



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For PM's APRIL 12, 1951

SPRING FUR AUCTION BRINGS OUT LARGE CROWD OF BUYERS

Spirited bidding by a large attendance of fur buyers marked the spring auction of the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis at which 25,740 Government-owned fur-seal skins from the Pribilof Islands were sold for \$2,591,796, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today to Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

The auction, held Monday, April 9, also included South African Government and privately owned Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins.

The grand average for all United States Government skins was \$100.69, as compared with \$95.52 at the October 1950 sale. The dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average of \$98.10, a decline of 3.4 percent from the previous sale. "Safari" brown (lighter brown) skins declined 3.9 percent to \$76.01, while the black skins advanced 6.8 percent to \$118.17.

This was the first sale, for several years, at which ceiling prices were in effect. Lots reaching ceiling were black, 73 percent; Matara, 14 percent; and Safari, 8 percent.

In addition to the United States owned skins, the Fouke Fur Company sold 4,149 Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins for the Government of the Union of South Africa, and 3,375 privately owned Cape sealskins. The Government Capes averaged \$44.32, an advance of 14.4 percent. Seventy-one percent of the black Capes reached ceiling but few brown Capes went that high.

The tentative date for the fall auction has been set as September 24, 1951.

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