

The capturing, driving, killing, and skinning of the fur seals is done entirely by the people of the islands, who alone are, by the lease to the commercial company, permitted to participate in the labor and share in the reward. The number of seals taken annually is limited to one hundred thousand young males not under one year of age, and policy prevents the killing of any males at or over six. When the seals are ready for killing, fifteen or twenty men go to the breeding ground armed with long heavy clubs of hard wood. They drive out to one side fifty or a hundred seals from the body of the drove, surround them, causing the seals to huddle up in a writhing struggling heap, and strike them lifeless by well directed blows upon the head. The skins are then taken off, and cured by lying in salt for a week or two. The hide in a natural condition differs much in appearance from the dressed skin, for in the process of preparation for ladies' and gentlemen's use the over hair is plucked out, and the fine, close, soft, elastic fur is dyed to a rich brown, being originally a light brownish-yellow or ochre.

The arbitration to settle the dispute between England and the United States over the seal fisheries in Behring sea is being conducted very ably by Sir Charles Russell for Britain, and by Messrs. Carter and Coudert for the United States. The exclusive control of Behring sea by the United States and any treaty rights to the seal fisheries secured by the purchase of 1867, are found to be altogether untenable. On the other hand it would appear that the seals do become United States property by reason of the fact that their habit for eight months of the year is on United States property, that they make excursions into the neighbouring seas to obtain food and with the intention of returning and that they can be identified. For example, though bees wander from their hives in search of food, they do not cease to become the property of the owner of the hive.

At all events it is perfectly clear that if these seals are not to become extinct the nations must agree to refrain from killing them elsewhere than on the Pribilof islands which belong exclusively to the United States.

#### A Lesson on Oxygen.

A great deal has been written of late years in regard to teaching elementary science in the common schools, but comparatively few schools have as yet given science a regular period of the daily programme. In the Model School department of the California, Pa., Normal School, twenty lessons in the various lines of elementary science are given to each grade every month.

The following description, written by a ten-year-old boy, tells what was done in a recent lesson. The children helped in the experiment, there not being enough material for all to do it:

"We filled four bottles with water and put them in a trough. Then we put an alcohol lamp under a glass flask with potash and black oxide in it. And there was a tube fastened to the flask. We took one of the bottles and turn-

ed it upside down in the trough, and took the tube and put it in the bottle, and the gas from the potash and black oxide made the water go out of the bottle. We did that with all the bottles. Then we took a stick and lit it and blew out the flame, so as to leave just the sparks on the stick. We then put it in one of the bottles and it made a flame. Next, we took some charcoal and put it on a wire and we lit it, blew out the flame and put it in another bottle and it all flew into sparks. Then we took a piece of sulphur and put it in an earthen cup, lit it so as to make a little flame that you could hardly see, and put it in another bottle and it blazed up bright. Last, we put a piece of a match on an iron wire, lit it, and put it in the last bottle, and the wire was melted, because there was a little ball on the end of the wire after we took it out of the bottle. The name of this gas is oxygen."

Here are some of the conclusions given by the pupils in the oral discussion which followed the experiment:

"Oxygen supports a fire. (Here the term combustion was given and fixed with one presentation, because they needed the term just then.) The air contains oxygen. When we put the 'blower' on our coal fires, it causes more air to go through the hot coals, and gives the fire more oxygen, making it hotter. This is why the blacksmith uses a bellows on his fire. We breathe to get oxygen out of the air. When a great many have to breathe the same air, it loses all its oxygen and becomes bad. We should have a plentiful supply of pure air in our rooms, etc."

This is an infinitely better way of teaching hygiene than containing the facts from a text-book, even if the experiments were performed afterwards in proof.  
—School Journal.

A teacher who has left the ranks says: "Enclosed find \$1.00 in payment for my subscription to EDUCATIONAL REVIEW. If I were a teacher I could not do without your paper, but many teachers do not care what others in the same field are doing, nor do they seem to care much about their own advancement professionally."

Of the total population of Canada in 1891, the number of native born Canadians was 4,155,004, and those born beyond the bounds of the dominion, Canadians by adoption, numbered 645,507.

Recent reports from the antarctic regions state that an iceberg fifty miles long was observed and that others from fifteen to twenty miles long were common.

#### June.

June, that thrills the listening earth—  
Smiling, greets the roses' birth:  
Sang farewell to sorrow.  
Lent the woods a richer hue,  
Lent the skies a tenderer blue,  
Laughing lightly, woke me, too!  
Bade me glad good-morrow.

—Agnes Gerard.