

belt of cold water, so that although the larvae could be carried to great distances in the fortnight of their free-swimming life, they are all killed off by the cold. Consequently it follows that if in any place the Oysters are destroyed or fished out, no natural re-stocking will take place; and large heaps of oyster-shells where there are now no oysters testify to the fact that this has often taken place. In the natural home of the Oyster, the coast of Virginia, the water everywhere is warm, and if the Oysters are exterminated at one spot sooner or later larvae from adjoining beds will settle and found new colonies. It is supposed that the Oyster must have reached Canada in pre-glacial times, when the water was warm, and that the few colonies remaining are remnants from the time when a mild sub-tropical climate reached to Greenland.

Now the great dangers to which the Canadian fishery are exposed are over-fishing, and the use of Oyster shells as a fertilizer. As the demand increases so does the number of boats crowding into Richmond Bay, and inevitably the oyster-supply will grow less. There exists in the minds of the oyster fishermen a tremendous prejudice against permitting the cultivation of Oysters, an industry which has reached great proportions both in England and France. No more unreasonable prejudice could well be conceived. It is not for a moment suggested that the natural Oyster beds should be made private property, but if permission were given to private individuals to control small stretches of the foreshore now barren of oysters, the expenditure of a little capital might lead to the formation of a new Oyster bed. The larvae, which are scattered by the million from the natural beds, doubtless settle everywhere, but only when they reach a suitable substratum can they survive. Suitable "spat catchers" as they are called are made by planting in stakes of birchwood. The larvae, or "spat," settle on these, and when the little Oyster has reached a size of an inch or so in length it can easily be removed, and laid in a sheltered pool, where it will fatten. The Mic-mac Indians, who have a reservation on one of the islands of Richmond Bay, collect what are called "seed-