

PACIFIC COAST HOPS.

A. J. Luce, of Portland, furnishes a New York paper with the following interesting figures and comment on the hop situation on the Pacific coast:

Crop of 1896—

Oregon, 55,000 bales; 90 per cent. choice expert hops, 10 per cent. prime brewing hops.

Washington, 23,000 bales; 10 per cent. choice export hops, 50 per cent. prime brewing hops, 40 per cent. poor (mouldy hops).

California, 45,000 bales; 20 per cent. choice export hops, 50 per cent. prime brewing hops, 30 per cent. common brewing hops; all sound, free of disease.

Total for Oregon, Washington and California, 1896 crop, 123,000 bales.

Crop of 1897—

Oregon, 65,000 bales; 10 per cent. choice export hops, 30 per cent. prime brewing hops, 30 per cent. common brewing hops, 30 per cent. mouldy, rotten, trash hops.

Washington, 32,000 bales; 20 per cent. choice export hops, 50 per cent. choice brewing hops, 15 per cent. prime brewing hops, 15 per cent. common brewing hops.

California, 60,000 bales; 25 per cent. choice export hops, 75 per cent. sound, free from disease, all suitable for American brewers.

Total for Oregon, Washington and California, 1897 crop, 157,000 bales.

1898, Pacific coast, 60,000 bales suitable for export.

1899, Pacific coast, 30,000 bales suitable for export.

The increase in the Oregon crop over our early estimates was caused by the high prices expected. Twenty thousand bales, mostly miserable trash, was harvested after the polls should have been closed and vote counted. Today they stand in bales like 1894, 1895 and 1896 crops of New York state, as barriers against high prices to American brewers.

Our large dealers are offering futures (paper hops) the same as for the past few years, at lower prices than they could buy and deliver at the present time. Mr. Brewer carries his stock in his safe, instead of warehouse, subject to his call at any time, and Mr. Grower becomes weary, and accepts what he can get, unless he may have the quality that will please the fastidious "John Bull." If so, he can command the price this year, and need have no fears of lower prices.

We estimate that there has already been received and shipped from this coast of the 1897 crop, in round numbers 50,000 bales. Thirty thousand of these were contracted hops, at from 6@12c per pound; the balance (20,000), have been purchased and shipped to Europe and American markets. Prices paid, 11@15½c to growers.

The market is very strong on hops suitable for export. This grade is much sought after and difficult to find, and, when found, to purchase. Growers having this quality require no tonic to ask and expect 15@20c, but the other fellow who has trash must have ginger or some stimulants soon, as poor hops don't meet a friend on this coast.

Hops in New York are quiet. No change in market.

A great deal of harm is being done every year in breeding from immature birds. Breeders will send off for eggs or birds, raise more or less—generally less—from them, then the next year use these young, undeveloped birds for breeders, and then wonder why their young stock does not attain greater size. The wonder is that they live to arrive at maturity. To obtain the best results, cocks should be at least one year old before being used for breeding purposes, and one and one-half years would be better, especially the larger varieties. Pullets should also be one year or more before breeding. If properly fed and cared for up to this time their progeny will be bigger, stronger and a much larger percentage of the young will live to become fully matured. Try this and see if you do not materially increase the size, strength and number raised from a given number hatched.

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