NURSERIES FOR OYSTERS.

HOW THE SEED MAY BE PROTECTED UNTIL FIT TO TRANSPLANT.

The Problem of Oyster Culture Practically Solved—Sure and Remunerative Crops of the Toothsome Bivalve—A Plantation of Methods.

The long series of experiments on the oyster culture, carried on under the direction of the United States Fish Commission by Professors Brooks and Ryder, now promise valuable practical results. Professor Ryder, at a recent meeting of the Washington Biological Society, for the first time announced the result of his studies, which promise to be of the highest economic value. In his own words: "We have reached a point where we can safely say the problem of oyster culture is solved. We have been examining it for many years, and have now struck bottom."

For a long time one of the chief drawbacks to successful oyster raising has been the scarcity of seed oysters. The young oyster, for some time after its hatched, swims in a free state upon the surface, and then settles to the bottom and is formed. It is plainly to be seen how acquired [illegible] difficulties of [illegible] Thus is the fact [illegible] and [illegible] enabling [illegible] clean [illegible] felt. The [illegible] face [illegible] distr[illegible] and [illegible] age [illegible] and such a surface.

[illegible] THE "SPAWN."

Mr. [illegible] plan is to construct a ditch, square in form, [illegible] of galvanized wire placed perpendicularly about a foot apart, and extending from the surface to the bottom. This will give the greatest possible amount of attaching surface in a given area. In a ditch 60 feet long, constructed after their plan, and having an area equal to a good forty-foot square, 60 such beds in a bay may be placed, giving a tremendous amount of available room for the young oysters to fix themselves. A bushel of "spawned oysters" will deliver 100,000,000 embryos, and of this vast number swarm back and forth by the tide in the narrow ditch few would be so unfortunate as to pass through without striking one of the wires. In a ditch having the area of an acre 10,000 bushels of spawn can be placed, and each oyster will have room enough to grow to the required size.

The seed which is used for planting in Maryland and Virginia, as well as in Delaware and further north, is now procured from the natural beds of these waters by dredging, and as the demand for oysters for this purpose is certainly one of the elements which have led to the depletion of the oyster beds, there is a widespread feeling that the exportation of seed should be prohibited. By a small investment of capital any one on tide water could easily raise large quantities of seed, being cheaper and better than that which is now procured from the natural beds, and if the law permitted the sale and transportation of this seed without [illegible] where the bottom [illegible] be [illegible] ing.

[illegible] OF THE METHOD.

Northern planters would also raise seed for themselves by constructing ditches in the waters up the sounds of Virginia and North Carolina, where the length of the summer would permit several collections to be made in one season. Enough to ship could become large enough for planting in five or six weeks, and in this latitude there is abundance of spat from the middle of April to the 1st of July. It can be collected until September.

This method, with slight modifications, can also be used for the direct production of marketable oysters, especially over muddy bottoms, and in regions where public sentiment does not permit private ownership of the bottom. Artificial beds may be set in the salt marshes or the creeks can be used. In these there will be no question about the right to keep the oysters from the public as food for the oyster is most abundant at the mouths of muddy creeks, where the bottom is too soft for oyster culture by planting or staking, this method will have special advantages in such places, for there will be no danger of smothering or of smothering by mud at the surface, and there is no limit to the number of oysters which can thus be grown on a given area, for the free current of water will bring food to all of them. Experiment shows that, in addition to all these advantages, the oyster will be of a better shape, with better shells, and more marketable, than those grown at the same place on the bottom.

Finally, this method will do away with the necessity for a title to the bottom, and will thus enable a few enterprising men to set the example of correct oyster culture, and, by the imitation of the community, to turn the time when laws will require not natural advantages available for the benefit of the people. The most economical method of conducting the necessary arrangements must, of course, be determined by practical experiments.—New York Sun.

Individual Susceptibility to Shock.

People who are slender and nervous sometimes express a dread of the effect that a "shock" might have upon them in case of accident. At a recent meeting of the New York State Medical association, Dr. C. W. Brown, referring to individual susceptibility to shock, said that "some persons of fleshy habit and apparent health will succumb sooner to a minor injury producing shock than some others of delicate habits and nervous temperament, the nervous system in the latter giving way less readily." Also shock is less in persons suffering from chronic diseases than in healthy people, though the former are less likely to make complete recoveries.—Chicago Times.

A California River Blown Dry.

During the recent high windstorm Link river was blown almost entirely dry, so much so that men and boys walked across the bed of the river picking up fish by the hundred. As this statement may be doubted by some exchanges we will explain by stating that the river has numerous falls and the wind kept the water from flowing from upper Klamath lake while the lower lake could not back up above the falls.—California Paper.

An Australian "Song and Dance" Bird.

A traveler in Australia describes a curious bird found in the jungles of that country. It is called the bullalor or dancer, from its jumping action. Two of them were seen together and carefully studied. As soon as one bird alighted the other jumped up, the time being like clock-work in its regularity, and each in turn uttering a note sounding like 'to-lo-do,' uttering the syllable "to" as he crouched to spring, "lo" while in the air, and "do" as he alighted—a regular song-and-dance performance. The Sydney ornithological society has offered a large sum for a pair of them.—Chicago Herald.

EUROPEAN PEASANT PROPRIETORS.

Results of Government Inquiries Into the Condition of Agricultural Labor.

The results of three government inquiries into the condition of peasant proprietors in various parts of Germany and Austria exhibit some startling conclusions. Briefly, they indicate that [illegible] and large properties will altogether disappear, and with them the power of cultivating [illegible] advantage. That mortgages of the peasants are so numerous that an unlimited estate act is demanded in order to sell out all proprietors under them, or on the other hand, that the land should be taken over by the state. That these mortgages amount to from 50 to 90 per cent on the value of the property, that protection against usurious and Indian usurpation must be sought out and that [illegible] agricultural [illegible] of the [illegible] proprietors [illegible] with these inquiries [illegible] must be restored, and [illegible] landowners of large [illegible] estate.

Assuming the facts adduced from these states to prove to be that the produce on small farms is from only fifteen bushels per acre, or what it was in England in queen Anne's time, while the returns from the [illegible] of England are average thirty bushels and from large Scotch farms, forty-eight bushels of wheat to the acre, [illegible] of forty in that country. [illegible] average return to the peasant [illegible] It seems [illegible] that $30 a year, that [illegible] a year [illegible] the [illegible] who has [illegible] of three persons including himself [illegible] Thus, with the numbers young, increasing.

Summing up the results of these three German government inquiries into the system of peasant proprietorship, so much extolled by a certain section of economists, and the conclusion is forced on one that the conditions of agriculture in the world on account of the introduction of machinery and the opening of new [illegible] has changed with the change in the processes of manufacture, that we can not go back to agricultural processes successful in an earlier stage of civilization, and that the large farm is to be the farm of the future. As well may it be expected that manufactures will go back to the time when steam and power looms were unknown as that the small farm can any longer compete with the large.—Chicago News.

The Poetry Which Pays Dividends.

Two Bland men were loitering in the shade just to the north of the east entrance to Lincoln park, one evening, pondering the dull quiet and a short, stocky, hard faced man emerged and started on a long walk across the street. One of the "Blands," a well dressed, gentlemanly appearing person, approached, and seizing the stout man's hand shook it enthusiastically. "Why, Mr. Webster!" he cried, and "when did you come to town, Mr. Webster?" There was a peculiar smile about the corners of the stout man's mouth as he replied, "I [illegible] Webster." "Oh, I [illegible] This is really my father's old friend, Henry Webster, is it not?"

A [illegible] was assured his introduction had been in error. The sensation [illegible] persons to [illegible] name [illegible] the "Bland" [illegible] the [illegible] Webster, [illegible] the United States senate." but before the [illegible] Webster [illegible] Bland [illegible] Webster, [illegible] Carolina, [illegible] himself, pursued his walk down the avenue.—Washington Letter.

Wheeling Up with a Flourish.

About eight years ago the electric fever reached its height. It had by that time broken up families, uprooted hearth stones and filled the air with the quotation of "Darkow Shall Not Bring To Naught," "Schulzen's Rifle," "Charlie Machree," "Kentucky Belle," "Sixteen to Twenty," "Shoulder Arms," "Rose Bloom," and "Angels on the Rhine." I remember [illegible] the most perfect specimen of the genuine enthusiasm (or voice) recalled by a person long of considerable observation [illegible] was making a very favorable impression, and as she hovered on the edge prepared to wind up with a flourish on the final line—

"The lovely lo-ve, darlin' shall not ring lo-ose!"

But the concert alliteration "spoiled" her song, as might have been expected, she said, in a voice that quivered with emotion—

"Why, lover loves, darlin' shall not ring lo-ose!"—Chicago News "Hamlet."

A Story of Lafayette's Visit.

One of William Warren's stories relates of the dinner given in Boston to Lafayette when that patriot revisited this country in 1824. After the repast came the toasts, and the ice was broken. The whole company began to be more sociable, and jest and jolly went around the table. Then songs were called for. About this time one of the songs of the day was called "To-Morrow," and the title was repeated several times as a refrain. After several verses had been sung Lafayette turned to Warren, who sat next to him, and said in a tone of quaintness [illegible] "Morrow! Morrow? Why do they sing a song to Morrow?" He thought the song was in honor of his old friend Morrow, then eight years dead.—Chicago Herald.

Raising the Status of the Diplomats.

One of Prince Bismarck's first acts as head of the foreign office was to raise the status of Germany's representatives abroad, to which he attaches such importance that the diplomatic salaries far exceed all save that of the governor of Alsace-Lorraine. The embassy at Paris has lately been renovated with splendor.—Exchange.

Through London's Snowy Streets.

Miss Kate Field has recently recalled an amusing incident of her visit to London several years ago when she, walking briskly and sedately through the snowy streets in the rubber boots of her native land, was saluted by an astonished newsboy with: "Hi! You don't need roughing, do you?"—Boston Transcript.

Guano From Southern California.

Guano has been discovered on the island off Southern California, and 300 tons were recently shipped to Europe.

Another Tradition Proved False.

A tradition has long prevailed that the waters of Lake Tahoe, California, would not sustain a human body, that many daring swimmers had perished by venturing into its treacherous depths. Professor Le Conte and the young men of his scientific expedition have exploded this delusion by swimming in the lake.—Chicago Herald.

The United States' Public Domain.

Exclusive of Alaska, about three-fifths of the national domain has been sold or subjected to contract or grant. Of the remaining two-fifths a considerable portion is either mountain or desert.

A Wooden-Legged Man's Jokes.

Speaking of wooden legs, there is an old soldier employed in the government office in this city who has had some experience with an artificial limb, he himself having been taken out of the knee. Among the most amusing scenes with a sleeping car porter. This pompous railway tyrant rarely earns his quarter at "round" by his politeness. [illegible] and flipping dust from his [illegible] but it is the habit of this worthy [illegible] to utilize the delay in [illegible] that leg and [illegible] [illegible] on one occasion he stood an upholstered [illegible] a group of brother [illegible] swell whiskers and fast call [illegible] in the dining car. The [illegible] account, with a [illegible] would tear would make a street urchin [illegible] such at least.

The man with the wooden leg made up his mind he would make that porter pay for his sleeping car. [illegible] purpose, and [illegible] [illegible] After he had [illegible] he went to the [illegible] and [illegible] the sleeper, [illegible] and then [illegible] call [illegible] and can't find one," he said, "can I wish you'd pull off that leg?" The porter [illegible] [illegible] off the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]