

oysters," adhering to the stones of the gravel beaches of Ram Island, and lay them on their own beds. One farmer, who is fortunate enough to have a tidal pool enclosed by his grounds, has done the same, and these people have shown the way. It is unfortunate that whilst the regulation of the Fishery is in the hands of the Dominion Government, the ownership is in the hands of the Island Government, and the pressure exerted on the local house by the oyster fishermen is very strong.

A still greater danger than over-fishing is however the use of Oyster shells as fertilizer. Prince Edward Island is almost wholly composed of New Red Sandstone—a formation almost unknown elsewhere in Canada, found only at Richibucto in New Brunswick, Pictou in Nova Scotia, and one or two other points on the coast immediately opposite the Island. This rock consists of a soft red shale, too soft indeed to deserve the name of rock, which is very deficient in lime. In the winter, therefore, when Richmond Bay is frozen over, the farmers go out with teams on the ice, cut holes in it, and using a kind of dredge similar to that used in dredging the River St. Lawrence, but worked by their horses, scoop up masses of Oyster shells. If the Oysters happen not to be dead no doubt they make the better manure. Attempts are made by the Dominion authorities to confine the farmers to places where they will do least damage, but as old Oyster shells make the best possible substratum for the extension of the beds, it is difficult to see how damage can be avoided. One sees in such actions the same thoughtless and improvident spirit, which destroyed so much valuable timber by fire, and which in utter heedlessness of the future of the country, sees only the immediate profit of to-day. It surely is the duty of the Government, to whom the care of the future is committed, to prevent such waste of the country's resources, and it is satisfactory to learn that negotiations are proceeding between the Dominion and the Island Governments to buy out the interest of the latter, and so gain the means of effectively controlling the fisheries.