



Do NOT WRITE ABOUT MORE THAN ONE SUBJECT IN THE SAME LETTER.

WRITE LEGIBLY YOUR FULL NAME AND ADDRESS.

ADDRESS YOUR REPLY TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES, OTTAWA, AND QUOTE ABOVE NUMBER.

Ottawa, 1st October, 1896.

Dear Dr. Dawson-

Since receiving your letter I have daily intended to see you but something has cropped up to prevent me from doing so. I have on hand now considerable work in connection with the Claims Convention and the Counsel on behalf of Great Britain are here working at the case but I still hope to be able to see you before long. Meanwhile I enclose you copies of the letters received from Macoun.

Encl:

From that dated 18th August, you will observe that his observations entirely corroborate the conclusions reached by me after my short and cursory observations on the Commander Islands in 1893. There is no doubt, in my opinion, at least, that insufficient attention has been paid to the question of mortality of pups on the Islands and Macoun's observations of the present year, backed up as they must necessarily be by those of the United States' Commission associated with him, will go far to prove that our contentions are not without

Dr. G. M. Dawson, C.M.G. &c.,

Director of Geological Survey.

Ottawa.

Office.

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Dear Dr. Dawson-

1st October, 1898.

Victoria
The Director of Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
Ottawa, Canada



without considerable warrant. We have from the outset taken the view of the matter which it would seem is now in some degree at least borne out; that is to say, that although considerable mortality among the pups on the Islands can be established, the primary cause must be looked for in other directions than from the operations of the pelagic sealers who are necessarily late in Behring Sea.

This phase of the question impressed itself upon me most forcibly in 1893, but unfortunately my observations were necessarily of very limited extent and my arrival on the Islands too late to enable me to elucidate certain points which I had in view.

Macoun now counts for 11,000 deaths on the Islands which cannot reasonably be attributed to any but natural causes and it seems to me most remarkable that during all these years this information has either been suppressed or has not come under the observation of the people on the Islands. However this may be it cannot but assist us and it certainly is corroborative of the position that we have taken.

The United States' people in their evident desire to make things look as bad as possible, have told us that 20,000 pups have perished on the Islands annually for the past two years. These of course are stated to have died because of the operations of pelagic sealers. As Macoun shows that

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more than one-half that number have this year already expired from other causes it follows that to prove their contentions the mortality from the time of his count out must be very great, otherwise it is fair to assume that no abnormal mortality can be chargeable to the operations of the sealers at sea.

Encl:

I also enclose, which I hope you will return to me as soon as convenient, a communication from Collector Milne attaching an extract from the San Francisco Chronicle, containing an interview with Mr. J. Stanley Brown, in which he undertakes to compare the personnel of the respective Commissions sent to investigate the question of seal life during the present year.

An official letter will reach you to-day informing you that Mr. Macoun intends remaining on the Pribylov Islands until the 10th October, and no doubt he will have an opportunity to observe with some degree of certainty as to the extent of the mortality among the seal pups which may be caused by the operations of the pelagic sealers.

I have as yet heard nothing from Mr. Halkett, whose observations as you understand, are confined to the operations of the sealing fleet in Behring Sea.

If you so desire and will name any specific date for a personal interview on any point which

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Yours very truly,

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Oct. 1. 96

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Yours very truly,

J. W. Lawrence