

13. United States Department of Commerce publication entitled: "Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries in 1932," by Ward T. Bower.

14. Letter directed to Dr. Thompson, Director, International Fisheries Commission, Seattle, Wash., from Canadian Halibut Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, Prince Rupert, B.C.

15. Exchange of correspondence showing cost of operation of vessels patrolling in Pacific waters in connection with the Pelagic Sealing Treaty.

### PELAGIC SEALING

1. Dealing with the pelagic treaty first, the Committee, after hearing the evidence of the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and two dealers in seal furs, concluded that this treaty, signed at Washington on July 7th, 1911, by Great Britain, the United States of America, Russia and Japan, had accomplished its chief object, namely, the building up of a large and satisfactory seal herd.

2. Although the herd was on the verge of commercial exhaustion in 1911, this agreement by the elimination of all pelagic sealing by the nationals of the countries a party to it, except the seals taken for food along their shores by natives, brought back the herd to something of its original size.

3. Some evidence of a general character was given regarding the expense of the Canadian patrol of seals on their Northward journey to the Pribilof Islands each spring, and the Committee wonder why this should be necessary on Canada's part, since the treaty itself only mentions specifically the United States of America, Japan, and Russia, the three countries owning the breeding grounds, as parties to maintain such guard or patrol.

4. Regarding the destruction of salmon by the seal herd, although the greater part of the evidence seemed to point to little danger for our salmon fisheries from this cause, the opinion of the Committee is that our Biological Board or Fisheries Department should make further inquiry into this matter by the examination of a much larger number of seal stomachs secured from our own Indians than had formerly been investigated, so as to make certain what amount of salmon, if any, go to make up the diet of seals.

5. Although the co-operative sale of Canada's 15 per cent of the seal skins, along with those of the United States Government, and Japan's, through American channels for a number of years seemed fair and reasonably profitable under the then prevailing conditions, the Committee favour the present method of forwarding the skins to London for processing, and would, if practicable, prefer to see the treaty literally carried out by Canadian agents or authorities securing our allotment of skins on the Pribilof Islands in the first instance instead of at Seattle as at present.

6. The Committee commend this international instrument for what it has accomplished up to date and believe it should, with due consideration and action by our Fisheries Department on the additional suggestions here made, bring about still more satisfactory results in the future.

7. There appears to be no substantial reason why the agreement should not be continued on its present terms, or revised, if need be, on similar lines. The new suggestions made can all be carried out under the present arrangements by our Department of Fisheries.