

BEER'S OUTPUT MUCH SMALLER

Decrease of 1,293,497 Barrels to Date in 1908, Compared With 1907.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Astoria, Or., June 24.—During the past week the fishing situation shows signs of improvement. There has been a good run of blackbacks. Old fishermen and cannermen agree that a good blackback year means a good chinook year, and the history of canning proves it to be true. As the flood is now rapidly subsiding and warmer weather is being experienced, it is expected that in about 10 days or two weeks arrangements are again being made to put up the motor schooner "Arie" for a deep sea fishing cruise off the bar. She will be equipped in a much better manner than last year, and will be tried this trip. Experiments have proved that this kind of fishing can be made a financial success.

During the month of May a further decrease was shown in the consumption of beer in the United States. During the month of May a further decrease of 503,458 barrels from the corresponding period a year ago, this compared with a decrease of 3,848 barrels in January, 198,583 barrels in February, 568,888 barrels during March, and 1,029,896 barrels in April. The total decrease compared with the same period in 1907 for the first five months of the year is 1,293,497 barrels. The total consumption reached a total of 293,497 barrels. The largest decrease thus far this season in beer consumption was in March, when the number of barrels consumed was 6,111 barrels over that shown for the same month in 1907. This was due entirely to climatic conditions. The great decrease in beer making means that much less demand for hops. Nowdays the brewer will use one pound of hops to each barrel of beer, thus showing that the brewers need 1,293,497 pounds of hops more in 1907 than they did this year. As there are about 150 pounds of hops to each barrel, this was a decrease in consumption of about 8,623 barrels.

Hop Production Heavy.

While the consumption and make of beer has shown a heavy decrease of 1,293,497 barrels, the production of hops is unusually heavy. In fact, the prospects now are that there will be twice as many bales of hops grown this season as will be needed. There is still an unusually heavy carryover of 1906 and 1907 hops and it is estimated that of the past two years there is a surplus number of bales remaining unconsumed to tide the brewers over for one year at least. With this amount of hops available for brewing and with decreased consumption of beer starting this in the fall, it is quite unenviable that the price of hops will call for so many bales of hops as they have in recent seasons.

Top Sales Are Minimal.

At the moment there is but a nominal trade in the local hop market, and even this only at very low prices. Dealers say they are not buying hops, and about the only business available at the moment is in contracts and actual trade in hops is not nearly so heavy as some interests would have the producer believe.

Market Shows Continued Inactivity.

The market has continued inactive the past week, with a few good transactions. There is general complaint that business with brewers is very dull, and some interests would have the producer believe. The New York Producers' Price Current shows a heavy surplus of hops in its latest issue. The market has continued inactive the past week, with a few good transactions. There is general complaint that business with brewers is very dull, and some interests would have the producer believe.

BRIEF NOTES OF TRADE.

Lemons Are Advanced in the South Because of Warm Weather.

Lemons are advanced 25c a case in the south because of the heavy eastern call. Hot weather in the wheat market. Strawberries are quoted from \$1 to \$1.35 for good stock. Eggs are steady, but unchanged. Poultry market shows fractionally higher prices.

Butter is Steady, but Cheese Continues Weak.

Dressed hogs remain very slow, with price nominal. Old potatoes show a still lower range, with every one anxious to unload on the market.

California Onions are Showing Excellent Quality.

Peaches are arriving in better shape, and the demand is increasing. Tomatoes are coming in with very liberal supplies. Some are offering better California stock at \$1 a box.

Wheat—Buying Price—Track.

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