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HUDSON'S BAY
AND ITS RESOURCES

WITH


FEASIBILITY OF STOCKING THE BAY
WITH BEHRING SEA FUR-SEAL.

*A lecture given before the Literary and Historical Society of
Quebec on the 27th. November 1894*

BY

FLEET PAYMASTER, SHULDHAM S. C. HILL

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QUEBEC, 29th NOVEMBER 1894.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I wish at the outset to tender my thanks to the President and Directors of the Literary and Historical Society for this opportunity of addressing you, I have for some time been desirous of laying before an audience composed of intelligent and business men my views on a subject which I consider of great practical importance to our Dominion generally but eminently so to the city of Quebec. The trade in Fur Seals and the city of Quebec, have long been associated and I desire that this city shall not continue this association, but shall so extend her traffic therein that all classes of our citizens will participate directly or indirectly in the advantages that must accrue therefrom. I hope to be able to set before you the practicability of making Hudson's Bay the stocking ground for Fur seals and showing to you the commercial importance especially to this city of such an enterprize and I trust that, if you are satisfied on these points and the profits that must arise from judicious investment, you will not hesitate to form a company or aid in the formation of a company and apply to Parliament for a Charter.

I shall just invite your attention to a very brief description of Hudson's Bay, and its resources, then of the Fur seals and their habits also a short review of the history of this fishery.

HUDSON'S BAY

The early discovery and occupation of the country in and about Hudson's Bay are, as in many other cases, shrouded in a good deal of obscurity. The British claim as first discoverers of the whole coast of this part of North America, in the persons of John and Sébastian Cabot, about the year 1497: but it is contended on the other hand that these discoveries did not extend to the North of Newfoundland, which still retains the name they gave it, and which they supposed to form part of the main land.

It is said indeed that the Cabots penetrated to a very high latitude far to the North of the straits now bearing the name of Hudson. but it must be remarked that there appear to be no authentic records of the two voyages of the Cabots, their journals or observations. The next navigator, through whom the French claim is maintained, was sent by Francis the First of France in 1523-4. This is the first voyage, in behalf of either France or England, of which any authentic and circumstantial record exists, as written by the navigator himself, who gave the country the name of New France. In 1534 Jacques Cartier's discoveries commenced and these are so well known that it is unnecessary to say more of them.

The next English attempts at discovery commenced in 1553 when Willoughby penetrated to the North of Hudson's Bay, which however he did not discover or enter. This was nineteen years after Jacques Cartier's first voyage, and was followed by various other attempts at finding a North West passage, all apparently directed to the North of Hudson's Straits, until 1610, the period of Hudson's voyage, in which he perished after wintering in the Bay which bears his name; but by this time it must be observed that Canada was colonized by the French.

Hudson's Bay has an area of nearly 400,000 square miles.

The exploring expedition in the summer of 1886 in H. M. ship "Alert" sent to relieve the stations established in Hudson's Straits in 1885, for the purpose of watching the movements of the ice and of taking other observations to test the practicability of the Hudson Bay route, was quite a success and proved that the straits are never entirely frozen over. The average length of the season of possible navigation is still uncertain but Dr. Bell, geologist and naturalist estimates the average at between four and five months. Captain Gordon's estimate is from July to end of October.

This only refers to the straits. The Bay itself is open for a much longer period.

The fish and mammals in these waters are the Right and White Whales, the Porpoise, the Walrus, Polar Bear and several kinds of hair-seals; of the fish, salmon and trout only are at present exported, although a very fine species of white fish is found in Nelson River, also cod in and about the straits.

Mr. Low's party at Port Burwell, entrance of straits in one hour caught a boat load of fine cod this year (1894.)

The rivers in the straits abound with salmon and trout.

Dr. Robert Bell reports that the shores of Hudson's Bay have iron, mica, asbestos, copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, anthracite, limestone, petroleum and lignite, so that with the almost unbounded wealth of the surrounding country, and the known riches of the Fisheries, surely our monied gentlemen of Canada will not hesitate to push on the Lake St. John Railway to James' Bay (as Chevalier Baillargé recommended in his most instructive and valuable lecture some time since before the Canadian Institute,) which would carry new settlers up and return with freight of fish, furs and minerals, and give hundreds, yes, thousands employment and enrich the country in very many ways.

My wish is to have a company formed as soon as possible, to carry out my proposal to the Federal Government some 18 months since, viz:—"To stock Hudson's Bay with Behring Sea Fur-seal." I would not restrict its operations to this only, but have the company empowered to capture fish and mammals in and about the Bay and straits, with a Capital of say \$50,000 in shares of \$50 each and when stations were established with all necessary equipments, the fur-seal could then be imported and properly looked after.

I need hardly repeat I feel confident of its ultimate success and enormous profits.

The average temperature of Hudson's Bay water for five months from May to October compared with Behring Sea shows only a difference of a little more than one degree mean and 16 degrees highest in favor of Hudson's Bay, so that the temperature of the sea is in every way favorable for the fur-seals to bring up their young. When the cold weather sets in they have free access to the coasts of Florida and Bahama Islands, there the temperature of the sea is much the same as on the Californian coast where the Behring sea fur-seal has been seen in winter but only in small numbers.

The Hon'ble David Mills at the last session at Ottawa brought the same proposal before the Federal House, entirely unknown to me.

In answer, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper said "There was no analogy between the fur-seal and the hair-seal, and their habits were widely different. The fur-seal consumed an enormous quantity of fish, and even if the Government succeeded in establishing rookeries on the Atlantic Coast they might be very destructive to the fisheries."

Now, I consider Sir Charles' answer very erroneous for it is well known how very numerous both fur and hair seals are on the Pacific Coast and the fisheries there have not been injured.

To prove my statement Dr William H. Dall, in his most valuable and interesting book "Alaska and its Resources" states Page 180. In July the Salmon begin to ascend the Yukon River. After August they are bruised and in bad condition, being cast in layers a foot deep on the banks of the small rivers. I have seen hundreds or thousands of dead Salmon cast up in this way.

Page 251. The vicinity of Nasse River by striking a lath, armed with three pointed nails, upon the surface of the water as if raking, an Indian will fill his canoe with herring in 20 minutes.

Page 253. At the Rapids of Deep Lake with Lake Bay, are the salmon fisheries. These fish are given to all who needed food, and the surplus over this consumption amounted to six hundred barrels.

Page 259. Coal Harbor on the North abounds with Cod.

Page 481. The abundance of fish on the shores of Alaska has been a matter of wonder since the voyages of the earliest navigators. Billings, Cook, Belcher and Sir George Simpson have all born credible witness to the myriads of cod, salmon, habibut and herring which are found on the North West Coast.

The tomicods are plentiful and are caught with are ivory hook without bait or barb. Boat loads are obtained, as they bite at the white ivory hook as fast as they can be pulled up.

Page 485. The Ulikon (a small silvery fish about 14 inches long resembling smelt) are caught in a sort of basket make of wicker work.

The Rivers are in the season literally alive with them, and appears as if boiling. Wild animals draw them from the stream with their paws sufficient for all their needs. Dried they serve as torches.

The number of salmon annually consumed by the natives of Alaska cannot be less than twelve million at the lowest estimate. At the mouth of the Yukon not less than two million salmon are dried every summer and probably double that number. Words fail to describe their abundance.

The weak and injured fish after spawning I have seen piled three and four feet deep on the banks of the river."

These extracts from such an eminent authority clearly show that Sir Charles has not given his usual careful attention to the consideration of this subject.

I may also add, that facts are opposed to the conjecture of Sir Charles as to the detriment of the Atlantic Fisheries viz: that Behring Sea, Coasts of Alaska and British Columbia teem with fish of all sorts, while the seals in their millions have been there not for a few years, but for centuries

I with many others believe the food of the fur seal, is more of the squid and other jelly fish kind, than those used for human food, if so the coasts of Newfoundland swarm with squid, so much so that at Harbor Grace the fields are manured with them.

On opening the fur seal, nothing has been found in the stomach to warrant the belief that they live on fish of use to man.

The company once formed could in the second year clear off its outlay by the whale, walrus, hair-seal, porpoise, salmon and cod fisheries.

Sir Charles in his communication to me of 19th April last, in answer to mine, asking for a subsidy and exclusive right for 20 years to all fur-seals in Hudson's Bay and Atlantic Coast bordering on Canada, states "I have caused your proposition to be laid before His Excellency in Council for consideration.

I am now to inform you, that the Government are not prepared to grant any subsidy in the premises, but the Government has no objection to exclusive privileges being conceded to the company you propose forming upon their application to Parliament in the usual way." This I consider is as much as any responsible minister could say prior to the formation of a company.

The United States Fishery Commissioners' report shows that the average profit of each vessel employed in the whaling in Hudson's Bay (where they have no right) from the States of Massachusetts and Connecticut \$27,400, but Capt Gordon estimates each cargo obtained valued \$47,000. So that vessels wintering there with proper stations and necessary equipments could surely do even better than those running trips from the States.

Mr. Wilmot, of the Fishery Department at Ottawa, was ordered by the Honorable Mackenzie Bowell, in the absence of Sir Charles, in Paris in April last year, to enquire into my proposal, states:—

"The temperatures are so nearly alike that it would appear quite feasible to introduce the Alaska seal to Hudson's Bay."

Islands abound in Hudson's Bay in every way suitable for breeding purposes and rest during the summer months.

The walrus is found in numbers. It is a huge creature, often more than 15 feet long and weighing a thousand pounds. Its tusks are from one to three feet long and weigh about five pounds, worth a dollar a pound. The hide is worth \$40. Captain Gordon estimates that these animals are worth from \$60 to \$70 each.

That the pursuit of the whale fishing has been fairly profitable may be presumed from the fact that shrewd citizens of New England continue it. Their average cargo yields.

2 tons sperm.....	\$ 400
62 tons oil....	6800
3½ tons whalebone.....	40000
	<hr/>
	\$47200

Capt Gordon further states:

The Dundee whaler "Arctic" in 1886. captured 11,000 hair seals on first trip, 600 old seals second trip and 2 right whales. The latter yielded two tons of whalebone at \$12,500 per ton; it will be seen that from whalebone alone the "Arctic" voyage was worth \$25,000.

The question is often asked to what use the whalebone is put which gives it the great value it has. Much of it, especially the long bone, is worked into the better class of silks to stippen them, and on this account alone, as the demand considerably exceeds the supply, thus keeping the price at its present figure.

The Bottle nose whales are seen in large numbers at the mouth of Hudson's straits in June and July.

The white whale on the Churchill River, the York and Nelson Rivers, they go up with the tide each day in great numbers: they are also in the straits. In 1886 at the above stations they were so numerous, that the nets were taken up as all the available packages were filled with oil. These whales are worth from \$20 to \$25 each. At Nelson River the Indians drive a row of stakes into the mud at low water, and there sitting on their little platforms, which are built out on the flats by themselves, of four posts and a board, they shoot the whales as they come up, the carcass sinks and taking against the row of stakes is grappled for and buoyed and anchored at low tide. The carcasses are then taken to the factory, the blubber and skin saved and the carcass put by for the food of the dog trains in winter.

Nearly all the varieties of seals are represented in Hudson's Bay.

The Narwhal commonly known as the unicorn is met with in the straits, and is much valued for its large ivory tusk, which often measures 5 ft in length.

The salmon fishery is only carried on by the Hudson's Bay Company in Ungava Bay.

At present the entire trade of the Bay is in the hands of the Hudson's Bay Comp., and American Whaling Companies.

Capt Gordon states in his report to the Federal Government "Canada's right to regulate the fishing and trade of Hudson's Bay and Straits is, I think, unquestioned; and it seems one sided, considering our relations with the United States fishermen, that we should continue to allow them to frequent the Bay and compete with foreign duty-free goods against the Company which pay heavy duties to our Treasury on all articles imported for their trade."

It is worthy of remark that up to this time no Canadian has derived any profit from Hudson's Bay, save those few who may happen to be shareholders in the Hudson's Bay Company."

Winnipeg in her infancy is pushing on a railway to Hudson's Bay surely old historical Quebec will awake and arrive first at the gate of wealth which is, I feel sure, ready with open arm to receive us, and at once give a stimulus to increased commercial enterprise, invigorate the drooping spirits of many of our bread earning population, and enlarge the bank accounts of our merchants.

MEAN AND HIGHEST TEMPERATURES AT YORK FACTORY, HUDSON'S BAY
FROM CAPTAIN GORDON'S REPORT.

June	51.78	95.00
July	63.24	99.00
August	54.51	80.00
September	44.81	73.00
October	37.70	56.00
	<u>5 257.04</u>	<u>5 403.00</u>

51.20 Mean York Factory 80.60 Highest York Factory.

MEAN AND HIGHEST TEMPERATURE IN BEHRING SEA
FROM MR. WILL. H. DALL'S, ALASKA AND ITS RESOURCES.

June	53.10	66.00
July	56.10	70.00
August	59.06	77.00
September	42.10	59.00
October	36.00	48.00
	<u>5 246.30</u>	<u>5 320.00</u>

49.26 Mean Behring Sea	64.00 Highest Behring Sea
51.20 " Hudson's Bay	80.00 " Hudson's Bay
<u>1.94</u>	<u>16.60</u>

1.94 Mean in favor of Hudson's Bay
16.60 Highest in favor of Hudson's Bay.

Estimated outlay first year in stocking Hudson's Bay with Fur-seals from Behring Sea.

Purchase of 100 cows and 15 Bulls at \$5 each	\$ 575 00
Freight from Behring's Sea to British Columbia	5000 00
Freight from British Columbia to Quebec at \$1.50 per 100 lbs, each car to carry 2000 lbs.	700 00
Freight from Quebec to Hudson's Bay	8000 00
Various contingencies such as Labor, Cartage and Food during transportation	2000 00
	Total
	\$16275 00
If granted use of Government steamer from Quebec to Hudson's Bay	
less	8000 00
	Total
	\$ 8275 00

FUR-SEAL.

The Fur-Seal Fishery, formerly less important than that of the Sea-Otter, has of late years far exceeded it in value.

At present fur-seals are almost exclusively obtained on the islands of St. Paul, St. George and Cooper in Behring Sea. A few stragglers only are obtained on the Falkland Islands and the extreme southwest coast of South America. The case was formerly very different. Many thousands were obtained from the South Pacific Islands and the coasts of Chili and South Africa.

The Falkland Island seal was at one time common in that group and the adjacent seas. The skins, worth fifteen Spanish dollars, according to Sir John Richardson, were from four to five feet long, covered with reddish down, over which stiff gray hair projected. They were hunted especially on the Falkland Islands, Terra del Fuego, New Georgia, South Shetland and the coast of Chili.

Three and a half millions of skins were taken from Massa Fuero to Canton between 1793 and 1807.

Another species formerly abounded on the coast of Africa, near the Cape of Good Hope. Their fur was the least valuable of the different kinds of fur-seals, and seems to have become extinct. They were smaller than the other kinds, and said to be of a reddish-brown color.

Captain Benjamin Morrell, about the year 1823, found fur-seal in the Sobos, St. Ambrose, and St. Felix islands off the coast of Chili; he also obtained them from Kerguelen's Land, Staten Land, the Falklands, Tristan d'Acunha, Masa Fuero and the Auckland Islands.

He states :— "The seal came ashore in the month of November for the purpose of bringing forth their young, remaining until May. The old males are called "Wigs by the sealers; the females "Clap-Matches" those two years old, "dog-seal;" and the very young ones, "pups." The term of gestating is ten months.

The pups are born blind, and remain so for several weeks. At three or four weeks old they are taken by the mothers into the water, as a cat carries her kittens (in her mouth) and taught to swim. They seldom have more than one young one annually. The pups, after learning to swim, spend most of their time in the water. They are easily tamed, and Morrell had two for several months. These seals are said to live on the Squid and to attain an age of thirty years. They are very active, often jumping six or eight feet out of the water, which is never done by the hair seals. They swim with great swiftness. They will fight hard for their young and for the possession of the females, but are timid in other respects.

Each old male has a herd of eight or ten females. Their hearing is very acute. At the end of February the pups go ashore to shed their coats.

About the first of May all leave the land until the month of July, when they appear and disappear about the shore for some unknown reason. About September, first the young seal, and afterwards the old ones repair to the land as before. Large males reach seven feet in length, and females about five feet.

The fur-seals and sea-lions are closely allied.

They are well distinguished from the hair-seal by their external ears and long flippers destitute of hair, and with only three nails. The hair-seals have no external ears, and their flippers are broad, short and covered with hair, having five nails on the hind ones.'

The Alaskan fur-seal formerly extended from the ice line of Behring Sea to the Coast of Lower California. At present a few reach the straits of Fuca, between Vancouver and State of Washington where five thousand were killed a few years ago, but the great majority are confined to the Phibyloff Islands, St. George, St. Paul, Otter and Walrus which lie in the heart of Behring Sea, some 200 miles from the mainland of Alaska.

St. Paul the larger of the four, has an area of about 33 square miles and St. George about 27 square miles.

The number of fur-seals which annually visit the island of St. Paul is computed at five and six millions.

The males come first, accompanied by the young pups born during the previous summer, and choose their respective homes on the rocks. The females follow three weeks later, week little creatures, in steel gray garb, very different from the big males with their fighting propensities.

Often one seal possesses twenty wives, and he has a hard task to defend his home and family from his neighbours. Indeed, the old seals fight-like furies, becoming covered with scars and terrible wounds; and sometimes losing an eye or part of a flipper in the fray.

Most of the fighting is done by the mouth. The combatants approach each other with averted heads and sly looks till suddenly they utter a shrill piping whistle and engage with their sharp canine teeth, the hair flies, and the blood flows amidst much bellowing.

The fur-seal has never been found in Behring Strait, or within 300 miles of it.

They arrive at the islands about the middle of June *from their unknown winter quarters*, a few stragglers coming as early as May. They leave on the approach of winter, usually in October.

They are supposed to spend the winter in the open sea south of the Aleutian Islands. The pups are born about the middle to end of June. They are about a foot long and grow very rapidly.

These young seal are easily tamed and very playful. The bulls approach the females about a week after the young are born. The period of gestation is therefore nearly twelve months.

The young seals are kept away from the females by the old bulls until they are three years old.

When born the pups are covered with fine black hair without down. At the age of three months the down begins to appear, and about six months later the black hair is replaced by a stronger hair tipped with white or brown. At three months the milk teeth are replaced by the permanent set. The eye is black and liquid and large in proportion to the size of the animal. Chambers' Encyclopedia states "The teeth are well adapted for the seizure of slippery prey, their chief food being fishes, but do not object to other animal food and are said even to feed in part on vegetable substances."

Seals have a remarkable habit of swallowing large stones for which no probable reason has yet been conjectured.

The respiration of seals is extremely slow, about two minutes intervening between each breath, when the animal is on land and in full activity. A seal has been known to remain 25 minutes under water. The fur of seals is very smooth, and abundantly lubricated with an oily secretion.

Seals produce their young, one a year, and have one and sometimes two at a birth.

Seals are very much affected by musical sounds, a flute is said to attract them to a boat, where they have not learned caution from sore experience; and the ringing of the church bell at Hoy, in Orkney, Scotland has very often caused the appearance of numerous seals in the little bay."

They will remain many days on shore without food. Nothing is found in the stomach. They sleep in the water on their sides, with the upper flippers out of water, and receive the bull in the same position.

They have three cries, a kind of roar like that of a young calf, which indicates anger; a milder cry, which they use in calling to one another; and a kind of piping whistle when they are hot or tired. They come up in droves of many thousands on the hill-sides near the shore, and literally blacken the islands with their numbers. The rocks; which they have scrambled over for ages. are polished and rounded.

The ground which they frequent is avoided by the sea-lions, and is quite destitute of herbage. The vicinity has a strong and disagreeable odor.

They get along very awkwardly on land, going at a kind of gallop, both hind flippers moving together. They can ascend almost perpendicular rocks as the skin which covers the flippers is harsh and granulated, looking like horse leather.

They fight desperately among themselves, each bull having from five to fifteen females which he defends with the greatest courage. while they look on quietly or encourage him with their cries. The female seal has four teats, but they are almost invisible except when sucking. They have a shorter tail, and more reddist brown on their bodies than the male. The latter has a mane, which is absent in the females. In the fore flippers there are no visible toes, but the hind flippers are very long and thin, with strips of skin extending several inches beyond the bones of the toes, which are connected by a web. A favorite attitude, when on land, is sitting with the head bent sideways, the mouth open and thrown up, fanning themselves meanwhile with one hind flipper. When swimming, the palms of the two latter are placed together and extend behind, performing the office of a tail.

The fishery is conducted as follows:—

A number of natives go along the water's edge, and getting between the animals and the water, shout and wave their sticks. The seals are very timid and always follow each other like sheep; yet, if brought to bay, they will fight bravely. A man who should venture into the midst of a herd would doubtless be torn in pieces, for their teeth, though small, are exceedingly sharp.

A body of four or five hundred having been separated, as above, from the main assembly, they can be driven very slowly, by two men, into the interior of the island, exactly as a shepherd would drive his sheep. Their docility depends on circumstances. If the sun is out and the grass dry they cannot be driven at all. If the day is wet, and the grass sufficiently moist, they may be driven several miles. Every few minutes they must be allowed to rest. Those that become tired are killed and skinned on the spot by the drivers, as it is of no use to attempt to drive them. They would at once attack the driver, and perhaps seriously injure him. When the seals have been brought to a suitable place, they are left with someone to watch them until it is desired to kill them. The skins of old males are so thick as to be useless. The company restrict the killing solely to young males, less than five and more than one year old. No females, pups or old males are killed. This is a necessary provision to prevent extermination.

The seals are killed by a blow on the back of the head with a heavy sharp edged club. This fractures the skull, which is very thin, and lays them out stiff instantly. The native then plunges his sharp knife into the heart, and with wonderful dexterity, by a few sweeps of his long weapon, separates the skin from the blubber to which it is attached.

The nose and wrists are cut around, and the ears and tail left attached to the skin. When the operation is over, the skin is of an oval shape, with four holes where the extremities protruded. (These skins weigh from 5½ to 12 lbs each according to the age of the animal.) They are then taken and laid in a pile with layers of salt between them in bins for two or three weeks, till they are pickled. They are then taken out and rolled into bundles of two skins each with the hairy sides out, ready for shipment in batches in casks, through San Francisco and New York to London, each cask contains 40 to 45 skins packed in salt.

The fur in its natural state has a very different appearance from that presented by the prepared skin.

A machine is used by which the skin is shaved very thin; the roots of the stiff hairs are cut and they may then be brushed off.

The fine close elastic fur does not penetrate the skin to any distance and is changed by dying from its original yellowish and silvery color to a rich black or brown.

Some of the Victorian females have a slight wig or crest on the head, the under fur is red.

The Alaska fishery is rented by the United States to the Alaska Commercial Company of San Francisco for \$30,000 per annum and \$2.50 royalty for every skin shipped. The capture is restricted mostly to the islands on which 100,000 annually are captured, besides what the natives may require for their food on an average of 7,000.

In addition to the fur seals an average annual capture of 1300 sea otter worth \$100 each are taken.

The breeding grounds have gentle slopes of shingle or a firm well drained surface, to which the seals can travel without discomfort and where they can lie without annoyance from mud or sand from May till October every year, in peace and security.

Each bull selects a spot about eight feet square which he defends as his own against all rivals and to which he invites the females as they come to the shore, till he has collected a harem of fifteen or twenty cows around him.

The females bear their first young when about three years old. By far the larger number of the male seals, including those which are not yet six years old, fail to establish themselves on the breeding grounds and to secure harems. They are called "batchelor seals" and are allotted distinct grounds, called hauling grounds after the seal's peculiar mode of progression.

The hauling grounds, with the passages leading to them through the breeding grounds are clearly marked off and the boundaries are strictly respected by both breeding and batchelor seals.

The batchelor seals are the particular objects of the chase which is conducted on the islands.

The hunting season nearly corresponds with the breeding season, the greater proportion of the work being done in June, July and August.

The flesh of the fur-seal and sea lion serve the natives for food, and the blubber for fuel. The flesh of the fur-seal forms but a small portion of the body, the greater part is blubber, and this is more noticeable because of the thousands of bodies which are scattered over the islands. If they were composed in large part of muscular fibre, as in the case of the walrus, the decaying bodies would breed a pestilence.

As it is, the odor is sufficiently preceptible, though a month or two shows the skeleton nearly clean.

The flesh of the young fur-seal, placed in running water overnight and then broiled, is far from disagreeable, in fact it tastes almost exactly like mutton chop. The young sea lion is said to be even better eating.

The natives make boot soles, which are very durable, of the skin of the flippers.

The blubber of the fur-seal makes oil of the first quality, and is worth two dollars a gallon.

Each seal will make a little over half a gallon of oil worth at the islands as much as the skin.

The Alaska company paid into the Treasury of the United States in ten years in taxes and rental \$3,462,408 equal to \$345,240 per annum.

No authentic record is given of what sort of fish these seals live on.

The Alaska company employ a fleet of four steamers and fifteen sailing vessels, consequently giving employment to many.

Act. Viet of 31st July 1868. Chap CV.

Cancels King Charles' Charter to Hudson Bay Company "and whereas for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of the said British North American Act. 1867, and of admitting Rupert's Land into the said Dominion as aforesaid upon such terms as Her Majesty thinks fit to approve, it is expedient that the said Lands, Territories, Right, Privileges, Liberties, Franchises, Powers and Authorities, so far as the same have been lawfully granted to the said company, should be surrendered to Her Majesty, her Heirs and successors upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon and between Her Majesty and the said governor and company as hereinafter mentioned.

The term "Ruperts Land" shall include the whole of lands and territories held and claimed to be held by the said Governor and Company."

Art. 4. All rights absolutely extinguished, *except a few acres around each post now held, on an average of from twenty to thirty acres.*

