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Letter of the Secretary of the Treasury.
communicating, in compliance with a resolution of
the Senate of the 15th ultimo, information in regard
to the Territory of Alaska and the fur interests
therein

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Serial 1360

LETTER
OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 15th ultimo, information in regard to the Territory of Alaska and the fur interests therein.

JANUARY 6, 1869.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 5, 1869.

SIR: In partial reply to the resolution of the Senate of the 15th ultimo, requesting information concerning the Territory of Alaska and the fur interests therein, I have the honor to transmit herewith extracts from the reports of Captain J. W. White, commanding the revenue steamer Wayanda, giving a narrative of the cruise of the past summer in the Alaskan waters.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

H. McCULLOCH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. B. F. WADE,
President of the Senate.

A CRUISE IN ALASKA.

[From official reports of Captain J. W. White, commander of the United States revenue steamer Wayanda.]

On the 13th of May, 1868, I reached Fort Simpson, Hudson Bay Company's post, and proceeded next morning to Fort Tongass, Clement village; on sounding out the passages and anchorage off the fort, found no good harbor except for very small vessels. Visited the Indian village; found them friendly and well-disposed; was informed by the chief "Ib-bits" that his tribe numbered about 145, being a portion of the Tomgas tribe proper.

On the 15th left Fort Tongass; proceeded around Cape Fox and Cape Northumberland, intending to visit and examine Tomgas harbor, Gravina island; weather set in very thick, and raining so that I was forced to steam on up Clarence straits, and came to anchor in Carsan inlet; was visited by Scowall, chief of the Carsan Indians, a branch of the Kaigan tribe, who informed me that his tribe numbered about 250; we visited the village, and were kindly received, finding them friendly and communicative.

On the 16th I took the chief Scowall on board, and proceeded to

Carta bay, located about 42 miles from Cape Northumberland and 45 miles from Cape De Chacon up Clarence straits, on Prince of Wales archipelago; here Mr. Brarnovck, a Russian and son-in-law of Scowall, has a trading post and salmon fishery, and will this year put up about 3,000 barrels. The harbor is good and easy of access; timber, pine and cedar, very large and in great abundance; learned that many acres of arable land are to be found on the several streams emptying into this bay.

On the 17th, proceeded up Clarence straits through Stachinski straits to Tchikhakoff straits, thence up Zimovia straits to Etholine bay, and anchored off Fort Wrangell; learned from Captain Smith, United States army, that the Indians were quiet and peaceable; was visited by Shakes, chief of the Stachine tribe, and many of his people. They seemed pleased at having the troops located near them. Took soundings in the passage to Wrangell channel, and made corrections on the chart.

On the 20th proceeded from Wrangell channel into Frederick sound, and the westward. We here passed many small icebergs and on the north side of the sound observed many glaciers stretching down to the water. In the afternoon anchored in a snug harbor between Points Cornwallis and Kingsmill, north end of Kow island; were visited by many of the Kake Indians, including several of the chiefs; found them, as elsewhere, well-disposed.

On the 21st, proceeded to Kika straits and entered Port Camden, anchoring about eight miles from its mouth. Early in the morning of the 22d, examined the east shore of Port Camden, and about seven miles from its mouth, and 15 miles south of the old Kake settlement, in latitude $56^{\circ} 42'$, longitude $133^{\circ} 50'$, found coal cropping out about 20 feet above low-water mark. It occurs in several veins with intervening strata of hard rock. Immediately below the upper vein is a layer of clay rock with abundant fossil remains; above this vein is a layer of gray silicious conglomerate. As far as was manifest the adjacent formation to the veins below is the same. The coal itself is about six inches in thickness at the surface, in each vein, but these increase in size as they pass down and in. The veins are at varying distances of from 20 to 50 feet from each other. They have a dip to the southward of from 35° to 4° , and a strike nearly due east and west. On account of the great dip the veins could not be followed far; neither could we conjecture as to the continued increase in thickness, or whether they, beneath the surface, approached and ran into each other, forming one large vein. The specimens, some of which I forward from this place, have been acted upon by the salt water, and are not fair examples of what may be below. The entire beach is a formation of sandstone from high to low water mark, with ready anchorage of from 6 to 15 fathoms, soft bottom, and a safe harbor; rise and fall of tide about 30 feet. The surrounding country is thickly timbered, with numerous fresh-water streams running into the bay.

Steamed out of the passage, and proceeded out Frederick sound up Chatham straits, into Peril straits, and came to anchor on the south shore of the latter, inside a rocky reef not marked on the charts; this anchorage is even sheltered from all southerly winds.

On the 23d, proceeded through Peril straits and the other inside passages to Sitka, where we arrived at 4 p. m.

On the 30th, having engaged Mr. Radin (formerly a captain in the Russian-American Company's services) to assist me as pilot during my cruise to the westward, proceeded to sea, shaping course for the Pamplona rock and reef.

On the 31st, light easterly winds and thick weather; at 7.30 p. m., when about the position of Rock and Reef, sounded 100 fathoms, no bottom; steered various courses under easy steam to 10.30 p. m., finding no bottom at 100 fathoms; weather continuing very thick, stood on to the northward and westward.

June 1st, at 11 a. m., made Hammond point, (from Cape Edgecomb to Hammond point, I found the current setting northwestward one knot per hour;) rounded the point and stood in for the mouth of Copper river, here we found the current setting northeast about one and a half knot per hour. At 8 p. m., sounded in 25 fathoms fine white and gray sand about three miles from shore; weather continued thick; hauled up for Point Etches at 10.30; when off the point, stood off and on under easy steam for daylight; sounded in from 40 to 90 fathoms. At 2.30 a. m. stood in to Point Williams sound between Point Etches and the Seal Rocks. At 4 a. m. came to anchor in the bay one mile east of Fort Constantine. Was here visited by the trader, Mr. Gregorieff, (a Russian,) who had resided here 23 years, but knew very little about the country, except the immediate vicinity of his post.

The Indians here have apparently been kept poor and under complete subjection, much unlike those to the southward. The Adnohton tribe, known as the Copper River Indians, reside about 150 miles from its mouth and number about 200; they have a dialect entirely of their own and offer serious objections to strangers visiting their country; they come down once a year to trade at Fort Constantine. The above I learned from the trader of that post.

On the 3d, left Fort Constantine and proceeded along the coast towards Cook's inlet; stopped off English bay at 8 a. m. of the 4th; was boarded by the chief at that place, Constantine Cal-ee, who piloted us into the harbor. I found him to be quite intelligent and very friendly. Here we visited the Russian American Company's coal mine, long since abandoned, from appearances. A large amount of money has been expended here, and all to no purpose. All the shafts are now filled with water, and many of the buildings worthless. Several of the best houses are now occupied by an American fur company as a trading post. The coal in general at this place crops out in thin veins, along the shore, close to the level of high-water mark, dipping at a large angle towards the north and west. It, however, soon passes down below the tide level, but this with no regularity, it being, together with the adjacent sandstone, at various points, turned and twisted about, with a dip towards nearly every point of the compass. The coal is of a very inferior quality. Left this place and proceeded to Pchu-gats-ky, now known as Fort Kenay, where we arrived the same afternoon.

On the 5th sounded the bay and made a sketch of it. Here we found coal showing itself along the bluff and shore in large veins, and better quality than at any point I have so far examined. The veins, six or eight in number, ran along the bluff for many miles, with a dip to the north and east of about 20 feet to the mile; the adjacent formation is of gray sandstone; overlying the whole is a bed of fine clay. The veins are from two to seven feet in thickness, and from 20 to 30 feet apart. I obtained from different veins about one ton of this coal in regard to trial. I also forward specimens from this place. Having tested its qualities in producing heat, I am satisfied in that respect it will bear comparison with any coal found on this coast, and without the dense smoke and soot which renders the Nancimo coal so disagreeable in using. This same formation of coal continues along Cook's inlet from this point 40 miles northward. The bay at Port Kenay is shallow; fall of tide about 20 feet; at low water

the flats are bare one mile from the bluff. Anchorage in six fathoms water, and good holding bottom about one and three-quarter miles from shore.

On the afternoon of the 6th visited and sounded out two small harbors on the south side of Kenay bay, called by the Indians Kasitsna and Cheeslock-noo; in both of these I found good anchorage sheltered from all winds.

On the 7th, proceeded up Cook's inlet, stopped off the mouth of the Kakny river, and took a pilot. At 4.30 p. m. came to anchor in the river near Fort St. Nicholas. Visited and examined the trading post, which is small, yet a beautiful location. The four buildings and two block houses, including the enclosure, designated by the Russian commissioner as property belonging to the United States government, are about all the improvements that may be considered of any value exclusive of the church property.

On the 8th, sent a boat party to examine the river; at 8.30 p. m. expedition returned, having explored the river to about 10 miles from its mouth, where commences a succession of small islands and shoals; the average width of the river to this point is about 200 yards; depth of water from 10 to 12 feet; the bottom lands, most of which are overflowed in the spring, are very extensive; soil rich, producing a luxuriant growth of grass. Information from various sources, and my own observation, goes to prove that the east shore of Cook's inlet from Anchor point, (a distance of 90 miles in length, and from 30 to 40 miles in width,) is a good agricultural country, capable of sustaining a dense population. Pine and birch timber is found in abundance on the high land and along the ridges. Salmon are found in great numbers, of superior quality, and very large; some were taken at Fort St. Nicholas weighing 100 pounds each.

Early on the 9th, left Kakny river and proceeded down Cook's inlet; at 2 p. m., weather thick and threatening, barometer falling, stood in for English bay, and anchored two miles above the trading post, where we found a good harbor. While here I visited the Indian village, accompanied by several officers; we were kindly received and shown through the houses, which are clean and well kept, offering, in that respect, a pleasing contrast to those of Fort Constantine.

On the morning of the 11th, weather more favorable; I left English bay, passed out of Cook's inlet, and proceeded to St. Paul's harbor, Kodiak island, where I arrived at 8.30 p. m.; found in port the American brig Shelikoff, from Sitka, and the American bark Atlanta from San Francisco, with United States troops and supplies for the establishment of a military post at this place. From my own observation and information obtained from reliable sources, I am satisfied that along the coast and inlets from Copper river to this place there are but about 800 Indians, and not over 100 residing at any one place. They are all very friendly and perfectly inoffensive.

June 12-30. I left St. Paul's harbor by the eastern passage and followed along the land to southward, visited and examined Old Harbor, (or Three Saints village,) on the west side of passage between this and Saklidove island, where I remained one day, then proceeded to Ka-oo-yak bay, near Cape Trinity; here, as well as at Old Harbor, I found good anchorage easy of access and well sheltered, with codfish in great abundance, though smaller than those found on the banks off shore. The natives at both places were very friendly and communicative; some of them speak Russian, having been educated by the Greek church; they informed me that no vessel had visited them this season, but they had done so heretofore, and that the whalers frequently wintered there. After

filling up with fresh water I proceeded southward. From Cape Trinity southward lies a succession of small islands; the southernmost one, called Tougidak, is about 15 miles long and quite low; around this group are many shoals and reefs of hard sand lying at various distances from shore; I sounded around the group for a distance of 50 miles, from 2 to 10 miles off shore, varying in from 4 to 12 fathoms, all hard sand.

On the west side of Tougidak island I was boarded by several canoes from the sea-otter camp. Here Hutchinson, Kohl & Company have at this time 80 canoes and 180 men hunting sea otter. The principal place for taking them is about 75 miles west of Tougidak, in 20 fathoms water. The party had only been out one day, (on account of the fog,) then they took 37. They also informed me that no vessels had been seen off shore this season.

From there I proceeded up Alaska straits to northward, intending to stop at Katmay, and several other places, but a dense fog set in, and I saw nothing until off the west passage leading into St. Paul harbor.

On the 1st of July I left Kodiak, and proceeded to sea by the east passage, thence south and westward. From Cape Trinity to the Unga group I found the current setting west per compass 30 miles per day. On the 3d, when near the east side of the Choumagin islands, boarded the American fishing schooner Amanda Ager, of San Francisco, with 40,000 codfish. She reported four other vessels fishing near the mainland.

On the morning of the 4th arrived at Unga harbor. This harbor is small, and unsafe with easterly winds. Early on the 5th I proceeded to Coal harbor, north end of Unga island, where we remained but a few hours to examine the coal, which we found in great abundance, but from the outward appearance we deemed it very inferior. The harbor is easy of access, and a good anchorage in any weather. On the same day proceeded to sea, around the coast side of the island, and south of Sanak for the Akoutan pass, which we made at 12 m. of the 6th. From Unga to this place we observed no current, whereas last fall in the Lincoln we found a strong current setting to the northward, and I am of the opinion that the currents along this part of the coast are controlled entirely by the winds.

At 1 p. m. of the 7th arrived at Captain's Harbor, Oonalaska; visited the village, examined Kohl & Company's trading post, and a small establishment kept by one Edmund Sandelin, who, with his entire stock of goods, was landed here by the American brig Hattie Jackson.

Early on the 11th I proceeded to sea, and shaped course for St. George island, where I arrived on the 12th. The wind being fresh from the westward, and a heavy sea on, I was unable to make a landing, so proceeded to St. Paul island, (a distance of 40 miles,) where I arrived at 5 p. m., and anchored on the south side of the island near the village. Here I remained until the 18th. The weather being changeable, and no good harbor for a vessel drawing over six feet of water, I was forced to keep up steam, and move my anchorage as circumstances would dictate.

Two American companies are engaged in sealing and trading on St. Paul island. Complaints have been made to me by the natives as to the manner in which the sealing was conducted by some of the new-comers; it is stated that people who are not accustomed to the sealing business would cause the seals to abandon places which they had frequented for many years. The island of St. Paul is 12 miles long and from one and a half to three and a half miles wide, and the island of St. George is nine and a half miles long and from one to two miles wide. These islands are of no value except for the seal fisheries alone, from which the

population of these islands derive their only means of livelihood. The destruction or disappearance of seals would be a calamity for many more than the inhabitants of St. Paul and St. George islands. From Prince Williams sound to Bristol bay, including all the Aleutian islands, nearly all the canoes are made from the skins of these animals, and the waterproof coats from the intestines, the seal for which are carefully selected by the natives from among the large males that are without families, wounded from fighting. To cut off these supplies would soon impoverish the entire coast above referred to.

On the 18th, I left St. Paul and proceeded for Bristol bay; on the 20th, made Cape Newenham and proceeded along the shoals to the eastward; on the 21st, proceeded around the reefs off Cape Constantine and anchored near the bar, near the mouth of the Nushegag river. In the afternoon a native pilot came on board and piloted us up the river to anchorage three miles below Fort Alexander, where I remained six days, most of which time we had fresh gales from south to west-southwest with rain and thick weather, so that we were not able to examine river or country but to a few miles from the vessel. The navigation of both the bay and river is rendered very difficult and dangerous, as the reefs and shoals shift more or less during every gale of wind, consequently the most recent charts are now very imperfect.

After passing Cape Newenham we seemed to have entered a different climate, the temperature of the air becoming much milder, the water also warmer; this change was more and more apparent the further we proceeded to the eastward. In the Nushegag river we found the rise and fall of tide about 20 feet, the current from three and a half to four knots, and the temperature of both air and water nearly 20° warmer than at St. Paul island. The bottom lands along the river in some places are five miles wide; between these and the mountains the country is rolling, with a small growth of timber, which increases in size as you proceed up the river or back towards the mountains. The soil generally is good, vegetables of many kinds growing well; game and fish are found in abundance, the salmon being of a superior quality; these with the reindeer (the skins of which are used for clothing) are the principal food of the natives. The natives, of whom there are several villages on both sides of the river, near its mouth, have had but little intercourse with the whites, but are kindly disposed and very friendly; they are industrious and quite ingenious; their houses are warm and comfortable, excepting the filth. On the 26th a party of Indians arrived here from Cook's Inlet, via Niamanna lake and the Kvichpak and Nushegag rivers; the party consisted of seven natives in their canoes, (the usual means of communication of these natives in summer being by canoes, and in winter by dog sledges.)

The trading post at Fort Alexander of the Russian Fur Company is still maintained by Hutchinson, Kehl, & Co.

On the morning of the 27th, with a native pilot, I steamed out of the river, discharged the pilot at Cape Constantine, and proceeded to Oonaska harbor, where I arrived in the evening of the 30th.

On the 9th of September I sailed from Sitka to visit the Chilkah, Awke, and Tako tribes, known as the most hostile Indians in this archipelago. After stopping at Port Lincoln to water ship, on the 10th proceeded through Peril and across Chatham straits to Hoodnoo bay, Admiralty island, for the purpose of examining the coal in that region. While here, made a careful examination of the bay, and found the bottom everywhere very uneven and rocky, rendering its navigation very dangerous for anything but boats or a small steamer, and for them only at slack water.

The coal occurs in veins of varying thickness, running generally from northeast to southwest, with a dip to the southeast. The adjacent shales and clay rock were full of fossils. The principal vein thus far discovered is about 22 inches thick, increasing as it passes down and in. The quality of the coal is good, producing extreme heat, but consumes rapidly. Specimens of coal and fossils I forward by steamer. The United States steamer Saganaw has employed the Indians in getting out coal here.

From this place I proceeded to Chilkahat, where we arrived in the afternoon of the 12th; were visited by the chief and several natives from the lower village. Next day, accompanied by five officers, I visited the village; was well received by the chief, who conducted us through most of the houses. An epidemic of measles had lately visited this people. (This disease we found at Fort Simpson in the spring, and it has since made its way through nearly every tribe up to this place.) In nearly every house we found some who were yet suffering from its effects. By their request these were examined and prescribed for by the surgeon. These people, though independent in manner, when treated properly will be found well disposed and quite docile. During this season only two small trading vessels have visited this region, and the natives complain that they cannot find market for their furs, nor obtain goods needed for themselves and for trade with interior Indians. I promised, if possible, on my return to Sitka to induce some trader to visit them with such articles as they required.

On the morning of the 14th, after giving small presents to the chief and headmen, dismissed them, well pleased with our visit; got under way and proceeded down Lynn canal to Berner bay, where we stopped a short time to examine the bluff; found numerous quartz veins containing sulphurets of . (We discovered these occurring in similar formation along the northeast shore of Admiralty island, and on the main land as far as Tako harbor, 60 miles southeast of Berner's bay.) Passed on down Lynn canal and into Stephens's passage, making anchorages near the upper and lower Awke villages. From each of these places sent out parties to examine for coal and minerals, the Indians having reported to me that such existed in this vicinity. We found no traces of coal, or the formation in which it occurs, toward the south end of Admiralty island. The mineralogical specimens obtained I forward for examination and identification.

The Awke Indians, though not numerous, are divided into several bands, and are looked upon as dangerous by the traders; yet we found them very friendly and faithful as guides, acting willingly in this capacity for a small consideration. The passage separating Douglas island from the main land, and known on the charts as Castineau channel, we found only navigable for small boats at high water.

On the 17th proceeded down Stephens's passage with the intention of visiting the Indian village near the head of Tako inlet, for the purpose of discovering if possible the truth in regard to charges of misconduct made against these Indians by a trader who had visited them this season. Arriving at the mouth of the inlet and finding quantities of heavy ice drifting down from glaciers near its head, obstructing and endangering its navigation, I continued on to Tako harbor, about 10 miles south. While here I was visited by one of the chiefs of the Tako tribe; learned from him that the misunderstanding between his people and the trader arose from the latter's refusing to pay the price for their furs they had been accustomed to receive from the Hudson Bay Company. The Indians forcibly removed from the vessel a portion of the cargo, but subsequently, through the influence of the chief, returned it all in good order. I advised

the chief in regard to the prompt action of the government in all such cases, assuring him that any future misconduct on the part of either Indians or traders would meet proper punishment. Receiving from him promises of future good conduct, I deemed it unnecessary to pursue the case further, it appearing to me that both parties were somewhat to blame.

Passing southward through Stephens's passage, stood into Holcom bay, to visit the Sumdum village: but finding all the people absent, hunting and fishing, proceeded on through Prince Frederick's sound and along the southeastern shore of Admiralty island, making anchorage in the evening of the 18th in a small bay near Point Gardner, at south end of Admiralty island; this is the only anchorage laid down on the charts in this vicinity, and being situated at the junction of Prince Frederick sound with Chatham straits, has been for years frequently used by the traders. It is, however, exposed to southerly winds, with a very uneven and rocky bottom. Just east of this anchorage we found an excellent harbor, (called by the Indians Quts-ka-heen;) though small, it is easy of access, with anchorage in 12 fathoms, good holding ground, and protected from all winds. The entrance to this harbor bears north-north-west by compass from Yaska island, distant two and one-half miles.

Having discovered traces of coal near the mouth of a small stream which empties into the head of this bay, I remained here three days, to follow up and examine the same. Found small fragments of coal of varying quality lodged along the bed of the stream for about five miles from its mouth, but none in its natural position, though the formation seemed most favorable. Along a smaller stream making into this one from the westward, fragments of coal also occur; we followed these up about two miles further, and to an elevation of 500 feet, where a small vein of coal in soft clay, without fossils, cropped out of the left bank. About 100 feet higher up the stream there was another larger vein, in similar formation; both of these, however, were of poor quality and but a few inches in thickness; they ran from southwest to northeast, with dip to southeast 60°. That good coal exists in this neighborhood is evident from specimens found, (out of position;) some of which are very fine. The timber here is especially fine, and the facilities for obtaining it are very good.

On the 22d visited Squill-toos-kin village, west side of Admiralty island; was kindly received by the chief, who with his people expressed much friendship to and regard for the "new government;" all the natives I visited during my cruise seemed desirous to express their friendly feeling toward and recognition of our government. It has been my practice to remunerate them for all service and valuable information, and I deem it important that this should be done in future. From here I proceeded through Peril straits to St. John's bay, where I arrived on the evening of the 23d, and thence to Sitka on the morning of the 25th.

In accordance with my instructions to examine and ascertain the best locality for a custom-house, I have to report as follows:

The extent of sea-coast is so great that one port of entry, whatever its position, cannot afford proper facilities for the trade of the whole Territory, and I would respectfully recommend that St. Paul harbor (Kodiak island) and Illoook harbor, (Oonalaska island,) as well as Sitka, be designated as points at which vessels may enter and clear.

St. Paul is the most convenient place for vessels trading along the coast from Prince William's sound to the Choumagin islands, including Alaska straits and Cook's inlet; it is the headquarters of the western military district of the department, and in the neighborhood of extensive fishing grounds. The town itself ranks next to Sitka in population and importance, and good charts of the harbor are to be obtained.

Illoook being convenient to Onimak and Akoutan straits, the only passages used by vessels visiting Behring sea and the Aleutian islands for the purposes of trade, and having one of the best harbors along the coast, has become a general stopping place for all such vessels. This is the largest village of the Aleutians, and two trading posts have been here established. The greater portion of the trade this season has been along the Aleutian islands and the coast of Behring sea; the present indications are that it will be much greater another year, and it seems proper that every facility for entering and clearing should be afforded the traders. No point more convenient or advantageous in every way for the trade of this region could be had than the one suggested. I herewith enclose sketch of harbor, with soundings.

A custom-house being already established at Sitka, no immediate change in this region can be recommended, though there are many harbors easier of access and better situated for the accommodation of trade within this archipelago. The best point can only be designated as trade may develop, and upon a more thorough examination than I have been able to make.

In order to protect the revenue and render proper assistance to commerce, there should be three steam revenue cutters stationed on this coast, (each one furnished with a steam launch,) one at each of the above-named places. The two for St. Paul and Illoook should be properly rigged to cruise under sail, and only use steam as auxiliary. The one stationed at Sitka should be of smaller class and depend almost entirely upon steam, being so constructed as to burn soft coal or wood. Arrangements can easily be made for cutting wood at very reasonable price at points along nearly the whole extent of this cruising ground. This would both give employment to the Indians and secure their confidence.

The occasional visit of these steamers at each village along the coast will do more toward insuring the respect of the natives, and reconciling disputes that will naturally arise between them and the traders, than the most complete system of military posts that may be devised.

(See Report of Captain White, of November 6, 1868.)

Prices of fur seal in San Francisco.

[From Alaska Herald of December 1, 1863.]

Fur seal, per skin.	Price.	Average.
Salted and well secured:		
Large bulls	\$3 50 to \$4 00	\$3 75
Large prime	2 50 to 3 00	2 75
Middling	2 00 to 2 50	2 25
Small	1 25 to 1 50	1 37½
Large pups	2 00 to 2 50	2 25
Middling pups	1 25 to 1 50	1 37½
Small pups	75 to 1 00	87½
Small black pups	4 to 5	4½

N. B.—Fur seals are more in demand than for some years past.

List of prices for furs in San Francisco.

[From Alaska Herald of December 1, 1868.]

Per skin.	Price.	Average.
*Bear, black, prime, fine.....	\$5 00 to \$6 00	\$5 50
*Bear, black, prime, heavy.....	2 50 to 3 00	2 25
*Bear, black, seconds.....	1 50 to 2 50	2 00
*Bear, black, cubs.....	50 to 1 50	1 00
Badger.....	50 to 1 00	75
Fisher, prime, dark.....	4 00 to 5 50	4 75
Fisher, prime, pale.....	2 00 to 2 50	2 25
Fisher, seconds.....	1 00 to 1 50	1 25
Fox, silver.....	5 00 to 15 00	10 00
Fox, cross.....	2 50 to 4 00	3 25
Fox, red.....	1 00 to 1 50	1 25
Fox, kitt.....	40 to 50	45
Fox, white.....	1 00 to 2 00	1 50
Fox, gray.....	50 to 60	55
Lynx.....	75 to 1 25	1 00
Marten, prime, dark.....	5 00 to 7 00	6 00
Marten, prime, pale.....	2 50 to 3 25	2 37½
Marten, seconds.....	1 00 to 1 50	1 25
Marten, thirds.....	25 to 75	50
Mink, dark northern, prime.....	1 50 to 2 25	1 87½
Mink, pale southern, prime.....	1 00 to 1 25	1 12½
Mink, seconds.....	50 to 75	62½
Mink, thirds.....	20 to 25	22½
Muskrats.....	10 to 15	12½
Otter, sea, prime, dark silvery.....	50 00 to 60 00	55 00
Otter, sea, prime.....	30 00 to 40 00	35 00
Otter, sea, prime brown.....	20 00 to 25 00	22 50
Otter, sea, prime, pups.....	50 to 5 00	2 75
Otter, land, prime dark.....	3 00 to 4 00	3 50
Otter, land, prime southern.....	2 00 to 2 50	2 25
Otter, land, seconds.....	1 00 to 1 50	1 25
Otter, land, thirds.....	50 to 75	62½
Raccoon.....	20 to 25	22½
Wolf, large.....	2 00 to 3 00	2 50
Wolf, small.....	1 00 to 1 50	1 25
Wolf, seconds.....	50 to 75	62½
Wolverine, firsts.....	3 00 to 4 00	3 50
Wolverine, seconds.....	2 00 to 2 50	2 25
Wild-cat, firsts.....	30 to 40	35
Wild-cat, seconds.....	10 to 20	15
Skunks.....	10 to 15	12½
Beaver, northern..... per pound..	1 00 to 1 25	1 12½
Beaver, southern..... per pound..	75 to 90	82½
Deerskins, dressed, smoked..... per pound..	1 30 to 1 25	1 22½
Deerskins, raw, summer, and fall..... per pound..	20 to 23	21½
Deerskins, raw, winter..... per pound..	15 to 18	16½

* Brown and grizzly bear about 20 per cent. less than black.