

THE OYSTER CROP

TOOK AWAY HIS BREATH.

One of the Most Valuable of Those Gathered From the Sea.

ONLY THE HERRING BEATS IT

Of the More Than Forty Million Bushels of These Nutritious Bivalves Gathered Yearly This Country Supplies Over 90 Per Cent.

Of all the products of the water, oysters are, with the single exception of the sea herring, the most valuable and most important to the human race. They owe that economic pre-eminence to the fact that they have high food value and that they are palatable, cheap, widely distributed and easy to cultivate.

Oysters occur in greater or less abundance on the shores of all temperate and tropical seas, but the bulk of the arms of the North Atlantic ocean exceeds that in all other waters combined. There are at least a hundred different kinds or species of oysters with a wide range of habit, flavor, shape and size. All the oysters on the eastern and southern coasts of the United States belong to one species which has, however, many local varieties; the native oyster of the Pacific states of a wholly different species.

In about thirty-five countries oyster farming is a special industry. The annual oyster crop of the world now amounts to more than 10,000,000 bushels, for which the fishermen and planters receive about \$25,000,000. The United States furnishes nearly to percent of the crop.

Few animals are more prolific than oysters, but of the millions of microscopic young that a single full grown oyster produces only a very small percentage survive infancy. The heavy natural mortality among oysters at all times is particularly marked in the early months. The newly born young are for a few hours free swimming creatures, wafted about by tides and currents, and unless they settle down on a suitable surface they quickly perish. After attaining the size that is visible to the naked eye they are not able to change their position. When the temperature, density, tides and currents are favorable the floating young go to the bottom and there attach to the shells of old oysters or to any other hard surfaces that may be present, but all that fall on a muddy or soft, sandy bottom or on slimy surfaces soon perish. Modern oyster culture aims primarily to save the free swimming young and oyster planters therefore provide clean shells, files and other hard objects to which the "spit" of the young oysters are called, can attach themselves.

Oysters have a peculiar nature long or thin and other shellfish. A simple type of cultivation flourishes in Utah. It is a very remote port and probably antedated by some centuries the beginning of oyster culture in the United States. About the year 100 B. C. With the increasing demand for oysters they came to be cultivated in all the important maritime countries of Europe. In other parts of the old world and in the western hemisphere the growing of oysters by artificial means has become an important industry so that today oysters are the most extensively cultivated of all aquatic animals.

The human animal is not the only one that looks with favor upon the edible qualities of the oyster. At every stage in its career it is attacked by a horde of dangerous enemies, some of which are most destructive after the oyster has put on its stoutest armor. Before the young oyster attaches itself it is extensively consumed by adult oysters and various other shellfish as well as by fishes that strain their food from the water. When the oyster attains its shell a new set of shellfish enemies provided with drills begin their attacks and extract the soft parts through minute holes that they make in the valves.

The oyster growers of Long Island sound and adjacent waters suffer heavy losses from the inroads of starfishes, which, moving in waves over the bottom, devour every oyster in their path. In a single season they have been known to destroy in one state several hundred thousand bushels of marketable oysters. It seems strange at first that a weak creature like the starfish should be able to prey on an animal so strongly fortified as an oyster. The starfish attacks it with its arms and exerts a steady and long sustained suction with each of its numerous small suckers. After a time the powerful adductor muscle of the oyster becomes fatigued the valves open and the starfish inserts its stomach and devours the helpless oyster at leisure.

Other enemies of the grown oyster are fishes with powerful jaws armed with crushing teeth. On the Atlantic coast the most destructive fish is the black drum, a school of which may virtually clean out an oyster bed in one night. On the Pacific coast a species of sting ray is the chief offender. The United States is particularly fortunate in its oyster supply. The output here is larger and more valuable than elsewhere. Moreover, on account of the relative low cost of oysters to the consumer in the United States, the consumption in proportion to the total population is greater than in any of the other leading oyster producing countries.

Our annual oyster output is worth about \$17,000,000 to the producers. The yield has increased 70 per cent in quantity since 1890, and under the favorable conditions that now prevail is becoming larger every year.—Hugh M. Smith, Commissioner of Fisheries, in "Youth's Companion."

SCHOOL FROCK.

Simple Costume For the High School Girl.

When Davison Heard Morgan Wanted Him For a Partner.

"Mr. Morgan wants to see you in his library at 3 o'clock," was the message received one day by the president of a New York bank.

He hadn't the slightest idea what the veteran financier could want with him. He had met Mr. Morgan as most other financiers had during the previous days when the market during of them all was trying to stem the 1907 panic, but had not seen anything of Mr. Morgan until the spring of the following year when with Senator Aldrich and other members of the monetary commission, he had spent a Sunday at Mr. Morgan's London home. Between then and the receipt of the above message in the fall of 1908 he had seldom spoken to Mr. Morgan.

Promptly at 3 o'clock the young banker, wondering what the matter could be, rang the bell of the famous Morgan library. On being ushered in he almost collided with Mr. Morgan as the entrance to his private room.

"Mr. Morgan shook hands and bade the puzzled visitor be seated.

"Do not trouble it is very near the 1st of January," he asked.

"The young banker very much at sea agreed that it was. "This was about the middle of November."

"Are you ready," asked Mr. Morgan, "ready for what?" "I should be glad to do anything," replied Mr. Morgan.

"You know I want you to come and join my firm on the 1st of January."

"You never said anything about it," Mr. Morgan said.

"I thought you knew by my expression what I thought of you," said Mr. Morgan.

"Mr. Morgan have you ever taken from an eighteen-story building?"

It was Mr. Morgan's turn to be astonished.

"No," he replied, scrutinizing his visitor.

"Well, I never have before and it will take me half an hour or two to catch my breath."

Mr. Morgan laughed.

And that was how Henry F. Davison, then only forty, was notified of his selection as a partner in the greatest international banking firm in the United States. B. C. Forbes in "Lester's."

And Both Bad.

What is the difference between last and money?

It may be bad manners to knock a man down, but it is not necessarily bad taste.

A rich man in Philadelphia gave a reception and issued invitation cards upon which were engraved his name. This was not bad manners. It was certainly bad taste.

A large, handsome woman once took into a meeting of President Lincoln's cabinet, interrupting the proceedings. The formerly Lincoln dress and addressing her, said:

"Madam, what do you want?"

She replied:

"I came in here to take a look at you."

Well, madam, be seated. In the matter of looking I have a distinct advantage over you.

That was both bad taste and bad manners on her part, and on the part of Lincoln it was good manners and good taste to refrain from throwing her out of the window as he might have done.

It is to be told that your friend is too busy to see you in his office and then to call him up over the nearest telephone is not necessarily bad taste, but bad manners. The two may go together, but this is not an invariable rule.—"Life."

Tart Retort.

Every small town has its prominent citizen who appears before the city fathers and "talks right out in meeting."

Not every town, however, has among its councilors a member with sufficient moral backbone to answer back, as did John Hammer of a western town whose name is of no consequence. Concluding his arraignment, the prominent citizen buried this thunderbolt at the board of health:

ORIGIN OF OUR HOLIDAYS.

A Woman's Influence in Nationalizing Thanksgiving.

First and last enough sentiment has been expended upon American holidays to equip a regiment of poets laureate. Distinctly American holidays are few. It is Fourth of July, of course, and itself. The 22d of February became an official holiday by common consent. It had its origin in a convivial supper in a New York tavern in 1793, when a company met to listen to an original ode and drink innumerable toasts. Enthusiasm survived the wine, and as the gentlemen went gayly, and unostentatiously swore to meet again on future anniversaries. Regarded at first as a purely party custom, it broadened beyond Federal circles to take in all American Jefferson's followers at a similar observance in his honor but he countered with another bit of sentiment refusing to celebrate the date, on the ground that only the birthday of the nation should be so treated.

Thanksgiving was sectional and religious as well as political, and sentimentality was in plenty. One of the English households until the middle of the last century was to lay five grains of corn upon the plate of every person at table in memory of a day in early colonial history when five ships came sailing into harbor just in time to chase away the spoiler of famine.

It was Washington who appointed the first national day of thanksgiving at the instance of congress, after the adoption of the constitution. For many years, however, annual observance of the day remained a matter of state action, virtually confined to New England. Like the 22d of February, it became a national custom only gradually, unlike the 22d of February, it spread largely through the influence of a woman, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, who advocated it for twenty years in the editorial columns of Godey's Lady's Book. Heled Nicolay in Century.

How the Natives of South Africa First Came to Wear Hats.

It was a Boer, Andries de Villiers, a name who introduced head coverings to the South African natives.

Andries was a man of ideas, and when one morning many years ago he saw in Port Elizabeth a consignment of European hats, he decided to try them on his own people.

He bought a dozen and had them brought to him by a native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by another native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a third native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a fourth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a fifth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a sixth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a seventh native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by an eighth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a ninth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a tenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by an eleventh native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a twelfth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a thirteenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a fourteenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a fifteenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a sixteenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a seventeenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by an eighteenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a nineteenth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a twentieth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a twenty-first native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a twenty-second native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a twenty-third native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

He then bought a dozen more and had them brought to him by a twenty-fourth native boy. He put one on his head and found it very comfortable.

SOME QUEER LAWS

When New France, in This Country, Was Ruled From Quebec.

In the Pioneer Days of the Territory, as It Was Then, the Judges Were Not Lawyers, and the Jurors Were Evidently Pretty Independent.

Before there was any "Michigan," from 1622 to 1703, that part of our country was a part of New France and was governed from the seat of government in Quebec. Our laws came from the French king and from the local council at Quebec, and many of them were quite absurd.

For instance, while they did not attempt to regulate the length of sheets on hotel beds, they did declare that fresh white bread and light blown bread all bakers shall make dark brown bread whenever the same shall be required."

Another of the old French laws, probably handed through by some long dead, at the baron, was:

Whereas the people of this province have been in the habit of selling their property to the highest bidder, now therefore, we command that each inhabitant of this province of shall hereafter own no more than two horses or mares and one bull the same to take effect after the sowing season of the ensuing year, giving them time to rid themselves of their horses in excess of said number after which they will be required to kill any of such excess that may remain in their possession.

Another law was meant to stop the congregation of the population in the cities before it really began. It was a law:

To Promote Agriculture and Protect Morals. We prohibit and forbid all farmers from removing to this town, Quebec, under any pretext whatever, without our permission in writing, on pain of being expelled and sent back to their farms, furniture and goods being confiscated and a fine of 20 francs for the benefit of hospitals. And furthermore we forbid the inhabitants of this town, Quebec, letting houses or rooms to persons coming from the country on pain of a fine of 10 francs, also for hospitals.

A law forbidding profanity provided the punishment for the first offense to be a pecuniary fine for the second to be doubled, tripled and quadrupled for the fifth offense, they shall set in the pillory on Sunday and other festival days, there to remain from 8 in the morning till 1 in the afternoon, exposed to all sorts of approbrium and abuse."

The sixth punishment was that "they be led to the pillory and have the upper lip cut with a hot iron." For the seventh they were to have the lower lip cut in the same manner. The law further provided:

And if by reason of obstinacy and to veterans had not been continued after all these penalties to their oaths and laws, they shall be liable to be executed and their goods and chattels confiscated after them.

The Judiciary portion of Michigan territory in the early days was composed of county courts and "Justices of the Peace." The courts consisted of three judges, none of whom were lawyers. Their jurisdiction both civil and criminal was limited. It is needless to say that the justice courts were conducted without much regard to ceremony.

In one suit brought to recover the amount of a note of hand a jury of six was impaneled, the foreman of which was a large and portly individual who bore the title of colonel. Probably on account of his assumed military rank he was permitted to wear his hat during the entire trial.

One of the witnesses made repeated statements that were irrelevant and contradictory, and one of the counsel as often rose and took exception, but each time he was overruled by the Justice. At each objection the colonel manifested a great deal of annoyance by fidgeting in his seat and talking in loud whispers to his fellow jurors.

Finally the witness made a statement that was so opposed to every rule of evidence and common sense that the attorney who had so often attempted to exclude this sort of evidence could no longer silently submit. He again rose from his seat and respectfully appealed to the court, protesting against such statements going to the jury as testimony.

Thereupon the worthy colonel indignantly rose from his seat and swore he would no longer sit there and hear that "lawyer feller make a fuss." He said he had taken the oath as a juror to decide the case according to the evidence, and if he could not hear the whole story from the witness he should leave the courtroom.

He accordingly made several strides toward the door when the Justice arose and, approaching the irate juror, placed a hand on his shoulder and begged him to return to his seat with the jury, promising that the trouble some attorney should not again be allowed to interfere with the evidence.

After some persuasion the colonel consented to return. Pressing his hat more firmly on his head, he exclaimed as he took his seat:

"Well, I'll try it once more, but I'll stand any more of that lawyer feller's nonsense." The attorney gave up in despair, and the opposing counsel had things all his own way after that.—Detroit Saturday Night.

Beauty is as real a need to the civilized man as anything else. Any one who doubts this should reflect what money and thought he and his expenditure on beauty as he sees it in one form or another in their houses, furniture, clothes, gardens and what not, how every one, rich and poor, spends according to his means for these things, and insists on having them as good and handsome as he can afford and understand.—New York Times.

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Good Scheme. "How do Jack and Jeanne ever manage to scrape a living?" "Why, he makes the money first, and she makes it last."

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JUSTICE IN EARLY MICHIGAN.

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