ASTORIA. OREGON:

SUNDAY APRIL, 16, 1882

J. F. HALLORAN.

Driving Seals to Market.

According to a recent census bureau publication, it is the practice in Alaska to drive seals to market in about the same fashion as one would drive sheep or hogs.

The seals are not found on the coast of the mainland, but they shutting out the warm rays of the they abounded. sun; but they are pleasant to the seals who like a cool temperature. The seals begin to appear at the islands in May, the first comers being invariably bulls. They select for themselves plots of ground on the beach, and as later arrivals attempt to dispossess them, desperate combats take place. They fight entirely with their mouths, and while their fat bodies writhe with exertion and rage, their heads dart out and back with surprising swiftness. Their teeth tear out deep gutters in one another's bides the blood streams down, and a furious roaring, mixed with shrill whistling sounds, never ceases while the battle lasts. These fights are always between males, and end as soon as one gives up the coveted position to the other. Last May, one old bull fought between forty and fifty battles, and when the fighting season was over he lorded it proudly over his family of fifteen or twenty females, although one of his eyes had been gouged out, and his front was covered with gashes. When the males take up their positions, they must remain on guard day and night, so that they have no opportunity to go after food until the end of the season, in the early part of August. Hence they fast Hats, Bonnets, Trimmings. for three months or more. When they come up from the sea they are so fat that the blubber is packed about their shoulders in unsightly masses. At the end of the season they are lean, limp, ab-

erawl back into the sea. The cows or female seals generally make their appearance about the middle of June. The bulls then have their last desperate fights and those who remain, in possession of eligible portions of the beach monopolize the society of the females. As a result of this arrangement about two-thirds of the young seals are cut off from female companionship. These seals are known as the bachelors, and herd together by thousands away from the breeding grounds, sometimes miles distant. These seals are the ones captured for their furs, and they are driven along over the ground to the slaughter fields. The Alcuts employed by the company which has a lease of the seal fisheries slip in between the dozing seals and the water. The first impulse of the seals when startled is to make for the water, but when they see men in the way they turn and scramble up the land. The Aleuts follow after, keeping the seals together and driving them ahead as if it was a berd of swine they were directing. Singular as it may seem in view of the unwieldiness of a seal when on land, it is asserted that when hard pressed a seal can lope along as fast as a man can run, but it is soon exhausted and falls helpless. Ordinarily a drove of seals travel at the rate of half a mile an hour. Three or four men can manage as many thousand seals. There are frequent halts to ing animals fun themselves with their hind flippers, and when they

have gotten their wind again a shout and clatter of bones from the Aleuts starts the herd on its LIBERTY HALL. shambling scuffling way again. The young males are as docile as sheep; an old bull will fight rather than be driven, and if such a one Monday and Tuesday April 17th and 18th is caught in a berd be is allowed to drop behind, as his fur is of little or no value.

The author of this report, Mr. Henry W. Elliott, is a naturalist attached to the Smithsonian Institution, and writes from personal Colton-Kennedy Comedy Co. observation. He thinks that if frequent the Prybiloo islands in only the bachelor seals are hunted Monday Evening. April 17th, the Behring Sea. The seals caught and the breeding places are not there are not like those of Labra- disturbed, the seal islands of Aldor, which are taken more for aska will remain a regular source their oil than for their skins, but of supply to the fur trade. But if are the genuine fur seal, whose the breeding grounds are hunted, soft warm coats eventually enfold the seals are exterminated or driven islands are bleak, cold, desolate of Patagonia and the Antarctic places, bare of timber, and in the islands swarmed with millions of summer time almost always over- fur seals, and now they have behung with thick fogs or clouds, come rare animals where once

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NOW LYING AT THE FOOT OF CO-lumbia St., near Smith's mill, Portland. This barge is entirely new, having never been used, and has a capacity of over 500 tous. It is the finest and most substantial barge on these waters. The sides are built of 6-men tumber, and the bottom is over 2% inches thick—clear lumber. Length of barge toil feet; length of house, 140 rest, 9 feet high. Has round bottom, solld oak knees, and is built for strength and durability all through Between one and two tons of iron bolt, were used in her construction.

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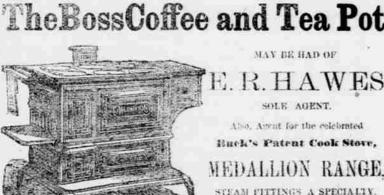
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