

Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea. It has been alleged that the United State government is about to remove the restrictions on pelagic sealing and that great activity will soon be witnessed in the outfitting of vessels for carrying on the work. A newspaper has recently published an item which purports to give minute details. The statements therein are so misleading in character as to give rise to the impression that they were fabricated solely for the purpose of creating a sensation or of encouraging uninformed persons to engage in an illegal enterprise.

The truth of the matter is that pelagic sealing in the North Pacific Ocean, north of the thirtieth parallel of north latitude and including the seas of Bering, Kamchatka, Okhotsk, and Japan, is prohibited by an international agreement entered into in 1911 by the United States, Great Britain, Japan and Russia. The agreement is in perpetuity unless one or more of the parties thereto dissent. With the well-demonstrated benefits which accrue to all the governments concerned from the rational management of the fur-seal herds, there is little likelihood that any one will permit its citizens or subjects to resume at any time in the future the disastrous practise of pelagic sealing.

The United States and Canada cooperate fully in patrolling and protecting the Alaska fur-seal herd. U. S. Coast Guard vessels are ever on the alert to detect violations of the international agreement, and it is safe to say that any clandestine operations would come to grief in short order.

In the fiscal year 1920 the revenue to the United States government from the sale of fur-seal skins was \$1,457,790. Aside from the revenue to this government, the governments of Great Britain and of Japan share in the annual take of Alaska fur-seals to the extent of 15 per cent. each.

THE PROPOSED CALIFORNIA ANTI-VIVISECTION LEGISLATION

THE board of regents of the University of California and the trustees of Stanford University have united in a protest against the anti-vivisectionist initiative. They say:

The advance of sanitation, modern medicine and physiology and the teaching of biology all rest on animal experimentation. The control of epidemic diseases, the management of surgical operations and of childbirth, and the certification of milk and water supplies would be impossible without the knowledge gained by such studies. In fact, the whole structure of the present-day protection of the public from disease rests upon animal experimentation.

The University of California and Stanford University are vitally interested in this initiative measure since its passage would stop the research work now going on in their medical schools, hospitals and laboratories, and in the Bureau of Animal Industry. The studies on botulism in olives, which will not only save the ripe olive industry of the state, but many lives, would cease, as would likewise the manufacture of serum for the prevention of hog cholera, the preparation of vaccine for anthrax, and the various other measures that annually save millions of dollars and prevent great suffering among domestic animals. Even feeding on animals would be impossible.

No worse attack on the welfare of the state and on the right of the university to seek and teach the truth could be made. Every man, woman and child, every unborn babe, every domestic animal in the state will be affected if this measure becomes a law. It is unnecessary special legislation due to prejudice and misinformation. No one will tolerate cruelty to animals. The present laws of the state are drastic and quite sufficient to control any abuse. We know that there is no cruelty to animals in the laboratories of the universities. They are in charge of men and women of the highest character, who are unselfishly working to better the lot of their fellow men. Anesthetics are always used for animals in the laboratory in exactly the same way that they are used by surgeons in the operating room. The real object of the antivivisectionist is not the prevention of cruelty to animals, but the prevention of progress in science and medicine.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION

THE sixteenth annual New England Intercollegiate Geological Excursion will be held in the vicinity of Middletown, Connecticut, October 8 and 9, 1920. There will be two parts to the excursion. Friday afternoon the Strickland pegmatite quarry, Collins Hill, Portland,