

THE OYSTER CROP

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 supply in 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 in habits, 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 40,000,000 bushels, for which the fishermen and planters receive about \$25,000,000. The United States furnishes nearly 90 per cent 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 mortality among oysters at all times is particularly marked in their 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 become attached 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, tiles and other hard objects to which the "spat," as the young oysters are called, can attach themselves.

Oysters have been under culture longer than any other shellfish. A simple type of cultivation flourished in China at a very remote period and probably antedated by some centuries the beginning of oyster culture in Italy, which was 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 stoniest 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 attaches itself to the lips of the oyster shell 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 a single 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 1880, and under the favorable conditions that now prevail is becoming larger every year.—Hugh M. Smith, Commissioner of Fisheries, in Youth's Companion.

\$30,000 is to be Spent at Coming Season

It is stated the Provincial Government proposes to expend about \$30,000 this year upon the new agricultural school and farm for Eastern Ontario established at Kemptonville. Stables and pens are being built and herds of Holstein and Ayrshire cattle have been purchased. A large pavilion will also be constructed, the ground floor of which will be used for judging stock, while the upper one will be fitted up for lecture rooms and gymnasium.

Leaving for Elgin

Mr. Melzer Ferguson leaves this week for Elgin, where he will enter the employment of Mr. Sinclair Smith, who is opening a bakery in that place. Mr. Smith has purchased the Irwin Bakery at Portland, and has moved the oven to Elgin. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson and family will be much missed here.

The Blow on the Jaw.

A man struck with any degree of force upon the mental area of the jaw, although he may be in perfect physical condition, instantly collapses and falls to the ground, says a medical journal. The attitude assumed in recovery, which may be instantaneous or delayed some minutes, is most characteristic. He squirms about, raises his head and rolls his eyes in an attempt to locate himself. He tries to get on his side and elbow; he endeavors to rise upon his hands and knees. If he regains his feet he staggers like a drunken man. The blow is practically never fatal; the heart's action is never unduly accelerated; the pulse and respiration are normal; the pupils are normal; there is no headache, no sweats, no cold extremities, no pallor—none of the ordinary signs of shock or concussion.

How to Be Happy.

There are two ways of being happy. We may either diminish our wants or augment our means. Either will do. The result is the same, and it is for each man to decide for himself and do that which happens to be the easier. If you are idle or sick or poor, however hard it may be to diminish your wants, it will be harder to augment your means. If you are active and prosperous or young or in good health it may be easier for you to augment your means than to diminish your wants. But if you are wise you will do both at the same time, young or old, rich or poor, sick or well, and if you are very wise you will do both in such a way as to augment the general happiness of society.—Benjamin Franklin.

NOTICE

Notices of future events of any kind and for any purpose, at which an admission fee is charged, collection taken at the door or revenue derived in any other way, are classed as advertising, and will be charged at the regular rates of this newspaper.

AUCTION SALE

At the farm of the late S. Y. Brown, one mile north of

Addison

Commencing at 1 o'clock

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1917

9 grade Holstein cows with calf, 2 2-year-old heifers, 3 horses, double and single harness, lumber wagon, market wagon, open buggy, new top buggy, 2 single cutters, one new, binder, mowing machine, horse rake, walking plow, sulky plow, harrow, roller, corn cultivators, and numerous other articles.

TERMS—\$10 and under, cash; over that amount 6 months' credit on approved joint notes with interest at 6%.

E. TAYLOR, Auctioneer
MRS. S. Y. BROWN, Owner

AUCTION SALE

The undersigned will sell at his farm at

GLEN ELBE

commencing at 1 o'clock on

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1917

23 high grade Holstein cows. (These cows averaged \$100 apiece last year.)

9 high grade Holstein calves, 3 brood sows in pig, bay horse, brown mare (weight 1300 lbs.), colt heavy draft yearling, Briscoe 5 passenger car 4 cyl., 38 hp., only run 4 months (reserve bid), farm machinery, etc. The owner is going to South Dakota.

E. Taylor, Auctioneer
Claude Wiltse, Owner

AUCTION SALE!

At the Albert Wiltse Farm one half-mile from

ATHENS

Commencing at 1 o'clock sharp

Saturday, March 3rd

A quantity of timothy hay in barn, stack of hay, top buggy, cutter, light sleigh, stone litter, buggy pole, 2 good robes, iron cooler, 2 sap pans, cook stove, milk cans, pails, 2 pigs, lumber, and other articles too numerous to mention.

TERMS—Cash

E. Taylor, Auctioneer
Irwin Wiltse, Administrator

Automobile Tops and Cushions

We have a full line of everything for Tops, Cushions, Slip Covers, Buggy Tops, etc.

Write for Prices on Repair Work

JAS. W. JUDSON, Brockville
36 George St. Phone 663

OLD NEWSPAPERS

Old newspapers may be obtained at the Reporter Office at 1c a pound. We have some in 25 pound bundles.

Reporter Advertisements Bring Results.

Notice to Creditors

IN THE MATTER of the estate of William Morris, late of the Village of Athens, in the County of Leeds, Gentleman, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands against the estate of the late William Morris who died on or about the fifth day of December, 1916, are required to send by post prepaid or to deliver to the undersigned, Solicitor for the executors of the Will of the said deceased, their surnames and addresses, and full particulars in writing of their claims and a statement of their accounts and the nature of the securities, if any held by them.

And take notice that after the fourteenth of March, 1917, the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice, and that the said executors will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof to any persons of whose claims they shall not then have received notice.

T. R. BEALE
Solicitor for the Executors
Dated at Athens, the 13th day of February, 1917.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.

Dear Friend:

You want to "do your bit" in these strenuous times. You desire to contribute your quota to the "National Service." It is necessary to keep the wheels of industry turning.

Our business is to train office workers, stenographers, typists, book-keepers, civil servants, etc., and to do this we have bright new rooms, new outfit of typewriting machines and a complete new equipment of labor-saving office devices.

SPRING TERM opens April 2nd. Send for catalogue.

BROCKVILLE BUSINESS COLLEGE,

Fulford Block,

Brockville, Ont.

W. T. ROGERS, PRIN.

The Reporter will be \$1.50 after April 1.
Save 50c by subscribing before that date.

ONTARIO FARMERS

EXISTING WAR CONDITIONS DEMAND that you give the question of seed special attention this year. Seed of desirable varieties and high germination power will be factors influencing yields. If you have not secured your seed,

Let the Ontario Department of Agriculture help you.

Farmers having seed grain or potatoes for sale may forward samples to this office stating varieties, price and QUANTITY.

Farmers wishing to purchase seed are also invited to communicate with this office stating variety and quantity, and an effort will be made to put them in touch with farmers having seed for sale.

Write to

W. H. Hearst,
Minister of Agriculture

Walter H. Smith, B.S.A.
District Representative
ATHENS

To City, Town and Village Dwellers in Ontario

A Vegetable Garden for Every Home



IN this year of supreme effort Britain and her armies must have ample supplies of food, and Canada is the great source upon which they rely. Everyone with a few square feet of ground can contribute to victory by growing vegetables.

Four Patriotic Reasons for Growing Vegetables

1. It saves money that you would otherwise spend for vegetables.
2. It helps to lower the "High cost of living."
3. It helps to enlarge the urgently needed surplus of produce for export.
4. Growing your own vegetables saves labor of others whose effort is needed for other vital war work.

The Department of Agriculture will help you

The Ontario Department of Agriculture appeals to Horticultural Societies to devote at least one evening meeting to the subject of vegetable growing; manufacturers, labor unions, lodges, school boards, etc., are invited to actively encourage home gardening. Let the slogan for 1917 be, "A vegetable garden for every home."

Organizations are requested to arrange for instructive talks by practical gardeners on the subject of vegetable growing. In cases where it is impossible to secure suitable local speakers, the Department of Agriculture will, on request, send a suitable man.

The demand for speakers will be great. The number of available experts being limited, the Department urgently requests that arrangements for meetings be made at once; if local speakers cannot be secured, send applications promptly.

The Department suggests the formation of local organizations to stimulate the work by offering prizes for best vegetable gardens. It is prepared to assist in any possible way any organization that may be conducting a campaign for vegetable production on vacant lots. It will do so by sending speakers, or by supplying expert advice in the field.

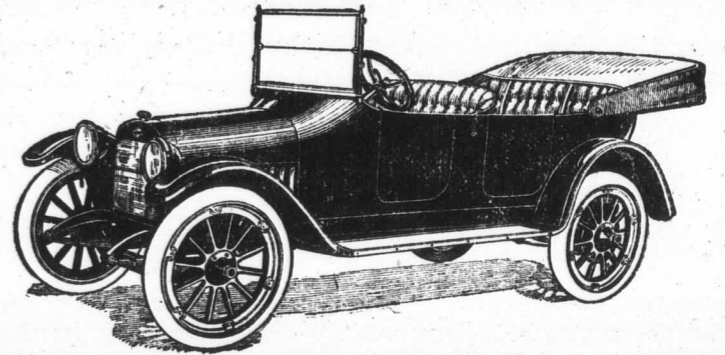
To any one interested, the Department of Agriculture will send literature giving instructions about implements necessary and methods of preparing the ground and cultivating the crop. A plan of a vegetable garden indicating suitable crops to grow, best varieties and their arrangement in the garden, will be sent free of charge to any address.

Write for Poultry Bulletin

Hens are expensive to keep, and you will be highly repaid in fresh eggs. Write for free Bulletin which tells how to keep hens. Address letters to "Vegetable Campaign," Department of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Ontario Department of Agriculture
W. H. Hearst, Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings Toronto

The Wonder Car



The McLaughlin Four and Six

Are built right. They are wonderful in quality of workmanship, material and appearance. As to performance, the McLaughlin has an enviable reputation. No better value for the money can be secured in a motor car than you get in the McLaughlin.

We have on display a McLaughlin Four-Cylinder Touring Car in our show rooms, and we shall be glad to have you call and inspect it.

A. TAYLOR & SON, Agents, Athens

To the Public - March 1917

The best authorities predict increasing scarcity of all manufactured goods and much higher prices in consequence. We are pleased, however, to be able to inform our friends that, anticipating these conditions we bought months ago, before recent advances in price took place, a very large stock of the different lines we carry and will therefore protect our customers for the present and as long as possible against these higher or war prices by continuing to supply them with goods at prices lower than those less fortunate in buying can possibly give.

Staple Dry Goods

We are offering superior values in Grey and Bleached Cotton, Double-fold Shirtings, Pillow Cotton, Flannelettes, Ducks, Tickings, Table and Towel Linens, Galateas, Ginghams, Prints, etc., etc.

Dress Goods and Silks

In Dress and Blouse fabrics we are showing a most complete stock of clean up-to-date goods comprising the market's best staple lines at popular prices beside many novelties scarce and hard to find.

House Furnishings

In our second flat we are showing a larger stock than usual of Carpet Squares, Rugs, Stair Carpets, Floor Oilcloths, Window Shades, and Curtain Material without any advance as yet in price.

Our new wall papers are also in stock.

Gent's Furnishings

In this line we are very strong. Our Men's Work Shirts, Colored and White Fine Shirts, Neckties, Collars, Hats, and Spring Caps are better value than ever before. While our Clothing Department, on second floor, contains a large and most complete assortment of Ready-to-wear in Men's and Boys' Suits, Separate Pants, Overalls, and Smocks bought early and selling at prices impossible to long continue.

Boots and Shoes

Nothing in the trade shows a greater advance in price than leather. But we are well protected by having on hand twice our usual stock of Boots, Men's, Boys', Women's, and Children's, both in fine and heavy goods, and from our large stock of early buying we can assure you very close and satisfactory prices—many lines quite below what the manufacturers are charging to-day.

This large well-assorted stock at comparatively low prices is the result of early careful buying in the best available markets for cash.

We invite you to call, examine, and price our lines. We guarantee you the best value money can procure. We will do our best to serve you satisfactorily and well.

H. H. ARNOLD
Central Block
ATHENS