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THE FUR-SEAL INVESTIGATION OF 1896.
The preliminary report of the commission
appointed in June, 1896, to investigate
the condition of the northern fur-seals has
recently been issued, although it has been
in print for some time. It gives a resumé of
the summer's work and of the conclu-
sions reached, and will be followed later on
by a full report giving in detail the obser-
vations and facts on which this summary
is based. The work was prosecuted under
exceptionally favorable conditions, not only
from the facilities afforded the commission,
but from the number of observers engaged,
since what was not seen at one time or
place might be seen at another, while the
representatives of the various governments
worked harmoniously together in the accu-
mulation of data. Much, too, is also due to
the thorough manner in which the work
was planned and carried on by Dr. Jordan,
the head of the American commission,
while finally the reduced number of seals
facilitated the work of observation.