

WHALE AND EARTHQUAKE.

THE catch of whales last year at Victoria, B. C., the largest since the years 1911 and 1912, amounted to more than 500. According to observations, the recent volcanic eruptions and earthquakes have played a part in regulating the supply of whales in Alaskan waters.

After the volcanic eruption in Alaska in 1912 the whale catches declined. It is thought possible that the volcanic disturbance caused a migration of the sea food upon which the whale fed. The theory is also advanced that the earthquake shock caused a concussion in the water which had the same effect over a great area as that of a discharge of dynamite in a small body of water.

The great catch of 1923 came immediately after the Japanese earthquake. It is the general opinion that the earthquake frightened the whales out of the waters of the earthquake zone to feeding grounds near Alaska and elsewhere.

Whale oil represents about 70 per cent. of the revenue derived from whales, blood fertilizer representing about 25 per cent. and bone meal about 5 per cent.

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