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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 conclusions reached, and will be followed later on by a full report giving in detail the observations 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 accumulation 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.

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