 1897, about 5,700,000 seals were killed in this pelagic sealing and 50,268 were killed on the Japanese, Russian and Pribilof islands, for a total of about 6,050,000. While the estimate of the number killed in pelagic sealing may be too high, there can be no doubt as to the reduction of the seal population of the Pribilofs.

In 1893, the Paris Tribunal drew up regulations prohibiting British and United States subjects from killing seals within a radius of 60 miles from the Pribilofs. Other nations, particularly Japan, how-

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AT CHATHAM, ONT., EXPERT PLOUGHMEN SHOWED THEIR SKILL AT CHATHAM, ONT., PLOUGHING MATCH

PLOUGHING MATCH IN WESTERN ONTARIO

The genuine revival of interest in ploughing competitions was clearly demonstrated by the very successful match recently held at Chatham for the benefit of Western Ontario. The large attendance of 30,000 augurs well for the future of the agricultural interests of this Province. Very great interest was manifested in the tractor demonstration. No doubt the fact that a certain degree of novelty still attaches to this up-to-date method of ploughing, also that the business instincts of prospective purchasers of tractors were awake, had much to do with this comparative turning aside from the work of the horse-drawn ploughs. Nevertheless, the skill displayed by the men between the handles showed that the old art of ploughing is still alive. The accompanying illustrations show scenes taken at the Chatham match in both tractor and horse-drawn classes.



AT CHATHAM, ONT., A LARGE CROWD OF FARMERS TOOK KEEN INTEREST IN THE DEMONSTRATION OF MODERN PLOUGHING MACHINERY

Unearned Increment Tax is Suggested

Four Alberta Cities Propose Levy of
One Half of Rise in Price of
Outlying Land

As a result of proposals submitted to the Alberta cities of Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat by the Town Planning Adviser of the Commission of Conservation, definite progress has been made by these cities in formulating city planning schemes to deal with the problems of assessment and taxation in their outlying subdivisions. The matter is very complicated and involves discussion of numerous overlapping details in connection with city administration. In spite of this fact a clear and definite policy has been settled between the four cities. Should their views prevail and schemes be inaugurated on the lines they have approved, they will be responsible for carrying out an interesting experiment of far-reaching importance.

The question now rests with the Public Utilities Commissioners of the Province and it is hoped that they will have the courage to put the matter to the test.

The proposals of the four cities are outlined in resolutions, passed by each city, which may be summarized as follows:

1. Each city is to be divided into an inner, or residential, area and an outer, or agricultural, area; the boundaries of these areas are to be fixed by the city, with due regard to present and future development and subject to the approval of the Utilities Board.

2. No new plans of subdivisions are to be permitted in the agricultural area except in cases where land is ripe for building, the idea being to encourage cancellation of existing subdivisions where they have been promoted for purely speculative purposes; no utilities except those required for engineering or general public reasons are to be extended into the agricultural area; the lands in the agricultural area are to be assessed at their real value for agricultural or similar purposes; such assessment is not to exceed \$200 per acre for a period of five years. Further, a reduction of not more than 40 per cent is to be made in the tax rate for lands in the agricultural area, no reduction on back taxes being made, although an extension of

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