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The Oyster Industry.

Big Profits From Planting in Eastern Virginia.

Oyster planting is now the most profitable industry in Eastern Virginia, says the Baltimore Sun. The planting of oysters on the ocean side of Accomack and Northampton counties was commenced as a business by the residents of Chincoteague Island about 1848. At that time the supply of large oysters was plentiful and only the smaller sizes were put out near the shore to grow from one season to another. This was continued in a small way until the Civil War, when the blockade of the Western Shore waters of Virginia greatly increased the demand and prices.

For a while plants were secured in adjacent waters, but now every body of water from the island to Cape Charles is being annually worked and many plants are brought in vessels from the James River and other parts of the Chesapeake. For a long time planting was unknown south of Chincoteague Bay, but now it is being successfully done in parts of Gargathy, Kegank, Matokin, Burtons, Cedar Island and Broadwater Bay to Smith Island. Thus the area has been multiplied many times, and now the total seaside acreage paid for is 9664. Besides this, these waters, or portions of them, unfit for planting offer opportunities for growth of oysters unequalled on the Chesapeake. The spat seems greater on the seaside; it will catch to any rough substance and the oysters grow much faster. The flats even are capable of immense development, and the business, while large now and increasing yearly, is only in its infancy.

It is estimated that the sales this winter will reach 1,200,000 bushels, valued at over \$500,000. About 1500 hands are employed in this business. They are divided into two classes—the tuggers, those who gather the oysters, and the shuckers. There is a shucking house on nearly every inlet or bay that makes in from the Atlantic. With the increased demand has come larger development, and now oysters are seldom shipped out in the shell.

As to the profits realized, Chincoteague in 1848 had a population under 500 and a property valuation of \$50,000. The population of the island now is about 3500 and the property valuation is above 1,000,000. At least three-fourths of this is due to oyster planting. Mr. H. H. Gordon Mears, of Wachapreague, eight years ago took up a small tract of land, planted in part oysters and two years afterwards opened a shucking house. He then employed 25 hands. Now he has 300 acres planted and only last year planted 60,000 bushels of his own shells and bought and planted 20,000 bushels more. He gives work to 50 tuggers and 70 shuckers. These shuckers will average eight gallons a day, and thus Mr. Mears' daily output is 600 gallons. The shucker is paid 20 cents a gallon and makes as his average wages \$1.60 a day, or \$40 a month. For the 600 gallons daily shucked Mr. Mears usually gets \$1 a gallon, but occasionally has to drop the price to 90 cents, but it never gets below 80 cents. He ships them as far north as Toronto and Montreal, Canada. Mr. Mears during Christmas week has been known to turn down orders for 1700 gallons in one day. The tuggers in Mr. Mears' employ will average from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day in wages.

Reminders.

February has an undue share of holidays and anniversaries. With Lincoln's birthday on last Thursday, St. Valentine's on Saturday and Washington's Birthday on Sunday, there seems to be little demand for any of the things that take time and the great. Yes, there are other days in February that will be held sacred and apart. Ash Wednesday, for instance, always falls in February, and in Latin countries the days of Carnival time.

It is only when we see the pleasures that children take in St. Valentine's day that our memories recall it, and we cannot help with some astonishment that anniversaries of all kinds have become rather sad and boring things, except that when they are legal holidays, as well, we are relieved from business and work.

It seems a pity that this should be so, for as a rule the lesson of our public anniversaries is one in which we learn, either as knowledge or sentiment, and we cannot afford to do without them as reminders. St. Valentine's day is a reminder of the duty and pleasure of expressing affection and remembrance, and in these bustling days no one is quite beyond the necessity of such reminders. We hurry past each other so fast that we have no time to stop and say, "I love you," and that takes time and time. St. Valentine's, too, is the reminder of our youth, with the romances, and its shy secrets. We may not celebrate it to-day with surprise, sent or received, but we keep it on the calendar, as a reminder that romance and sentiment are beautiful things, and that they still exist.

The birthdays are two of our greatest men in Lincoln and Washington, and we cannot like to forget so long as the nation lives. They are reminders of all that we would bear in mind of the patriotism, the integrity and devotion which went to the founding of our national life and its preservation. Our school children are taught in most places to celebrate these days with exercises devoted to the telling of the history of Lincoln and Washington, and in this sowing of the seed of patriotism alone the birthdays are valuable reminders.

We cannot afford to let these things go. We must hold fast to them and we must learn their real value as part of our treasure. All this is a quality true of the religious anniversaries of February. If we need reminders for the actual and visible side of life, what shall we say for that hidden part of our nature of which we so seldom speak? In the work a day world with its many cares, its many absorptions and all its bustle and excitement we need most of all the reminder that we are not to find our only life in these things, that above and around us is the world of the spirit and that in the discipline of Lent—the solemnity of Ash Wednesday—we are to think back to the underlying lessons of which they are but reminders.

"Yes, ma'am," says the saleslady; "this is the new game of ping-pong-let." "But it is so little," objects the customer. "It looks like a toy." "It is quite popular," declares the saleslady. "It is a miniature of the other game, and is especially designed to be played in a flat."—Exchange.

Just Comparisons.

La Motte—A spider has eight eyes. La Motte—Why? What could be any worse than a spider with styes? La Motte—Why, a centipede with chilblains, of course.—Chicago News.

"Few men are as good as they pretend to be." "Well, what of it? Few men want to be. Judge.

Romance of the Clay Pipe.

An Interesting Industry Which Has Existed for 400 Years.

The manufacture of the famous church warden is stamped with the hall-mark of antiquity. Bruseley, in Staffordshire, is perhaps the most renowned pipe-making centre in Great Britain, and the art—for such it has been practiced for between 300 and 400 years. And certain families there, says the London Leader, have carried on the industry without a break since the middle of the sixteenth century. But outside Staffordshire pipe-making is also carried on, and in the center of Cheshire one family can boast of 100 years' service to Cheshire smokers.

MACHINERY IS A FAILURE.

As in a few other industries, machinery is a failure in the pipe factory. Processes without number have been spent, with the object of manufacturing clay pipes by machinery, but none have been successful.

Pipe factories are not imposing buildings, and use not ornament, is the prevailing factor. The clay, of a dirty gray color, is stored in low sheds, and in spite of its color, such clay is of the purest and is only to be found in Devonshire. It is shipped to Liverpool, and is distributed to the pipe-makers in square blocks.

The first operation is the cleansing of the clay. Each block is scraped to remove impurities, then the clay is mixed with water and beaten to consistency, a proceeding which calls for considerable care, otherwise the finished pipe will suffer.

SEVENTEEN HUNDRED PIPES A DAY.

A thick paste results, and this is passed on to the rolling and moulding rooms. Here, men and boys—and sometimes the girls—deftly roll the clay by hand until it assumes somewhat the shape of a pipe. The workers become remarkably dexterous, and it is astonishing how accurately they gauge the amount of clay necessary for the rolling of the head and stem of a full-fledged church warden or the less ambitious short. The work is, nevertheless, to be neatly and deftly performed, or the clay will deteriorate. In an ordinary working day the average worker will roll 1,600 to 1,700 of the longest pipes, and, of course, considerably more short ones. A dozen or more pipes are stuck together, and set aside to temper, a drying process the length of which varies according to the heat of the room.

When sufficiently dry the work of moulding commences. Moulds of cast-iron are employed, and the shelves contain all the best known shapes, which are added to or changed as fashion dictates. The plain, smooth clay is always first favorite, but now and again a popular general—Kitchener and Roberts at present share the honor—is added to the mould. In some districts the country presents of noted footballers or the head of a race-horse figure in clay pipes.

The mould is hinged from stem to bowl and after carefully oiling both sides the moulder inserts his hand rolled and tempered pipes, passes a wire through the stem to make the all-important draught hole, closes the mould and places it in a hand press, which punches a hole in the bowl. While the mould is still closed the operator inserts a wire or thirteen bars, after which time the pipes are gradually allowed to cool, and are then drawn forth hard and white, ready for the glazing of the stems, and, if quality demands, scouring and finishing.

Where Money is Useless.

It Doesn't Out Much of a Figure in Ascension Is Land. Now and then we hear of some out-of-the-way place where one of the conventional bits of gold does not exist. Bits of topography land are scattered over the earth. One of these bits is the Ascension Island, out in the Atlantic. As "Stray Stories" describe it, it must be a fine place in which to live, although only 400 people do live there; for in Ascension money, the thing we try so hard to get, is quite useless.

The island is the property of the British Admiralty, and is governed by a captain. There is no private property in land, so there are no rents, rates, or taxes. The flocks and herds and public property, and the meat is issued in rations. So are the vegetables grown on the farm. Here is real Socialism. When a fisherman catches a catch he brings to the guardroom, where it is issued by the Sergeant Major. The only private property is fowls and pigeons. Even the wild donkeys are under government control. They are on the books of the paymaster and handed over at stock-taking.

The population consists of a few blue-jackets, a company of marines, and some Kroomen from Sierra Leone. A marine can do everything. The multerer is a marine; so are the carpenters, and the plumbers. Even the island tapper who gets rewards for the tails of rats in a marine.

This is the latest story smuggled through Castle Garden as told to me by a New York Irish a few days ago. Two young Irish immigrants, Pat and Mike Maloney, arrived green and fresh from the Emerald Isle.

"Pat and Mike were much astonished at the sights of the city, and when night came they sought lodgings in a down-town hotel. The noise was too much for Pat, and he couldn't sleep. So he got up and sat by the window. Just then a fire engine, with shrieking whistle and spouting flame and smoke, rattled noisily past. Pat looked at it in astonishment. He had never seen anything like it before. In alarm he called out to Mike. Mike snored peacefully. In a few minutes another engine clattered into view, more sparks and smoke pouring from the stack. This was too much for Pat.

"Mike, Mike," he shouted, "get up, quick!" "What's the matter?" growled Mike sleepily. "Matter enough," replied Pat. "Shure an' they're moving hell, and two loads have already gone by!"

Accepted By Bowen.

Mr. Bowen Accepts Great Britain's Protocol—The German and Italian Convention Undergoing Revision.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Great Britain's protocol has been formally accepted by Mr. Bowen for Venezuela. The German and Italian conventions are still undergoing revision, but assurances are given in authoritative quarters that they eventually will be made to conform to all essential respects to that of the British Ambassador. Owing to the illness of the British Ambassador, Mr. Bowen called at the embassy to-day and personally signified his approval of the agreement to the Ambassador. He then presented his formal note of acceptance and it has been cabled to the London foreign office. It appears that the insertion in the protocol of the provision for advance payment of the original \$340,000, demanded of President Castro in the German ultimatum was the result of a misunderstanding on the part of the German foreign office of certain steps in the negotiation here. Through the activity of the German Minister, Baron Spec Von Sternberg, this point is being cleared up.

The Italian Ambassador's instructions are such that he can make little headway until he knows what is contained in the German protocol. He, however, has made a rough draft of his convention and it will take only a short while after the completion of the German convention for Signor Mayer Des Planches to put the finishing touches to his protocol.

Mr. Bowen has done everything possible to conclude the negotiations with dispatch, in order that the blockade might be raised and he tonight expressed his belief that he was receiving in this effort the sincere support of all the negotiators. If a serious difficulty shall occur in the eleventh hour, Mr. Bowen is confident that it will be through no fault of any of the representatives of the allies here. Should the protocols of Germany and Italy, when presented to him, contain no known provision not in line with those of the British, the negotiations must be prolonged until a satisfactory arrangement can be reached.

Died of Hydrophobia.

Uniontown Boy Dies in Intense Agony From the Bite of a Dog.

UNIONTOWN, Pa., Feb. 9.—Henry White 14 years old, died at his home here Sunday night of hydrophobia. Two weeks ago he was bitten by a dog, but it was not thought at the time that the wound would prove fatal or that the dog had rabies.

Tuesday the boy began to show unmistakable signs of hydrophobia and since that time he has been suffering the most intense agony, death resulting Sunday evening.

When calves are first fed on buttermilk they are apt to suffer from indigestion; the same effect follows at times the feeding of meal unless it is thoroughly well boiled. When a young calf is found to be ailing after such a change of feed it is well to give a moderate purgative as a teaspoonful of castor oil, or twice as much of linseed oil. Any grain food given to a young calf should be thoroughly boiled and given as gruel, with a little salt, and buttermilk should be given sparingly at first.

A Success.

"Do tell us what Mrs. Bonner is like." "Well, she's a woman of sixty who looks fifty, thinks she's forty, dresses like thirty, and acts like twenty."—Life.

Personally-Conducted Tours via Pennsylvania Railroad Season of 1902-1903.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces the following Personally-Conducted Tours for the season of 1902-1903: California.—Two tours: No. 1 will leave New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh January 29th; No. 2 will leave February 19th, and will include the Mardi Gras at New Orleans.

Florida.—Three tours to Jacksonville will leave New York and Philadelphia February 23rd and 17th, and March 3rd. The first two of these admit of a sojourn of two weeks in the "Flower State." Tickets for the third tour will be on request by regular trains until May 31st, 1903.

Tickets for the above tours will be sold from principal points on the Pennsylvania Railroad. For detailed itineraries, giving rates and full information, address Thos. E. Watt, passenger agent Western Districts, Baltimore District, Baltimore; C. Studds, passenger agent Southeastern District, Washington; or Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Philadelphia.

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