



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SEALSKIN PRICES DROP AT FALL FUR AUCTION

Although a good attendance combined with energetic bidding characterized the annual fall fur auction held by the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis on September 24, in which the total United States Government receipts reached \$2,249,892, the grand average per skin declined 12 per cent, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The grand average for all United States Government-owned fur-seal skins from the Pribilof Islands in Alaska was \$89.76 per skin, as compared with \$100.69 at the April 1951 auction.

The dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average price of \$87.29, a decline of 11.5 per cent from the previous sale. "Safari" brown (lighter brown) skins declined 6.2 per cent to \$69.27. Black skins averaged \$102.31, a loss of 14.3 per cent. A total of 550 blue fox pelts sold for an average price of \$5.44, bringing in an additional sum of about \$2,750.

The auction also included 5,000 South African Government Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins which sold for an average price of \$33.63, a decline of 25.3 per cent.

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