

being done to the regular supply of fresh blood for the breeding rookeries, since those large reservoirs of surplus male life, above named, held at least just half of the young male seal-life then belonging to the islands — these large sources of supply were never driven from — never even visited by the sealers, and out of their overwhelming abundance, I thought that surely enough fresh male seal-life must, did annually mature for service on the breeding rookeries.

Therefore, when summing up in my published work of 1872-1874, I was positive in declaring that although I was firmly convinced that no increase to the then existing number of seals on these Islands would follow any effort that we might make (giving my reasons in detail for so believing), yet I was as firmly satisfied that as matters were then conducted, nothing was being done which would injure the regular annual supply of male life necessary for the full demand of the rookeries. I then declared "that *provided* matters are conducted on the seal-islands in the future, *as they are to day* 100,000 male seals, under the age of five years, and over one, may be safely taken every year from the Pribylov Islands without the slightest injury to the regular birth rates, or natural increase thereon : *provided* also that the fur-seals are not visited by any plague, or pests, or any abnormal cause for their destruction, which might be beyond the control of men." (*Monograph of the Seal Islands of Alaska*, p. 62.)

I repeatedly called attention to this fact, in my published report, that all of the killable seals required, were easily taken in thirty working days, between June 14th and July 20th of every year from those points above specified, and that those reservoirs of surplus male life at South-west Point, Zapadnie, English Bay, Polavina, Tonkie Mees, etc., were full and overflowing : that more than enough was untouched which sufficed to meet the demands of nature on the breeding grounds. But, to make certain that my theory was a good one, and would be confirmed by time, for I qualified my statement, at that time, as a theory only, I made a careful and elaborate triangulation of the area and position of the breeding-grounds in 1872-'73 on St. Paul and St. George Islands, aided and elaborated by my associate in 1874, Lt. Washburn Maynard, U. S. N. This I did in order that any increase or diminution following our work could be authoritatively stated — that a foundation of fact and not assumption should exist for such a comparison of the past order with that of the present or the future.

Sixteen years have elapsed since that work was finished : its accuracy as to the statements of fact then published was at that time unquestioned on these islands, and it is to day freely acknowledged