

# ONTARIO AND WEST VICTORIA GAZETTE.

A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE HOME AND FAMILY

JOS. J. CAVE, PUBLISHER.

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## THE OYSTER OF COMMERCE.

A Big Business That is Bigger in Maryland Than Anywhere Else.

The hero who was the first man to swallow a oyster was not a student of the United States Fish Commission and see what an important industry he started all by himself. This bulletin tells about the oyster business in Maryland; but, as Maryland produces one-third of the world's oyster product, the story of the industry in that State contains about all that is necessary to an understanding of the importance of the oyster of commerce.

Of the 35,000,000 bushels of oysters produced in the world each year nearly 30,000,000 bushels are natives of the United States, and more than 11,000,000 bushels come from Maryland waters. The value of Maryland's annual product is nearly \$6,000,000, that of the United States about \$16,000,000, and that of the rest of the world a little more than \$12,000,000. It will be noted that a higher valuation per bushel is put upon foreign than upon United States oysters. When a lover of this delicacy calls for oysters in a London eating house he is asked if he will have the best, and when he says that he will he gets a sample of Holland's product.

### THE OYSTER BEDS

of Holland yield about 70,000 bushels a year, and they are valued in this computation at \$440,000, or more than \$6 a bushel. Maryland oysters are put down at a shade over 50 cents a bushel; but there can be no comparison between the succulent morsel of Maryland and the rugged old mollusk of Holland. The latter, as eaten in Europe, looks and tastes somewhat like an asbestos copper can spattered with acid and sprinkled with pepper; and when the partaker tackles this so-called delicacy from Holland it seems to him that the chief difference between the oyster and the season-cent is that the cent might kill him and the oyster might not.

True to his purpose of treating the oyster from a purely industrial point of view, the author of the treatise in question has not turned aside to give even casual attention to the fascinating question as to the identity of the first man that swallowed an oyster; but he sets forth facts which suggest the enquiry whether at least two investigators, working independently in the field of gastronomy, did not arrive at demonstrations of the edibility of this mollusk of forbidding aspect. Flin mentions an Italian oysterman of the name of Sergius Orata who cultivated beds in Lake Lucrinus about 1,900 years ago, and says as much as to say that the Lucrinus were the Saddle Rocks of that day. The prehistoric shell mounds of this country show that the Indians were large consumers of oysters before any white man came. Thus we find that the noble American and the noble Roman were eating oysters, perhaps simultaneously, at a period anterior to any known association of the white and the red races. That the early white comers did not bring with them the art of eating oysters and were slow to learn it from the Indians seems evident from a writings of John Smith, published in 1631, in which he says substantially that the colonists got nothing in the way of food from the waters of the Chesapeake. Half a century later it was written of the Kent Islanders that one of their

GRIEVOUS HARDSHIPS was having to eat oysters to keep from starving. A hundred years later began the oyster war that has raged up to this time between Maryland and Virginia, and it is probable that the outbreak of hostilities marks the beginning of the importance of the oyster industry in the United States. The Marylanders and the Virginians discovered then that a good oyster was worth fighting for. It is impossible to speak of the present aspect of the contest, for, like the revolutions in Central America, it is kaleidoscopic. Nothing but the latest telegrams from the troubled waters can afford a view of the situation up to date. Meanwhile, despite the war, the development of the industry went on until, through the magnitude chiefly of the operations in Maryland, the oyster business took first rank among the fishery industries of the United States.

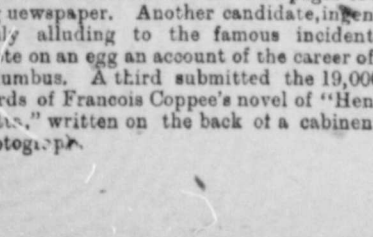
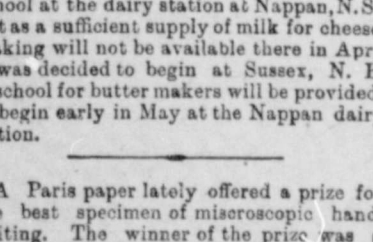
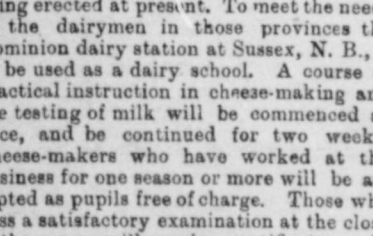
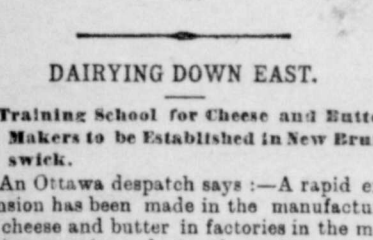
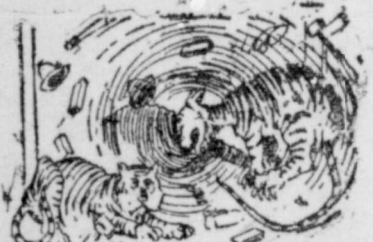
In later years the utilizing of the shells has been an important part of the oyster business. Nobody has yet answered the question that the fool propounded to King Lear—how the oyster makes its shell—though it is known that the shell is three-fourths carbonate of lime, and carbonate of lime is valuable. Because of this substance the shells are used in the manufacture of certain grades of iron, for chicken food (to be converted from oyster shells into eggshells), and for making lime to be used in producing coal gas and in other industries. Besides these uses oyster shells are utilized in restocking oyster beds, making country roads, and ballasting railroads. Instances of the latter use may be seen on three or four railroads in Maryland and on the Southern Pacific, near Morgan City, La.

When one sees an oysterman lifting his long tongue out of the water he sometimes wonders if there is any limit to the length of the poles the man can handle in his small boat. There is; it is about twenty-eight feet. Longer tongs are used on larger vessels, but they are worked by halyards fixed to the rigging. In deep water the dredge is used. It is a heavy iron rake, and is drawn up by means of a windlass on board. There are so many laws governing the use of tongs and dredges that the Maryland oysterman must be a lawyer as well as a sailor and a fighter.

The oyster trade gives employment to a large number of girls and women, who work in the "shucking" and canning houses.

### He Swears by It.

Close Merchant: "Yes, sir, I want a new book-keeper; but you won't do." Applicant: "May I ask why?" Close Merchant: "You are as bald as a billiard-ball, sir. A man with no hair to show his pen on will rust out a whole box every week."



## DAIRYING DOWN EAST.

A Training School for Cheese and Butter Makers to be Established in New Brunswick.

An Ottawa despatch says:—A rapid extension has been made in the manufacture of cheese and butter in factories in the maritime provinces during the past two years, and a large number of new factories are being erected at present. To meet the needs of the dairymen in those provinces the Dominion dairy station at Sussex, N. B., is to be used as a dairy school. A course of practical instruction in cheese-making and the testing of milk will be commenced at once, and be continued for two weeks. Cheese-makers who have worked at the business for one season or more will be accepted as pupils free of charge. Those who pass a satisfactory examination at the close of the course will receive certificates. It was first intended to commence the dairy school at the dairy station at Nappan, N.S., but as a sufficient supply of milk for cheese-making will not be available there in April it was decided to begin at Sussex, N. B. A school for butter makers will be provided, to begin early in May at the Nappan dairy station.

A Paris paper lately offered a prize for the best specimen of microscopic handwriting. The winner of the prize was a man who had copied out in full on a postal card the contents of the first two pages of a big newspaper. Another candidate, in enviously alluding to the famous incident, wrote on an egg an account of the career of Columbus. A third submitted the 19,000 words of Francois Coppee's novel of "Henriette," written on the back of a cabinet photograph.



TAILOR MADE COSTUME.



"HERE" TEA GOWN.

### Sold Again.

Peddler—"Please, mum, would you like to buy a parrot?" Mrs. Brickrow—"Now, what on earth do you suppose I want with a parrot?" "Well, mum, it just occurred to me that you might save a good deal of time if you had one. It's a pity to see an intellectual woman like you obliged to waste time makin' calls on such a lot of ignoramuses as there is in this neighbourhood when you might just as well be talkin' to a parrot." "I'll take one."

Marie Antoinette's lace rawl, which she gave on the scaffold to her atter confessor, the Abbe de l'Orme, is still in existence at the church at Neuchâtel.

In the last 200 years France has spent \$992,000,000 in war.

### The Society Girl.

The society girl is popularly supposed to belong to the butterfly order of women. Her sisters less fortunate than she, who have to toil and spin, fancy her a radiant being with heaps of beautiful clothes to wear, unlimited money to spend, luxurious food to eat, and passing her life in a whirl of delightful engagements. Sometimes they speak of her in a cynical manner, imagining that in her life of pleasure she is idle and selfish, absorbed in that which can give her gratification and minister to her vanity.

The young woman plodding along patiently day by day through rain and sleet to her place behind the counter thinks of the society girl at the same hour making her leisurely toilet, and if the former be weak and silly, she feels a slight pang of envy as the contrast in their lives presents itself to her mind. She girds at the idleness of this other girl, for whom every-thing is done, and who may buy what she chooses.

In point of fact, there are few people busier than the society girl. In the first place, it is no light task to keep up a wardrobe such as one needs who is perpetually going to luncheons, dinners and receptions. One or two gowns in a season are not enough; there must be bewitching changes for numerous occasions. Every costume must have its dainty accessories—gloves, fans, slippers, ribbons, laces, flowers, and what not. The slightest carelessness in the details of a beautiful costume may ruin its effectiveness. All fathers are not equally lavish, and all society girls do not possess an income commensurate with their wants. Some of them have to skimp and plan in a way that is very trying. Possibly the other girl, whoever she would not wish to change places if she were behind the scene.

The society girl's life, even if she be the arist of butterflies, implies a certain amount of devotion to classes of various sorts, which are fashionable if they are nothing else, and they are a great deal else. Browning, Shakespeare, and Tennyson the girl must have at her fingers' ends. She must be clever at repartee. She must have on hand plenty of the small change of conversation, must understand classical allusions, and must be able to hold her own in the battle-royal and shuttlecock of gay talk which goes on among clever people. All this makes study and application essential to each extent.

Whateverfad be uppermost, the girl must have her white hand in it. Whether or not she likes cards, she must at least have a knowing acquaintance with the scientific game of whist, though she will be wise to abstain from that intellectual amusement unless she can hold her own to the satisfaction of her partners. A stupid whist-player in society is a decided bore, not accepted serenely by any means.

It goes without saying that the society girl keeps up her music. If she does not herself play, she at least understands what is good music, and hears the best singers and players, and has her enthusiasms, for which she is ready to do battle valiantly.

As there are but two or four hours in the day, one must be alert in order to keep up with everything which the social life of a city presents, and the society girl has always her favorite philanthropies. If a series of tableaux is given in aid of an orphan asylum or a fresh air fund, she must be her part. She is not without interest in affairs and festivals, and often as manager of an institution or member of a benevolent association she is pledged to raise a liberal amount of funds necessary to carry these on. To do this requires an immense amount of ingenuity, exertion and personal magnetism.

In her club or clubs she prepares and reads papers, takes a hand in discussions, is responsible for a share in whatever the club has on hand.

It must be acknowledged that the society girl sets a good example in one regard. She is almost always a specimen of high health and of beauty. Her regular bathing, her outdoor exercise, her horseback-riding and tennis-playing, and the long walks she takes, gives her firm muscles, bright color, and a general air of vigor.—[Harper's Bazar.

### HOSPITAL IMPOSTORS.

A Fraud Detected in a Paris Charitable Institution.

They say, says an English paper, that many people in this country resort to hospitals who are perfectly able to pay for treatment at home. Such a mean habit is not unknown in other countries, and even among very select people. It is told in a Paris journal that when Velpeau, the celebrated French surgeon, was at the zenith of his fame, a very rich and very aristocratic nobleman presented himself at the hospital in order to obtain an opinion regarding his case, which was found to require careful treatment and a delicate operation. Before deciding to entrust himself to the hands of the great surgeon, the prospective patient inquired what would be the amount of the honorarium. "I shall require 400 francs," replied Velpeau. Upon this the Marquis looked very blank, hesitated for a moment, and then bowed himself out. Eight or ten days later a footman in livery, with carefully shaven face and powdered hair, presented himself at the office. Patient was cured and wished to leave the hospital the operator approached the bed, surrounded by his class, and said:—"Sir, I am extremely flattered at having had the honour of contributing to the amelioration of your health. The sum remains only a small formality for you to fulfil. You will be good enough, in return for my services, to pay 10,000 to the local charitable fund." The spurious lackey grew white as a sheet.

"You will pay the money or not, as may seem best to you," continued Velpeau, calmly; "but, unless you do so, the whole of Paris shall know by to-morrow that the Marquis de X. usurped the place of a pauper in a charitable institution." The poor Marquis had no action but to "stamp up."

### NUGGETS OF GOLD.

Tricycle cabs are a Milan novelty. Pin machines turn out 7,500 an hour.

Sometimes the crop from an acre of orange trees in New Zealand amounts to \$1,000. At Waterloo there were 145,000 men on both sides, of whom 51,000 were killed or disabled.

The expansion of water in congelation is such that eleven feet of water make twelve feet of ice.

The estimated number of sheep in the United States at the present time is forty-five million.

Several of the ancient nations considered that the disembodied spirit was a tangible substance of a bluish color. A steel bar magnetized while cold loses its magnetism upon being heated; one magnetized hot loses it on cooling.

Common bituminous coal contains about 2 per cent. nitrogen, which comes off as ammonia when distilled in a closed vessel.

Over 1,000,000 French women were made widows and 3,000,000 French children were made fatherless by Napoleon's campaigns.

Web boots may be readily dried by filling them to the top with oats. The oats quickly absorb the moisture, and can be repeatedly used.

On the body of a notorious brigand recently killed in Turkey, was found \$4,000, and a notebook which showed he had murdered 192 men.

"Contentment ter be r'aly inj'ible," said Uncle Eben, "hez ter be earned by hard work. 'Elsen 'tain nuffin' but jes plain laziness."

Great Britain has 5,789 cannon; France, 7,694; Germany, 5,380; Russia, 4,424; Austria, 2,170; Turkey, 3,762; the United States, 4,155; the world has 41,073.

"I always know when comp'ny's here, I can tell it any day. For papa then calls mamma 'dear,' and never calls her 'say.'"

"Well, I don't believe I will have to worry over Tommy learning to swim." Mrs. Smith—"Is he afraid of water?" "Mercy, es; he'll cry if I just pour a little into the wash-bowl when he is near."

The people of the United States, according to recent statistics, consume about six hundred million pounds of wool per annum, less than one-half of which is produced in that country.

Mrs. Numother—"Look at the baby; doesn't he seem really different from most babies of his age—he is so." Mr. Crusty—"Yes—er—I think very often they are quite attractive, but, as you say, he is different."

There appears to be a steady decrease in the value of old English mansions. Oakley Hall, in Essex, a fine property of six hundred acres, valued forty years ago at £28,000, was recently sold at auction for £8,000.

The business of colonizing Africa with white people goes on apace. An expedition left England, recently, for Mozambique as an advance party of settlers, who are to colonize some 300 square miles of territory between Zambezi and Sabi.

In the Sandwich Islands the apple has become wild, and forests of trees of many acres are found in various parts of the country. They extend from the level of the sea far up into the mountain sides. It is said that miles of these apple forests can occasionally be seen.

Bees are curious little animals. Before storing honey in a tree, for instance, they will clean the tree of all rotten wood and refuse. When this is done they are ready for work, but a bee never begins business until he is thoroughly ready to carry it on, and then he never does it by halves.

A present of a hundred repeating rifles and eight thousand cartridges has just been made by the Austrian Ministry of War to the Freedland Association, which has started a Socialist colony in Africa to preach and practise the brotherhood of man.

Fred—"Yes, I like him well enough, Minnie; but how did you ever happen to marry a man a head shorter than you are?" Minnie—"I had to choose, Fred, between a little man with a big salary, and a big man with a little salary."

Foreman—"Why don't you vote as the rest of us have? You can't help but see that if ever a man was entitled to a divorce this one is." Obetinate Juror—"Yes, maybe he is; but if that ere woman gets her divorce I hev it on good authority that she intends to try and marry me, and I ain't takin' no such chances."



THEATRE TOILET.

### The Only Preparation for Defeat.

There are some men who have what is known as "gris." They have the force within themselves which conquers. A weak and puny body, containing a strong and masterful will, can conquer a dozen strong men who vacillate.

Take the case of General Taylor in the Mexican war. He fought the battle of Buena Vista with only 5,000 men, although he was attacked by 25,000, under the leadership of Santa Anna, who was the greatest military leader the Mexicans have ever known. Santa Anna went to the battle of Buena Vista with the avowed purpose of exterminating the entire army of the United States, and there was no doubt in the mind of Santa Anna that this great feat could be accomplished with comparative ease.

General Taylor, with his 5,000 men, prepared for the unequal contest, and not only defended himself successfully, but won a substantial victory from his aggressive antagonists and drove them from the battle field of Buena Vista.

Some time after the battle was fought and the Mexican war concluded, General Taylor was criticised for having made no preparations for the retreat of his army in the event of defeat.

General Taylor promptly replied: "I made every preparation necessary for the battle of Buena Vista. I wrote my will, and so did nearly every man in my army. If we had not won that battle, we would have needed no lines of retreat. It was, from our standpoint, victory or annihilation. The only preparation necessary for the contingency of defeat on the battle field of Buena Vista was that all of us should write our wills."

The Salvation Army has invaded thirty-five countries.

Judge—"Have you hypnotized the prisoner?" "I have." "I have." "Well, what are you waiting for?" "I am waiting for you to decide whether I shall make him confess that he did it, or make him confess that he didn't."

The eminent surgeon Sir Astley Cooper, was fond of a practical joke. On one occasion he ascended the church tower of a village in Norfolk, taking with him one of his mother's pillows, and finding the wind blew directly to the next town, he let handfuls of feathers, until he had emptied the pillow. The local papers reported this "remarkable shower" of feathers, and offered various conjectures to account for it, and the account was copied into other papers, and was probably received as a perfectly natural occurrence.



AN ALGOMA PROSPECTOR.