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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ALL GOVERNMENT-OWNED SKINS SOLD AT SPRING FUR AUCTION

Strong bidding by a large attendance of fur buyers at the annual spring auction held by the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis on April 19 resulted in the sale of the entire lot of 29,362 Government-owned fur-seal skins and 497 blue fox pelts, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The gross proceeds from the sale of sealskins amounted to \$2,058,787.50 while an additional \$2,250 was realized from the Pribilof Islands fox pelts. At the last auction, held on October 6, 1947, a total of 25,430 dressed, dyed, machined and finished fur-seal skins brought \$1,472,874 while \$3,254 was received for 523 blue fox and 20 white fox pelts.

The average price for the entire offering of sealskins was \$70.10; at the auction last fall it was \$57.92. The higher average at the spring auction was due in part to a large proportion of large skins.

The average for all matara finished skins was \$75.79, an advance of 0.6 percent. Safaris averaged \$65.31, up 3.7 percent; blacks, \$47.44, a decline of 0.3 percent.

The South African Government's Cape of Good Hope skins averaged \$29.58, a decline of 8 percent. This decline was due largely to loss of the South American market although this decline was offset materially by the larger percentage of regular skins over last year.

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