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ALASKA FUR SEAL SKINS DECLINE SHARPLY AT SPRING AUCTION

A sharp decline in prices characterized the semiannual auction of Government-owned fur seal skins at St. Louis on April 13, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today. Bidding was spirited and there was a good attendance at the auction.

A total of 24,400 skins from the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, were sold for \$2,084,191, or \$700,527 less than the Government receipts from the fall auction held last October 13.

The grand average for all fur seal skins sold at the April auction was \$85.42, or \$19.58 under the October grand average of \$105.

Black skins, of which there were 7,000 offered, averaged \$100.52 as compared with October's average of \$122.04. A total of 14,900 dyed "Matara" (brown) skins was offered and these skins sold for an average of \$82.67, or \$27.04 less than the October average. A total of 2,500 "Safari" brown (a lighter brown) skins was offered and these skins averaged \$59.51 as compared with the October average of \$69.14.

In addition to the United States-owned skins, the Fouke Fur Company sold 4,978 Cape of Good Hope fur seal skins for the government of the Union of South Africa. These skins averaged \$32.49, as compared with the October average of \$34.54.

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