



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PAs, June 10, 1944.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today that the annual spring auction of Alaska sealskins which was originally scheduled for April 24 and was postponed will be held in St. Louis, Mo., on June 19.

The auction will be held by the Fouke Fur Company, agents of the government, and 21,745 dressed and dyed Alaska sealskins will be offered. Of these, 13,123 are dyed "Matara" brown and 8,619 are "Safari" brown.

The government-owned skins will be sold in conformance with OPA price regulations which will be in effect at the time of the sale. Top price under these regulations will be \$45, compared with a top of \$53.50 at the last previous sale in the autumn of 1943, according to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service which is in charge of the sealing operations.

Since it is probable that the number of skins to be sold will not meet the demands of the fur trade, and because bids will probably equal the ceiling prices, the skins will be awarded to buyers on a system of preferences based in part on past purchases and through use of a specially designed mechanical device which will assign positions to buyers by chance.

The furs to be sold on June 19 will be available for inspection by prospective buyers at the establishment of the Fouke Fur Company on June 17 and 18.

Another auction of Alaska sealskins will be held in St. Louis in the autumn.