Life and Habits of the Seal.

or in the water adjacent to the is- For about four months the lands, but the herd maintains, and seal is nursed, receiving nothing always has maintained its separate but its mother's milk, which it and distinct existence. There is takes once every two or three days, no record of the killing of a seal and remains wholly on the land. belonging to the Commander is The young seal cannot swim, and lands upon the isles of Pribyloff. if thrown into the water would The members of the two herds are drown-a strong confirmation of readily distinguished by their the fact that it is by nature a land skins, that of the American seal animal. It begins to play in the being of finer quality and worth surf when about two months old, about twenty-five per cent more and at the end of four months it in the market. The difference is has progressed sufficiently to seek well established and fully recog- its own food, but for a considerable nized, although its cause has never time it remains a clumsy swimbeen ascertained. But whatever mer. the cause, it must have operated for many generations to produce the marked difference in the ani

ing season; that a large portion of their surface is covered by ledges of smooth, bare rock; and that

istics of the fish. Among fishes it young males of from two to five smost nearly allied to the whale, which also belongs to the family of mammals; but unlike the whale, begotten, born and reared in the state of the s the seal is begotten, born, and reared on land, and but for its life on the land the species would become extinct. The period of and habitation lasts from six to eight months continuously. During this time the seals only visit the sea for short periods for food. Some of them do not leave the island at all, even for this purpose. The seal may, therefore, be accurately described as a land animal, whose food is found in the and may serve as many as twenty

twelve months, during the diminution of the annual increase. ond half of which the herds are sea. The approach of its comturning to the lands ready to give birth to their young as soon as they reach their summer home. Shortly reach their summer home. Shortly is done make no effort to run after the birth, and while still away. The United States could, To Loan on Improved Farms. nursing their offspring, they again become pregnant with the young that will be born in the following islands.

Away. The Offset States destroy everyone of the seals on the islands.

Property at Low Rates.

Can get Money season, and this process of reprowith unvarying regularity.

seals of the Pribyloff Islands, male great energy and skill. If the and female, old and young, make seal herds can be preserved for an annual excursion into the North Pacific Ocean south of Bering sea, ditions that existed down to 1885, and from this point they disperse it is a low estimate to place the widely to the south and east. value of these two islands at thirty Neither the extent nor cause of millions of dollars. With the this annual dispersion is known. seal exterminated, they are of no But we know that it takes place value whatever. each winter, and lasts until the late spring. Then the scattered animals, by an invariable instinct, converge from all directions, and gathering in one vast herd in the waters of the North Pacific south of the Aleutian Islands, pass The wheat is growing rank but we through the straits between these islands and make their way to City farmer says he will do. We gether to the Pribyloffs. In this would like to cut it ahead about a annual return of the herds to the month. northward the older bulls assume the lead and reach the islands about May 5th. As they arrive they chose their positions on the rookeries, and there await the coming of their mates. The cows, heavy with young, follow them closely, the first arriving about June 10th, and by the middle of July the entire went to Pendleton today,

In company with the well-grown bulls and cows come the younger animals, the product of the herd during the past six years. The Quite a number of our churchmales do not reach maturity un. going people attended church in T. D. HARPER, Athana, Oregon.

North American Review.

The islands of St, Paul and St. George in Behring sea, known as the Pribyloff Islands, are a part of the Alaska purchase from Russia in 1867. These islands are the only places inhabited by the seal in the Alaskan Territory. Across Bering sea, near the Siberian coast, and distant 750 miles due west from the Pribyloff Islands, are the Commander Islands, belonging to Russia, which are also inhabited by seals. No other seal colony of any size exists in the North Pacific. The two herds inhabiting these widely separated groups of Islands never migle with each other on land or in the water adjacent to the islands has the band and not make the survival of the fittest.

Titl six or seven years of age, and these males together with the yearling females take up their abode by themselves on what are known as the "hauling grounds," quite apart from the rookeries, or breeding-places. none of the young males are allowed by their elders to come upon the rookeries until they are fully matured, and not even then, except they are able to overcome in single combat some old bull, whose powers have been weakened by age. They must conquer their places, and with all alike, old and young, the warfare of the rookeries means the survival of the fittest.

The two herds inhabiting these widely separated groups of Islands never migle with each other on land or in the water adjacent to the islands have the fittest.

For about four months the portion of the powers of age, and the topochory themselves on what are known as the "hauling grounds," quite apart from the rookeries, or breeding-places. none of the young males are allowed by their elders to come upon the rookeries until they are fully matured, and not even then, except they are able to overcome in single combat some old bull, whose powers have been weakened by age. They must conquer their places, and with all alike, old and young, the warfare of the rookeries means the survival of the fittest.

The band boys are warfare of the rookeries until they are fully mat

the marked difference in the ani food) and the nursing young, all mals, which is conclusive evidence the seals feed in the sea during mals, which is conclusive evidence of the absolute separation of the two herds, and ice serves to identify members of each herd beyond possible question.

Why the American seal should have selected these two remote is lands for its home, and no others, is not positively known. Delighting in fog, but unable to endure ice or sun, the animals have doubtless been influenced in their choice by the fact that the islands are almost continuously enveloped in fog from May to November; that they are free from ice during the breed-sing season; that a large portion of

their shores consist of gentle slopes, giving easy access from the water and making a beach on which the young can live while learning to swim. The American seal has never been known to breed on any other land, and they occupy these islands for about eight months each year.

The fur seal is suigeneris. It is a warm-blooded, highly organized animal, classified with bears, dogs, cats, and other carniverous mammals. It is essentially a land animal. It can and does at times, live in the water, but it is not a fish and has none of the characteristics of the fish. Among fishes it begotten, born and reared in fur is at its best, and brings the the water, and which perishes when highest price in the market. During part of the months of NONE BUT FIRST-CLASS RICS The Athena Club Rooms August and September, however, the fur temporarily deteriorates, and no seals are slaughtered.

killed upon the islands. All are preserved for the increase of the herd, for it is upon them that the increase mainly depends. The cow bears but one calf a year, while a bull, as a rule, serves as many as fifteen cows in a season, or thirty. The killing of one female means the cutting off of one Summer is the breeding season of the seal. The animals are then increase of the herd during the natural term of the mother's life; tion takes place. The per- while the killing of fourteen or gestation is between eleven fifteen males would involve no

The seals selected for slaughter are killed in the open field with eletion finds the mothers again re- clubs, and the thousands of their companions in the immediate presence of whom the killing

The industry, as conducted by duction goes on year after year the government, is a scource of great profit. Its successful pros-During the winter months the ecution requires large capital and

HELIX HERALDINGS.

HELIX, June 5, 1893. We are enjoying nice weather now, and the crop prospect is good. will not cut it back as the Junction

The sick child of W. C. Zeiger is still very low, but we hope that by careful nursing and the skillful treatment of Dr. Griswold, it will soon recover.

J. H. Ross and Prof. Austin, leader of Austin's band of this city

Jas. Ross have returned from a Liverpool, London & Globe, trip to Idaho. It seems as if the boys have enough of that country.

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hand a full line of

and vehicles, carts, ers, Hodge-Haines J. E. GORMAN, Manager,

your city Sunday, there being no services here. Hereafter, Rev. W.

paint mine is in about 80 feet, Since the working of this find as a paint deposit, and when in about 70 feet, a peculiar formation of rock was found, such as is usually found in onal mines. The Since the working of this find usually found in opal mines. The work of sinking into the bedrock is now going on, during the process of which quite a number of good opals have been found, and of various colors. Upon the advice mer.

Except the full grown bulls of an opal expert, they will sink through this bedrock, where, if (which can go a long time without expectations are realized. the rich

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W. W. Brannin will preach at this place on the first and third Sundays of each month.

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The tunnel in the Pendleton selling is that I have a combine selling is machine and have no use for the

T. P. PAGE

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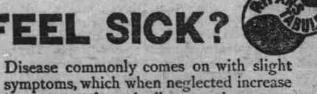
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