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ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, MAY 25, 1884.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

A Dangerous But Profitable Industry.

There is a general belief that all the fur seal pelts that are obtained on ing the fishery, the traders finding this coast come from the seal islands that the work of the Indians from means inconsiderable source of sup-ply, which, moreover, is not mono-polized by any one company, and stead of paddling artists and their method which affords, during certain seasons beach, they are taken on board the of the year, a handsome profit to quite schooners, with their cances, spears, a number of enterprising traders, and etc., and accompanied by their along the coast from Alaska to Lower late at night. The women remain on California. The most important of the schooner property the food for at the entrance of the straits of Fuca, on the extreme northwest coast of Washington Territory. Here, during the season, extending from April to August, the seals congregate in great each pelt brought in, ranging from April to August, the seals congregate in great each pelt brought in, ranging from the season and the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in, ranging from the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in, ranging from the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in, ranging from the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in, ranging from the season are season, but are paid a small below the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in, ranging from the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in the season are season, but are paid a fair sum for each pelt brought in the season are season are season as the season are season as numbers, and from time immemorial \$2.50 to \$10, according to size and have been annually hunted by the condition. At these figures they coast Indians of Washington Terrimake good wages, and some of the

at low figures, and some handsome fortunes have been made at it. INDIAN SKAL HUNTERS... Along the western coast of Washington Territory from Cape Flattery and separated from the Pugei Sound country by the Olympic range of mountains, are various small tribes of Indians, who have little or no contact with the whites, and who are a brave and hardy race of lumters. and with the exception of the use of firearms and blankets, introduced by a few scattered traders, they retain the primitive ways of their forefathers. Living on the beach, they draw their substance mainly from the ocean, their cedar causes, and armed with bone lances and harpoons they capture the humpbacked whale, furnishing them with the main portion of their food, and the fur seal, which, until the advent of the whites, was the source from which they drew their supplies of clothing. There are no harbors along this portion of the coast, which is iron bound and fronted by a constant succession of rocks and reefs, with here ann there a among the most skilful surfmen in blubber and dried elk meat, and their weapons, consisting of seal spears, skinning knives and a hardwood club. The spear used is a curious affair. It consists of a long, heavy handle, of but, turbot and flounder.

about an inch in diameter and some ding thought that the time rears of use. Some two feet or more from the end it is split and forks to Mr. Redding's two points, an inch or so apart. Each of these points is surrounded by a sharp spearhead of bone or deerhorn, with barbs of the same material lashed on at such angles as to afford a secure hold. These spearheads are fastened to a stout line made of sinew or plaited sealskin, which passes through a "becket" on the shaft and is made

This line is some twenty feet in length. SPEARED WHILE ASLEEP. So equipped they start out on their perilous expedition, launching their cance through the surf and pushing boldly out thirty miles to sea. seals are captured as they float asleep on top of the water, and the most successful bauls are made in the calm succeeding a storm, when they are exhausted by their long bout with the waves and sleep so soundly that they can be readily approached. Arriving at the place where there is a prospect of finding a seal, the spear-men abandons the paddle which he has been vigorously plying and takes his station in the bow, where, as the canoe rises on each succeeding swell, he watches for the black head of the sleeping seal. The instant one is spied, a motion warns the boat puller, who ceases his work, and the canoe proceeds, propelled only by the steers-man, under whose light and absolute-ly silent strokes of the paddle they glide slowly on to the victim. The senses of the seals are so acute that within any reasonable distance the mere grating of a paddle on the side of the canoe is sufficient to arrouse them, when the hunt is up, so far as they are concerned. As the canoe silently nears the victim, the spears-man, throwing aside his blanket, stands erect naked and motionless in the bow, poising high the heavy spear. At a motion of his hand the way of the canoe is stopped and he launch his weapon, generally transfixing the seal with one or both of the twin barbs. The handle loosens and floats to the surface. A steady pull on the line brings the struggling animal alongside, when a sharp blow with the heavy club winds up his career. Occasionally there is a lively tussle, as the seal is armed with a fine set of teeth and is far from being of a cowardly disposition when cornered, and instances are not uncommon wherein the hunters have been severely bitten. Usually three days is the limit of their stay at sea, when they return to the beach, skin their catch and sell the neits to the nearest trader, who

CAPE FLATTERY SEAL FISHERIES. salts them down to ship at the end of

RECENT INNOVATIONS. a change in the manner of conductoff the coast of Alaska, which are the beach is too precarious and unleased by the government to the Alas- reliable, and a large number of ka Commercial Company. This is an schooners are now engaged. Indians employs a comparatively large num-ber of men. This is the hunting and where they remain for weeks at a capture of seals a considerable dis-tance off shore in the Pacific, at their feeding "grounds," at various places ing with the results of their labors California. The most important of the schooner preparing the food for these feeding grounds is on a bank the hunters and skinning the seals about thirty miles off Cape Flattery, with which they return. The Inditory and British Columbia, who visit more lucky or skillful ones sometimes the sealing grounds in large cances. net for the season as high as \$900. A remunerative business has been About six schooners from Puget carried on for a long time by the Sound take part in the seal fishery traders on the different reservations off Cape Flattery every year, as many on the northwest coast in the parmore from British Columbia and two chase of seal pelts from the Indians

some of the schooners and shotguns substituted for spears, but while they have been very successful the change is looked on with disfavor by the other traders, as it is claimed the noise of the firearms makes the seals more shy and will eventually drive them away from their present feed-ing grounds. All the vessels em-Their arms and equipments are rude ployed have met with fair success this year, one vessel returning from her first cruise with 900 pelts, and the season has hardly set in. Seals are reported more plentiful and tamer than ever before. The profits of the business were for a few years very large, but an active competition for the services of the Indians has in the eccipts by largely increasing the amounts paid for the pelts, but there is still a fair margin left the traders for their trouble and expense.

scientific Fishermen

The meeting of the Academy of Sciences last night was an interesting strip of beach, but the natives are one. The first paper was by J. D. Redamong the most skilful surfmen in ding on the fish interests of Califorthe world, landing and beaching their nia. That gentleman said that the heavy canoes through breakers that geographical position of California would appall an ordinary lifeboat's was such as to make it at some future Their canoes, which are hewed date one of the greatest fish marts in from a single trunk of a gigantic codar, are many of them of great size and strength and beautifully modeled, and they are handled with the world, as it has been proved that the world, as it has been proved that any variety of fish can thrive in these waters. The fish commissioner has and they are handled with remark-able ease and skill. In the seal fishing the canoe used is a small, light one, with a very sharp stem. The thought that the seals and sea-lions crew will consist of three men—the boat steerer, generally the owner of the canoe and outfit, the boat puller and the spearsman or barpooner. The codfish banks in Alaska were inexequipment is simple—three days pro-visions of bread, whale oil, smoked blubber and dried elk meat, and their that of salmon. Not only is the cod found in our waters, but also Spanish mackeral, pompano, horse mackerel smelt, mullet, tomcod, whiting, bali ding thought that the time had come eight or nine feet in length, made of when a greater protection should be some three or four pieces of well sensoned yew, dovetailed together, and wanton destruction by Chinamen should be deemed a felony instead of

Mr. Redding's paper was followed by one by R. E. C. Stearns, Ph. D., on the clam. He had named a clam up in Oregon which could only be found in spring tides. Its neck was three feet long and required three men to dig up one. It averaged fifteen pounds

fish have become much more numer ous .- S. F. Chronicle, 20...

Mr. Frank L. Cox, Gouverneur, N. Y., says he sprained his ankle very badly, and the swelling was so great

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or three from San Francisco. This year, for the first time, white men have been substituted for Indians on

in weight and was good eating. Captain Robert Sampson, in reference to Mr. Redding's remarks, said that the sea-lions wait off the fresh water rivers to catch the fish, and where the lions have been killed the

he could hardly remove his boot. St. Jacobs Oil, the great pain-reliever, was applied, and in a short time he

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