

The following are statistics of the sealing fleet of Canada for the season of 1896, with those of 1895 added for purposes of comparison:

	1895.	1896.
Total catch.....	73,614	55,677

Distributed thus :

British Columbia coast.....	9,853	10,703
Japanese coast.....	18,687	17,968
Copper Island coast.....	6,281	1,306
Behring Sea.....	35,918	25,700
Fleet, No. of vessels.....	64	64
Boats.....	210	268
Canoes.....	421	442
Crew, white.....	705	809
“ Indians.....	854	889
Value fur seal skins.....	713,590	501,003

Prior to 1878 very few seals were killed by Canadian sealers. Hunting was not carried on further than 20 miles from shore.

The following statement shows the

	Seals killed.		Seals killed.
1888.....	9,195	1893.....	70,592
1889.....	35,310	1894.....	95,048
1890.....	43,325	1895.....	73,614
1891.....	52,365	1896.....	55,677
1892.....	49,743		

From 1871 to 1896 the total products of the Canadian pelagic sealing industry amounted to 607,217 seal skins.

Total Pacific catch during the season of 1895 and 1896 :

	1895.	1896.
Seals landed at Victoria.....	73,614	55,677
“ American ports by U.S. schooners....	20,307	48,637
Seal catch on Pribyloff Islands (North American Commercial Co.).....	15,000	
Seal catch on Copper Islands (Russian Sealskin Co.)...	17,926	14,896
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	126,841	119,210