

29.—STATISTICS OF WHALING, COD-FISHING, AND SALMON-PACKING ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle.]

WHALING.—The following is a statement of the annual catch of the Arctic whaling fleet reporting at San Francisco for twelve years:

Years.	Oil.	Bone.	Ivory.
	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
1874	10,000	80,300	7,600
1875	16,300	157,000	25,400
1876	2,800	8,800	7,000
1877	13,900	130,000	74,000
1878	9,600	73,300	30,000
1879	17,400	127,500	32,900
1880	23,200	339,000	16,300
1881	21,800	354,500	15,400
1882	21,100	316,000	17,800
1883	12,300	160,200	23,100
1884	20,373	295,700	5,421
1885	24,844	451,068	6,504
Total	104,217	2,509,568	260,485

The returns of oil and bone made here for the last year are the largest on record, the entire fleet reporting at this port, while prior to 1879 the greater number of the fleet reported at Honolulu. Until within the last two years the price of whale oil in this market has been from 35 to 40 cents, but owing to the operations of the Pacific Steam Whaling Company the price has been advanced from 50 to 55 cents. This company, having completed extensive refining works here, is now handling a large quantity of the annual catch. The demand for whalebone here is very small, the greater part being shipped east. Two years ago bone was worth \$4.50 in New York, the highest price in seventeen years, but has now dropped back to \$2.50 per pound.

COD-FISHING.—The cod-fishing fleet of 1885 consisted of twelve vessels, one of which made three round trips, acting as tender for the fleet. The vessels dispatched all arrived back safely, bringing full loads, which has acted unfavorably upon the market, and prices throughout the season have ruled low. The sharp competition of local dealers and the low rates at which superior goods have been sold have practically driven eastern fish out of the market. The last vessel arrived back from the fishing grounds on October 18. The vessels employed in the trade and the catch of each was as follows:

Vessel.	No. of fish.	Vessel.	No. of fish.
Czar (three trips)	236,000	Constitution	120,000
Arago	50,000	Tropic Bird	70,000
John Hancock	64,000	Francis Alice	85,000
Dashing Wave	100,000	San Luis	118,000
Helen W. Almy	192,000	Jane A. Falkenburg	120,000
Isabel	85,000		

The catch for the past season has been taken from the following sources :

	Number of fish.
Shumagin Islands	620,000
Behring Sea	312,000
Okhotsk Sea	452,000
Total	1,384,000

The cargoes were consigned to the following parties in this city :

	Number of fish.
McCollam Fishing and Trading Company	557,000
Lynde & Hough	469,000
A. Anderson & Co	85,000
N. Richard	273,000
Total	1,384,000

The catch for the past season was about 235,000 fish less than for 1884. Since the beginning of the cod-fishing industry in 1865 the annual catch has been as follows, that for 1883 being the largest:

Year.	Vessels.	Number of fish.	Year.	Vessels.	Number of fish.	Year.	Vessels.	Number of fish.
1865.....	7	469,400	1872.....	5	300,000	1870.....	13	1,499,000
1866.....	18	724,000	1873.....	7	550,000	1880.....	8	1,206,000
1867.....	19	943,400	1874.....	6	381,000	1881.....	7	1,042,000
1868.....	10	608,000	1875.....	7	504,000	1882.....	12	1,302,000
1869.....	19	1,032,000	1876.....	10	758,000	1883.....	16	1,750,000
1870.....	21	1,265,500	1877.....	10	750,000	1884.....	15	1,619,000
1871.....	11	772,000	1878.....	12	1,190,000	1885.....	12	1,384,000
Total since 1865.....								20,049,300

SALMON-PACKING.—The California Grocer and Canner makes the following summary of packing operations (in cases) on the Pacific coast for the seasons of 1884 and 1885:

Salmon pack of the Pacific coast.

Locality.	1884.	1885.
Sacramento River	90,000	45,000
Columbia River	656,179	524,530
Eel River	7,500	3,750
Smith River	6,000	1,000
Coguille River	9,560	3,800
Umpqua River	13,320	8,000
Rogue River	9,760	8,200
Chehalis River	4,350	3,400
Puget Sound	15,870	5,000
Fraser River	123,420	87,330
Skeena	17,200	12,800
Nans	4,500
Alert Bay	7,400	6,000
Alaska	41,000	67,750
Total	1,006,059	776,000
Barreled salmon:		
Columbia River		500
Smith, Eel, and Umpqua Rivers		500
Rogue River		75
Coguille River		250
Fraser River		1,000
Alaska		2,250
Total		4,775