

VIRGINIA BIG FACTOR IN U. S. OYSTER SUPPLY.

At sunrise, September 15, more than 10,000 Virginians went to work on their task of supplying oysters to meet what probably is the keenest demand in American history.

Oystermen in Virginia think that two outstanding factors have contributed to the unusually keen demand for their stock this year. In the first place, they say, the national advertising campaign which was started last year has "pepped up" the American appetite for bivalves; and in the second the Federal government's certification of wholesomeness which must be given before oysters from any source may go into interstate commerce has inspired in the people a degree of confidence which they never had for any uncertified food.

At any rate whatever the reason, oyster demands for the beginning of the present season, appear to be greater than ever before, and if cool weather begins early in the fall and continues through the winter the oystermen confidently expect the best year of business they have ever had.

Virginia's natural oyster rocks, although much smaller than they used to be, still constitute the most important source of this delicious and wholesome food to be found in America. There are thousands of acres of natural rock in the James, Rappahannock, York and Potomac rivers.

The State makes a practice of renting ground to individuals for oyster planting purposes, charging only a nominal sum each year as rental. The public rocks, of course are never rented out, but are open to all persons alike.

Shucking houses, purchasing their stock from the private beds, do business by removing the oysters from their shells and shipping them in refrigerated containers to all parts of the country. There are in Virginia more than 300 shucking houses each employing from two or three up to a hundred or more shuckers.

State and Federal bacteriologists, chemists and sanitary inspectors wend their way from one to another of these houses, making sure that the regulations are abided by. In this connection, it is interesting to note that sanitary requirements for oysters are much more rigorous than those for milk, fresh vegetables or any other food that is given public health certification.

At a rough estimate oysters bring from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 a year into Virginia, including not only the shucked and shell stock sold directly for food, but also the seed stock shipped out of the State for replanting.

Packaged Apples Must Conform to State Law.

In order to protect consumers, as well as producers, shippers and dealers, the State has an apple packing law which applies to all apples packed in closed packages.

The law provides that the name and address of the packer, the variety of apple, the size of package and the minimum size of fruit must be marked on the outside of the package. It further provides that the apples on the face of the package must be a fair representation of the fruit in the balance of the package.

The law does not require the compulsory use of the standard apple grades, but all apple packers are encouraged to use these grades as the basis for the grading of their output.

The State Department of Agriculture of Harrisburg will be glad to furnish all interested parties with copies of the law and also the standard apple grades.

Game Seasons.

Harrisburg, Sept. 27.—Prospects are good for a successful hunting season this fall, according to reports received by the State game commission. The present summer has been exceptionally good in providing for food for game and birds.

The entire State has been closed this year for wild turkeys and Hungarian quail.

The season for ruffed grouse will extend from Nov. 1 to 15. Previously this had been a month. The season's bag limit has been reduced from 15 to ten birds. Male ringneck pheasants are in season the same time as grouse.

Rabbits and hares also have been reported plentiful with the season extending only through the month of November.

Deer can be killed from Dec. 1 to 15 and bear Nov. 10 to Dec. 15.

If you want quality job work it can be had at this office.

MOST POWERFUL WORLD PERFUME.

Musk is one product of world commerce in which China practically enjoys a monopoly—not a large one, to be sure, since the annual output is at best only some \$400,000 gold, but the product itself is worth many times its weight in silver, and for that matter, gold as well, in these days of high exchange, says the Far Eastern Review, Chungking.

About one-half of the total output stays in China and is used especially by the Cantonese in compounding pills that form the best-known remedy in the Chinese pharmacopoeia for Asiatic cholera. The Chinese also use musk to keep moths out of furs and clothing, and as a perfume, the odor being quite popular in the better grades of perfumery.

Practically all of China's musk comes from Tibet through the Szechwan frontier, the chief markets being Sungpan and Tachienlu the former being by far the more important. Sometimes, when the road from Sungpan to Chengtu is unsafe, owing to brigands, part of the musk will be taken south and marketed in Tengyueh to go to India. This happened to a considerable part of the output in 1915, when 6,890 ounces out of a total of 25,367 were so shipped.

Good musk is bought for 10 times its weight in silver at Sungpan, and at Chungking for 18 to 25 times, so there is a heavy profit somewhere. Small supplies are brought out to various points along the Lungan road, where every coolie seems to have some about him, and the inns reek with the sickly smell. The musk is brought down in its pod, and the best kind is recognized by a nice brown color, and in its pure state by its overpowering stench; pods with grayish or dull-colored musk are rejected. It is retailed by one one-hundredth of an ounce, but it is adulterated more than any other article in the Chinese market.

By far the largest herds of musk deer are to be found on the southern shores of the Koko-Nor, and the supply of musk there (at Ta'ochou) is larger than the quantity that comes through Sungpan. In fact, great quantities of musk do not come to Sungpan at all, but are sent east to Yuchow, in Homan, where a fair is held in the ninth and tenth moons, many of the Sungpan traders visiting this place. At Tachienlu musk is the most valuable export, practically every long reeking with it, and nearly all the Tibetans who come from the far interior bring some with them. The price of medium there is 13 times its weight in silver.

Musk is a secretion of the male musk deer. Three kinds of musk are distinguished in commerce, the most important and valuable being the Chinese or Tongkin musk imported principally from Shanghai. It is put up in small tin-lined, silk-covered caddies, each containing from two to three dozen pods. These are generally adulterated with dried blood, fragments of leather, leaden pellets, peas, etc., so that often little more than the smell of the original tennant of the pod remains. The Chinese pods vary greatly in value according to quality and genuineness. Some musk collected from the Western Himalaya is exported from India. It is much less prized than genuine Tongkin musk.

The third variety, known as Kabarine or Siberian musk, is exported from Central Asia by way of Russia. It is in large pods, said to be yielded by a distinct species of deer, and is very inferior in point of odor.

The musk deer has a wide distribution over the highlands of Central and Eastern Asia, including the greater part of Southern Siberia, and extends to Kashmir on the southwest and Cochin China on the southeast, always, however, at great elevations—being rarely found in summer below 800 feet above the sea level, and ranging as high as the limits of the thickets of birch, rhododendron, and juniper, among which it conceals itself in the daytime. It is a hardy, solitary, and retiring animal, chiefly nocturnal in its habits, and almost always found alone, rarely in pairs, and never in herds. It is exceedingly active and sure-footed, having, perhaps, no equal in traversing rocks and precipitous ground; and it feeds on moss, grass, and leaves of the plants which grow on the mountains among which it makes its home.

Most of the animals of the group to which the musk deer belongs have some portion of the cutaneous surface peculiarly modified and provided with glands secreting some odoriferous and oleaginous substance specially characteristic of the species. The situation of the specially modified portion of skin is extremely various, sometimes between the toes, as in sheep, sometimes on the face.

Owing to the great value of musk to the perfumer, the chemist early tried to solve the problem of making it artificially, and finally one Baur accidentally succeeded in imitating the odor in a compound made by linking the radicle of benzene and that of tertiary butyl alcohol. It is not a true musk, as the natural product belongs to quite a different class of chemical compounds. However, "Muc Baur," as it was called in the trade, enjoyed great popularity and sold for \$20 gold a pound as far back as 1900, the product so sold being adulterated with 19 times its weight of acetalalid.

There are other artificial musks in the market now and the adulteration with inert chemicals has ceased. None of these, however, has the power that makes the product of Tibet so valuable, that of fixing the more fugitive floral odor and giving the resulting perfume lasting qualities that are lacking in cheaper grades, whose odor is sweet when moist but vanishes as the solution dries.

HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE. When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "Horizontal" defines a word which will fill the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "Vertical" defines a word which will fill all the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 9. A grid with numbered squares for a crossword puzzle.

- Horizontal. 1-A large bird, 2-Used for smoking, 3-Not many, 4-Lubricated, 5-Used in boating, 6-Winner, 7-Part of the area of a circle, 8-Used to measure gas, 9-Circles, 10-One of the articles, 11-Dejected, 12-Dejected, 13-An exclamation, 14-A wriggly inhabitant of the sea, 15-Devooured, 16-Recent, 17-Instrument used by doctors, 18-Fear, 19-A titled personage, 20-Part of a ship, 21-Maker, 22-A South American snake, 23-Existed, 24-A tool, 25-A tree, 26-A foreign ruler, 27-A small, sharp bit of metal, 28-A popular modern invention, 29-The sewed edge of clothing, 30-One who examines ore, 31-Put together. Vertical. 1-A preposition, 2-A numeral, 3-To tease, 4-To make a noise like a dove, 5-One who employs, 6-Trials, 7-A poem, 8-Common name of a fur-bearing animal, 9-The load of a ship, 10-Otherwise, 11-To grant, 12-Large woody plants, 13-Island near Greece, 14-Movement of the ocean, 15-Power of attraction, 16-Keepest, 17-Man's name, 18-Bend-down, 19-Organ of the body, 20-Distorted, 21-Regret, 22-Used in fishing, 23-Part of a circle, 24-To court, 25-A traveling star, 26-To knock, 27-A playing card, 28-To be in debt, 29-A line of mountains, 30-Mouth of a bird, 31-To stupefy, 32-Found in a desert, 33-Also, 34-Pertaining to the moon, 35-Harmony, 36-Refuse from a fire, 37-Simple jokes, 38-Reverberation, 39-Exist, 40-Also, 41-A parent, 42-Myself.

Nature Decried No Monopoly in Gems.

Precious stones come from most out-of-the-way places, says a jeweler in the Cincinnati Enquirer. "The diamond comes from India, Brazil and South Africa. Although the diamond is nearly always water-clear in color, there are blue, green and yellow stones. As distinct from a white topaz, which is always quite water-clear in color, a yellow diamond has just a faint yellow tinge in it. The ancient Greeks knew the stone, and because it could not be cut and carved in those days like other stones on account of its hardness they gave it the name of Adams.

"The ruby, which is next in hardness and was used so lavishly in the crown jewels and regalia of the king of Burma, now in the Indian section of the Victoria and Albert museum, South Kensington, comes from Burma, Ceylon, Mandalay, Afghanistan and Siam. There are also ruby mines in Australia.

"The spinel, which is distinct from the ruby proper, is a clear, bright red with a bluish tone. The choicest rubies are those of the color of pigeon's blood, which come from Burma. The Indian ruby is lighter in color than those from other places. Weight for weight the perfect ruby is of much higher value than the diamond, but the stone is so full of flaws that it cannot be cut to the same advantage as the diamond.

"The sapphire, which is of such a beautiful blue, comes from Burma, Ceylon, Borneo and Australia. It is also found in Europe in the Rhine valley. The star sapphire, which is rather lighter in color, comes from Brazil, as does also the white sapphire.

"The emerald is the most valuable of the 'beryl' group, and comes from Colombia, in South America, India, New South Wales, Serbia and parts of Egypt. The earliest emeralds we know of were those that came from Celopatra's mines in Egypt. The finest are those from Colombia where the wonderful emeralds which so dazzled the Spaniards on their conquest of Mexico were afterward found to have come; they have more flash and are of a richer and deeper color than those from other countries.

"The aquamarine comes from the Ural mountains in Russia and also from Brazil; in color it ranges from a pale sea green to a bluey tinge. The morganite is more commonly known as the pink 'beryl' and comes from Madagascar; at its finest it is of a pinky mauve orchid tint. It was given the name of 'morganite' on the occasion of the late J. P. Morgan giving to England the largest known specimen of it, which is now in the mineral gallery of the Natural History museum, South Kensington."

Power From the Sea.

The world's industrial power of the future may be drawn from the heat of warm sea water. Already some scientists think they have found a way of utilizing this latent energy. The warm sea water will, they assert, evaporate carbon dioxide or ammonia. And the pressure thus obtained can be used in steam turbines to produce tremendous electric power.

Lumbermen to Meet at State College.

The Pennsylvania Forest Products Manufacturers' Association will meet at the Pennsylvania State College Thursday, October 28th. Most of the forenoon will be devoted to business matters. During the remainder of the day there will be a speaking program featuring a talk on "Standardization of Forest Products."

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