

towed with greater speed. Depending on the manner of working the beds, additional boats, scows, floats, buidlings, and dredges, tongs, rakes, forks, hand-harrows, wire shovels and palls, sorting-knives, etc., will be required, and sacks or boxes for shipping.

OPERATIONS OF CULTURE.

The operations bearing most directly upon the cultivation of oysters may be primarily separated into two groups—the first dealing with the simple process of planting and growing-up of seed oysters obtained from dealers who make a business of supplying seed, the second dealing with the more difficult special processes of raising one's own seed. The culturist who wants to reap the greatest benefit from his knowledge and labour should do both.

RAISING OYSTERS FROM PURCHASED SEED.

In order to keep this set of operations more distinctly separate from others, we may select the planting and growing in British Columbia of seed-oysters obtained from Prince Edward Island or Connecticut or other Province or State in the East. This is what culturists generally set out to do, because the work is more easily and surely performed and results are sooner visible in the production of grown oysters ready for market.

Buying Seed-oysters.—Seed, as referred to in oyster-culture, does not have the same meaning as in grain-culture. Seed-oysters are not a definite stage in the life of oysters as grains of wheat are in the life of wheat-plants. Such oysters may be any stage between the youngest spat and the grown oyster. They correspond, therefore, more closely with young fruit-trees obtained from a nursery and are not all of the same age, size, or appearance. They are already oysters (not eggs or seeds) and only deserve the name of seed in the sense that they are the starting-point of cultivation by many culturists.

The value of seed depends primarily upon the number of living oysters it contains as compared with useless matter like dead shells, stones, sponges, etc. It may even carry over enemies, parasites, or other undesirable animals. If it is in the rough state as scraped from the beds where it was produced it will contain a greater proportion of rubbish than if it has been more or less culled. The larger the oysters the more valuable they are counted, because the more capable of withstanding change of conditions and attacks of enemies and the sooner they grow into marketable sizes. On the other hand, the smaller they are the greater the number in a bushel and the greater the gain if they succeed in growing to maturity. Another consideration is the locality from which obtained and the climate to which accustomed.

The price may vary from about 10 cents to more than \$1 a bushel. What is called "spat" by the oystermen, young seed set in the summer of one year and offered for sale (as seed) in the spring of the following year, requires 8,000 to 10,000 to fill a sack of three bushels. "Two-year-olds," belonging to the same set but sold a year later, go about 5,000 to a sack.

Transport.—This may be by boat or by train or part of the way by each, and transfer may be required by wagons. Handling should be reduced to the minimum and performed with care. The seed should not be kept out of the water longer than necessary. It should be shipped while the weather is cool. It should not be left exposed on a wharf or side-tracked in a car. It should be kept cool and moist with lee, but not frozen, and there should be no sudden or extreme change. If possible, the car should be ventilated, the inflowing air passing over ice, and the sacks, made of loose, open material, packed so as to allow the air to pass among them.

From Bridgeport, Conn., to Crescent, B.C., a car-load, all the way by rail, consisted of:—

175 sacks at \$3.50 a sack	\$ 612 50
Freight, 31,800 lb.	571 50
Ice	12 00

Total \$1,196 00

It will be seen that for such a distance the transport costs about as much as the seed itself—another reason why it is of advantage to buy clean seed. The time required was seventeen days and the oysters were received in very good condition—only a few having dried badly by having the thin edge of the shell broken through contact, weight, or rough handling, so that they were unable to retain their juices.

Having been informed beforehand of the time of arrival, everything was ready to get the seed into the sea-water without delay.