

CENTRAL GUARDIAN

The Famous "Malpeque" Oyster Now Coming Back

(From The Standard's Parliamentary Correspondent at Ottawa.) The oyster industry in Richmond Bay, P. E. I., original home of the famous Malpeque oyster is coming back, after 15 years of complete exhaustion, according to A. W. H. Needler, biologist who spends his summers in the service of the Marine Biological Board of Canada.

Richmond, or "Malpeque" Bay was at one time the greatest oyster producing area in Canada. But it has been fallow since 1915 when the oysters were stricken by a disease due, it is said, to infection from imported oysters planted for experimental purposes.

While this important area has been withdrawn from production, "Malpeques" have continued on the market though in smaller quantities. Some years before the war "Malpeques" from Richmond Bay were used to stock beds along the northern shores of Nova Scotia from Pictou to Bay Verte, and these transplanted oysters have provided a certain supply. The present production of Canadian oysters is about 20,000 barrels a year.

While there has been some criticism of the quality of the Canadian oysters on the market in recent years, at one time their superiority was a matter of general recognition. In fact, they won first prize at the International Exposition in Paris some years before the war. These first prize oysters were collected in various places in the Maritimes, and were standing in barrels on wharves, in some cases in the hot sun, before being shipped across the Atlantic. But notwithstanding rough usage and a change of climate, Paris epicures pronounced the Canadian oysters superior to European oysters that had been taken out of the water only the day before.

Production of Richmond Bay Richmond Bay once produced upwards of 30,000 barrels of oysters per season. Due to over-fishing, the yield began to decrease about 1894, and at the end of a decade only about one-sixth of the maximum yield was being taken. Men not only exploited every oyster colony they could locate to the limit. They made it more difficult for the oysters to reproduce. They disturbed the natural beds for oysters. Furthermore, as the land was cleared of trees to the water's edge, silting increased and young oysters were smothered in silt.

Owing to disputes as to jurisdiction between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, oyster farming was never carried on in the Bay to any extent although the need of artificial culture to correct the ravages of over-fishing was realized.

Companies Granted Leases. In 1913 about half-a-dozen companies were granted leases of oyster beds for the purpose of artificial culture. The leases were issued by the Prince Edward Island Government. Some of these companies brought in oysters from other waters and planted them, and there was considerable cleaning and stocking of beds for a few years.

Then in 1915 disease appeared among the oysters. It spread quickly, and by the end of 1916 practically all the oysters in Malpeque Bay were dead.

It is interesting to recall, in this connection, that Dr. Joseph Stanford in an address to the Conservation Commission in 1912, advised against attempts to transplant United States oysters in Canadian waters.

A few oysters in Richmond Bay survived, mostly at the head of inlets where the sheltered conditions and warm waters were favorable to the production of spat—young oysters. Very slowly the survivors developed a stock of oysters capable of resisting the disease, and these have become so numerous as permit efforts to plant beds which have been barren for years.

Since the area was stricken by disease, various experiments have been made in introducing oysters from other waters of P. E. I., in nearly all cases these imported oysters were also attacked by the disease.

At present considerable quantities of oysters in Malpeque Bay are healthy and free from any symptoms of disease. The question of jurisdiction over the oyster fisheries was settled in 1928, when the Provincial Government agreed to give the Dominion Government complete control. Since then A. W. H. Needler, of the Atlantic Biological Station, Halifax, N. S. and other experts have been studying the problem of replenishing the oyster supply. Their investigations have shown that there is a sufficient supply of the native oyster oysters at the commencement of cultivation on a considerable scale. There is, therefore, good hope of the restoration of the industry, but it will probably be some years before the famous Malpeques are

available to consumers in as great numbers as they once were.

"The possibilities of the oyster industry in Prince Edward Island and in New Brunswick and in Nova Scotia, as well as vastly greater than is generally realized," says a recent report of the Dominion Fisheries Department. There is, at any rate, a large market in Canada which home production does not begin to supply. The market value of oysters caught in New Brunswick last year was \$90,212, and in 1929 \$49,030. In Nova Scotia the values were smaller.

Against home production of a round \$150,000, Canada imports upwards of \$400,000 worth of oysters annually, mostly from the United States, through England supplies about \$20,000 worth annually.

"The Fisheries Department is satisfied that by the application of proper methods the oyster industry of Prince Edward Island can be made more valuable than are the whole fisheries of that province at the present time." That would require the P. E. I. oyster industry to produce a value of upwards of 1-1-4 million dollars annually, a tidy addition to the income of the fishermen of the province, who now number 2,281.

The hitherto crab-wise progress in realizing the possibilities of the oyster industry is attributed to political influence over-riding economic considerations. Many fishermen are also farmers, and have objected to private leases of oyster beds in front of their lands—a natural assertion of a right to take oysters where they are close at hand. However, every country that has developed an important oyster business has done so by encouraging oyster farming, and nobody goes in for oyster farming unless assured the exclusive rights to fish on the area he cultivates. As cultivation of oyster farms tends to improve the fishing on adjacent public beds by the increased amount of spat that is likely to find its way to them, the importance of reserving some areas as private farms is being more generally realized.

"Reliance on the public beds alone," says the Fisheries Department, "is obviously wrong in principle, as it involves attempting to save a fishery by restriction rather than by wise use and expansion, which are the results of intelligent oyster farming."

The department, however, realizes that while oyster farming is practical and desirable, there is much to learn regarding it in Canadian waters—both by biologists and fishermen—as conditions may be different from those prevailing in other countries where oyster farming is such an important industry. The disastrous effects of the 1913-1915 ventures in oyster planting in Richmond Bay makes the Department wary of encouraging new ventures without first making cautious experiments.

SLAG USED IN MAKING GLASS

PUEBLO, Colo., July 23.—(U.P.)—Glassmaking, as an auxiliary manufacturing process to that of steel, was foreseen here recently.

An announcement by Dr. C. A. Basore, industrial research chemist at Alabama Polytechnic institute, that waste slag, which is now accumulating by millions of tons at the Pueblo steel plant, could be used profitably in the manufacture of high grade glass, aroused this possibility.

Dr. Basore conducted his experiments with Birmingham sand, which is very scarce, and would make glass manufacture in the south, using slag from southern mills, very expensive. A survey by the Federal Chamber of Commerce several years ago revealed that the sand which abounds near Pueblo is high-grade glass sand.

The material the chemist evolved from sand and slag was a high-grade glass of unusual elasticity, clarity and of high tensile quality. Some of the glass, apparently possessed excellent insulating qualities.

Manufacturing the glass, in conjunction with the steel process, as the molten mass comes from the steel furnace, would afford a saving of heat and lower the cost of producing the glass, although this proposal in no way eliminates the use of cold slag dumped away from the mills.

Dr. Basore compounded a number of types of glass from his slag-sand experiments.

CANVASSED FOR BOOZE ORDERS

MEMPHIS, July 22.—(U.P.)—A new wrinkle was found in the bootlegging industry here when police captured Albert Stricklin, negro, who was "taking liquor orders" in a house-to-house canvass.

Borden Meeting Enthusiastic For Strong & Morrison

Further Details Of Splendid Opening Meeting In The Fourth District Of Prince

The opening joint political meeting for the Fourth District of Prince County was held in Borden on Wednesday evening. For a district that has always been known as a Liberal one the tone of the meeting was decidedly Conservative. The Conservative candidates receiving by far the most applause. Their convincing arguments in contrast to the defensive line taken by their opponents brought applause that was at times deafening. In spite of the heavy rain the large and well lighted hall was filled to capacity. The chairman, Mr. T. B. Gillespie, very capably presided.

Premier Lea, the first speaker, opened his remarks with a flat contradiction of his statement at Egmont Bay, that the Liberal platform had only been fulfilled 80 per cent. At Borden he claimed it had been fulfilled to the letter. All has been carried out. "We have amended the liquor law, for better or worse." Such statements as this were the keynote of Hon. Mr. Lea's speech.

"We have no platform, we come on the record of our performances of the past year," he said. "The people have not forgotten our promises and would not be influenced by a second batch of promises."

Hon. Mr. Lea went over the planks of the Conservative platform. "There is nothing," he contended, "in the claim that we elected could not get our subsidy claims." He had a better opinion of Hon. Mr. Bennett than that. The statute labor was given this year. He was surprised to find the Prohibition plank in the Conservative policy as they had said it was impossible to enforce.

Hon. Mr. Lea went into a long and detailed account of what his party had done on the roads and also in finance matters, but it apparently did not carry much weight with the audience. He declared that the Conservatives had destroyed the Technical School which they had found equipped when they came into office in 1923.

The only reason they have it in their platform now is because Hon. Mr. Weir at Ottawa is promoting agricultural education.

When Mr. Lea got down to the Old Age Pension platform of Mr. Stewart, he said, this was the only new platform they had and he was surprised to see it. "They wonder why we have no platform on this, we have gone as far as we could, we have found out who are eligible for old age pensions." Mr. Lea's opinion was that hardworking farmers should not be asked to contribute to old age pensions.

MR. MORRISON'S ADDRESS

Mr. Hugh Morrison followed Mr. Lea and was given a great reception. New in the political field, he dealt in a very concise manner with the issues before the electorate, claiming that the present government were charged with extravagance, incompetence and insincerity. At the last election they promised drastic enforcement of the Prohibition law. "What have you? Fifteen schooners in Malpeque last year landing rum, and many this year. Yet they said they had enforced the law 100 per cent."

PREMIER LEA: "I never said that."

That, Mr. Morrison maintained, was the answer given the electors. They have purchased road machinery, over the telephone, to the tune of \$100,000 on borrowed money. These tractors are hung up on the road with a gang of engineers to fix them. It took eleven days of this machinery to build three miles of road. An old man with a team of oxen could have done better. Tremendous expenditure has been incurred for repairs for this machinery. The road building policy of the Lea Government came in for a good deal of criticism by Mr. Morrison. Mr. Lea has decided that graveled roads are no good, so he is building roads costing millions of dollars. "If you return them," he said, "you might just as well apply to the Courts for an assignment for we will all be bankrupt."

The Provincial Police were now fourteen in number, jobs being given to party leaders at the enormous expense of \$40,000 (cheers) and yet cars with rum by the keg, cask or bottle were everywhere. That's how

they make the country dry, and their officers sitting in expensive cars, paid for by the tax payers and doing nothing." (Deafening applause.)

Mr. Morrison's maiden speech was heartily endorsed by the meeting.

MR. WRIGHT'S APOLOGIA

Mr. Horace Wright's speech was mostly figures, lame excuses and boastful statements of what had been done. We have been charged, said Mr. Wright, with incompetency and insincerity with regard to enforcing the Prohibition Act. "We did not say that we would enforce the law 100 per cent," he said. "It cannot be done, no law is enforced 100 per cent; but it is better than four years ago. 'You might find an odd drunk' this remark was answered from the audience with cries of 'No, no.'"

The audience was not convinced with the statements of Mr. Wright that they had not interfered with the enforcing of the law. "We are losing votes now because we will not shield our political friends," he argued. I challenge anyone to say we have interfered with the Prohibition Commission. Are you going to blame the Government because the Prohibition Commission have not done their duty?"

MR. HEATH STRONG

When Mr. Strong rose to address the gathering he was greeted with tremendous applause. In a very trenchant speech Mr. Strong held the audience while he went over the important subjects in Hon. Mr. Stewart's platform.

He scored a decided hit when he said that the aged people of the Province were just as much entitled to old age pensions as the Provincial Auditor.

He scathingly referred to Hon. Mr. Lea as a second Mussolini. "For does he not say: 'I have no platform. I am bound by nothing. I am going to do what I like, I will make no promise. I am the Government, I am the policy!' This is the attitude of Mr. Lea who is Premier of this Province."

Mr. Strong also took a stand on Public Accounts, showing how the Government had gone behind to the tune of three quarters of a million dollars, "and then they say, let us finish our work! Half the subsidy obtained by Hon. Mr. Stewart has been eaten up by them to pay their debts." Citing some of their extravaganzas, he instanced \$8,000 Mitchell scandal, money spent on Education Commission absolutely wasted, \$27,000 for a mile of highway "and then they say we are making a fuss because it has a few cracks!"

The ordinary farmer has to get along as best he can, Mr. Strong pointed out. Only the other day a man in New Annan was hauling produce and got stuck in the mire. He telephoned to the road master and his reply was "Take out one or two loads of wheat straw and you will be alright." That is how the farmers are treated. The Premier had so much to say about being stuck on the Freetown road during the Stewart Government's time, but he is silent on his being dragged out of the mire at Drueit Road just the other day.

The Premier's attitude on old age pensions was shown up and Mr. Strong pointed out it was one of the Liberal planks at the last election. (Applause.)

The Summerside jail came into the lime light. The Liberals said they will "stand by." They are standing by, (laughter) and prisoners are drinking and fighting.

The Government candidates say there is no drunkenness, yet on Dominion Day, right under the eyes of the Premier of the Province, a driver in the races was drunk and had to be taken off the course.

Answering Mr. Wright's challenge to show where there had been any evidence of "political enforcement" Mr. Strong pointed out that a provincial policeman at Borden was sent away because he put a well known Liberal in jail. The prisoner was sentenced to one year, but was later released. Mr. Strong quoted figures of the Summerside Police Court showing increased drunkenness. The disturbances and drunkenness in the Prince County Jail has never been investigated. Mr.

Advertisement for various products including Borden Baking Powder, Kellogg's Corn Flakes, Peanut Butter, and Tomatoes. Includes prices and promotional text like 'Save! At Our Regular Prices'.

Advertisement for G. F. Hutcheson, an optometrist, offering eye examinations and glasses for children.

Advertisement for Strawberry Boxes, offering crates of strawberries for sale.

Advertisement for your child's education, stating that education is not stupid and is directly chargeable to faulty vision.

Continuation of the Borden Meeting article, discussing the political atmosphere and the impact of the election results.

Continuation of the Borden Meeting article, focusing on the speeches and the audience's reaction.

Continuation of the Borden Meeting article, detailing the political positions and the role of various candidates.

Article titled 'Jazz Menaces Gypsy Tunes', discussing the impact of jazz music on traditional gypsy tunes.

Article titled 'SCHOOLGIRL COMPLEXION FOR STATUE OF LIBERTY', reporting on the efforts to improve the complexion of the Statue of Liberty.

Article titled 'NEW YORK, July 22—When the late President Cleveland unveiled the Statue of Liberty on New York harbor in 1886, he made the following remark: "We shall not forget that liberty has here made her home nor shall her chosen altar be neglected."'