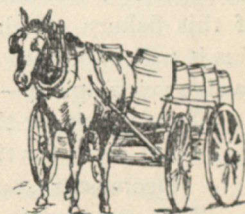


bewilderment as they urge their horses through the shallow water uncertain as to which of the yelling fishermen they should first turn their attention. At length however, peace and goodwill is restored and the trucks return to shore having collected the catch, and stretching in one long straggling train they toil along the road to Summerside. On Saturday nights they are usually accompanied by a squad of fishermen who arrogate to themselves a license for rough humour, and constitute themselves a source of terror to timid and defenceless females, en route. Here at the shore at landing time the price of each day is announced, and one hears the word passed on from boat to boat and the comments thereon, and the news even seems to communicate itself to the in-coming boats ever so far out.



Typical Oyster Truck
(waiting for a load)

The first days of the season, (which by Order in Council of August 6th, 1885 was fixed to open on Sept. 15), are the best both as regards the price paid and the amount caught. Then everybody detached from fixed employment is afloat, everything in the shape of a boat, everything in the shape of a fisherman, and as might be supposed, the sights one beholds at this time are not a little ludicrous. As the season advances and the price declines and quantity diminishes there is a considerable dropping off in the number of the boats. The fluctuation of price at times is a remarkable feature. This year e.g. the opening price for ordinary oysters was \$2.50 per bbl., but as I write, owing to the uncommonly smooth weather, it has probably fallen to fifty cents. In early days when oysters were plentiful and cities less populous, and these fish less of a luxury, they sold as low as twenty-five cents per barrel, and everybody was content, but at present this would be simply ruinous. To the mind of the writer there is an opening here for the enterprize of a local government. It is certainly no evidence of a progressive administration that it suffers markets to be glutted because no cold storage is supplied at home for the benefit of the fisherman to enable him to accumulate his catch at this end and hold them for a price.