

THE DAILY EXAMINER

APRIL 5, 1899.

OYSTER CULTURE. MR. KEMP'S REPORT.

We hope that Premier Farquharson will obtain a copy of the report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries and read there the account that is given by Mr. Kemp concerning the value and importance and cultivation of our oyster fisheries. Mr. Kemp has collated and included in his valuable paper extracts from the reports of the late Hon. W. H. Pope, the late Mr. John Hunter-Duvar, and Edward Hackett, Esq., showing that the rivers and streams of this Island are admirably adapted for the cultivation of oysters. Judge Pope saw no reason why hundreds of thousands of acres of oyster beds should not be formed in these bays which would produce vast quantities of oysters, in quality much superior to the oysters of Virginia, and the statements of Messrs Duvar and Hackett bear out his estimate. A commission of fishery inspectors, in 1887, recommended that existing oyster beds be reserved to the public and that mud-digging be prohibited within sixty yards of any officially recognized workable live oyster bed.

Mr. Kemp describes the methods of oyster culture resorted to on the coasts of Great Britain, France and other parts of Europe, as well as in the United States; and he points out the more important differences between our Canadian oyster and the European species, as follows:

- CANADIAN OYSTER.**
1. Sexes separate.
 2. Unfertilized eggs shed by parent.
 3. Eggs and sperm meet in the open sea and fertilization is accomplished.
 4. The swimming embryo is taken and has for a time no shell.
 5. Number of eggs enormous, probably 50 to 150 millions produced by each female oyster.

- EUROPEAN OYSTER.**
1. Sexes combined in the same individual.
 2. Eggs never shed before fertilization.
 3. Eggs fertilized and retained within the mother-oyster's shell.
 4. Embryos protected by a thin shell, and emitted as 'black spat.'
 5. Eggs do not exceed one or two millions, i. e., one egg for every hundred eggs produced by the Canadian oyster.

Oysters will, Mr. Kemp continues, spat in shallow water sooner than they will in deeper water, owing to the difference of temperature at the different depths. They will breed long before they are full grown, very probably in the first year of their age; certainly in the second. Their productiveness appears to reach its maximum at five or six years, and afterwards to decline; but much further observation is needed before any certain knowledge is acquired. The state of the weather, however, has a serious influence on the spawn, and on the adult oyster's power of spawning. A cold, wet and windy season is very unfavorable, and a decidedly cold day will kill the spat. So that it will be seen that while in the embryonic state young oysters are very delicate and susceptible to cold. If the temperature of the sea suddenly drops many degrees, they will close their shells and fall to the bottom dead, just as a frosty night will "nip up" and cause to fall off from the branches the delicate blossoms of fruit trees. If, on the other hand, the weather continues of a warm and equable temperature both day and night, and if it be at the same time calm, the young oysters will have a chance of taking up their positions on the various substances they love best

viz., stones, gravel, empty shells, living oysters, and other clean hard substances. Seaweed of every description should be removed from all oyster beds, as it increases the work of dredging, covers up the oysters and grounds, and at the season of spatting it covers the culch, so that the spat that settles there is lost. Weeds also collect mud, which would smother the spat even if it found a resting place, and generally makes foul and dirty ground. There is, however, nothing more fatal than sand. The oyster areas cannot be too clean for the reception of spat, and the cultivation of oysters.

Proceeding to the report of the operations of last year we note that Mr. Kemp found oysters "scarce in Malpeque Bay where the general average catch did not come up to a barrel a man per day." On the northwestern point of Richmond Bay, around the Bideford Narrows, Trout River, and off Lennox Island, oysters are also found to be getting scarcer. In this connection Mr. Kemp states that the sample brought on shore for market is good and of fair size, as the merchants or buyers there will not take small oysters, and the fishermen are beginning to see the result of leaving the small ones on the beds. These men will commence fishing, and after finding that the oysters are getting scarce where their boats are moored, will sit down and cull their oysters over, the marketable ones are placed to one side, and any small ones that are taken into the boat attached to larger ones, are separated by means of a sharp blow from either the back or blade of a small hatchet, usually carried for the purpose of separating clusters of oysters; the small ones are then returned to the water, and a fresh place is then selected on which to commence fishing again. This is carried on until the men are satisfied with their day's work, or are compelled to return to land through bad weather. The above is a decided improvement upon the system of culling and separating their oysters above high water mark, where the young are left to die and decay. It would improve the oyster industry if this regulation were rigidly enforced by the fishery officers around the whole coast line where oysters exist. Small oysters were reported plentiful, and this is a good and well by sign.

In Grand River, the sample of oysters taken from the lower part are very fine, both as regards quality and size, but higher up the oysters are found to be much smaller.

On the northern portion of Richmond Bay, abreast of Curtain Island, the oysters are of a very fine quality and of large size. They are taken from deep beds, and are becoming very valuable. They have been sold to buyers, afloat, at \$4 per barrel. Large oyster beds are found in this locality in deep water (from 20 to 26 feet), where it is almost impossible to use tongs on account of the depth and current of the tides. Mr. Kemp says that dredging in moderation would not harm these beds, but would improve, cleanse and extend them if a limited time were given to dredge them to fishermen who choose to catch oysters by that method. Oyster beds that have been previously dredged upon, in this locality, are now covered with small oysters. The most noticeable are the sand, or long bed, and the Townsend, or 40-acre patch. Both these beds are now covered with small oysters, too small for market, and several fishermen state that dredging is the cause of the spat settling there, as the shells have been raked over and cleansed. If the use of the dredge were allowed in this bay for a portion of each season, say from the 20th or 30th October, when the weather be-

comes unsettled, till the close of navigation, then many a man could get a day's work by using dredges, where he could not catch an oyster with tongs. An imaginary line might be drawn from Gulf Point, on the west side of the bay, to Beach Point, on the east side, allowing fishermen to dredge on the north of this line.

On the shoals and flats between Curtain Islands innumerable small oysters are found; but they do not mature. Mr. Kemp recommends that these small oysters be picked for planting purposes. He found good oysters at Tracadie, and reports having heard from Mr. W. C. Holkirk that an extensive bed of oysters had been found at Savage Harbor, and that the oysters caught are good and plentiful. Another new oyster bed is reported at Tracadie. No efforts have been made to ascertain whether any deep-water oysters exist in the sea around the coasts. But, Mr. Kemp notes, on the north side of Prince Edward Island, with northerly gales of wind, oyster shells are reported to wash ashore, which would lead one to believe that oyster beds do exist outside. The same has also been reported of Buctouche, N. B.

Mr. Kemp further reports that several applications were made by the farmers to have some alteration made in the mud-digging areas: and, in compliance with instructions, he had at West, North and Johnson's Rivers, drawn fresh lines and limits and reserved further areas for the use of oyster fishermen. The present arrangements are, he says, satisfactory to all parties concerned, and a copy of the metes and bounds has been left with the fishery officer in Charlottetown for future reference.

The quantity of the oyster catch of P. E. Island last year is stated at 29,915 barrels valued at \$83,650, as against 30,214 barrel in 1897, valued at \$120,856, and 25,493 barrels in 1896, valued at \$101,851. Last year's catch was considerably below the average of the catches of former years. It is evidently important that our oyster beds should be preserved and improved—not destroyed.

A KINDLY OFFER.

The Montreal Star and Sir Louis Davies are engaged in a dispute; and the Star has made this fair offer:

"The Star challenges Sir Louis Davies to leave it to two distinguished persons capable of deciding, which of the two is deceiving the public in the matter, Sir Louis Davies or the Star. We repeat that the Star's statement was bona fide, sanctioned, by those in the Marine Department who should know, and that the Star was acting in perfect good faith in giving it to the public as the Minister's views."

"It is shown that the Star is wrong, it will pay all the expenses of the investigation, and in addition it will forward to Sir Louis Davies an accepted cheque for two hundred dollars, to be divided amongst the poor of Sir Louis Davies' constituency, Queen's County, P. E. I. As it is at present, the readers of the Star will certainly doubt the Minister's statement in the House. It is only fair that he should have an opportunity to prove his position. If it was worth a denial, it is worth proving, and, if the Star is wrong, Sir Louis Davies will have the great pleasure of contributing the two hundred dollars to the poor of his constituency, or to any other public charity, except Sir Louis' campaign fund."

We hope that this offer will be accepted. Although we have enjoyed the advantages of our Liberal Government for close upon three years there are still a few persons in West Queen's who may, perhaps, be described as "poor." We're not, yet, all rich.

—Mr. Fisher, the Temperance Minister, is soon to leave the Tarte-Laurier administration. May it, then, be called "A Ram Cabinet?"

—Senator Ferguson has given the best reason that could be advanced for declining the office of President of the P. E. Island Fruit Growers' Association: he is not in a position to perform the duties pertaining thereto. Those who elected him will of course regret that this is true; but no one will question the Senator's motive for resigning. The duties of the President of the Association will devolve upon the Vice president, Mr. Stewart, of Hamilton; and we feel sure that our nascent fruit-growing interests will be promoted by his efforts.

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As the spring housecleaning season is approaching it's wise for the ladies to consider how they are going to attain the best results.

Take the advice of millions of people in all parts of the world and use nothing but.....

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which are sold at 5c per twin bar. Each bar of these world renowned brands carries with it a \$5000 guarantee of absolute purity. They will remove the dirt quickly and easily and leave a pleasant, sweet odor about the house, and will not ruin paint work as do "Washing Powders, and adulterated soaps."

"LIFEBUOY" is a carbolic disinfectant soap, and is strongly recommended for killing all disease germs. Use plenty of it and be healthy.

TESTIMONIAL

CHARLOTTETOWN, March 27, 1899

James Waddell, Esq.,
Dear Sir: Now that the skating season is drawing to a close I desire to express to you my thanks for the Electric Light service your company provided me with this winter in the Hillborough Rink. Never on any occasion, either afternoon or evening has the light failed, and it has invariably been a brilliant and satisfactory one. In fact from my experience with the Rink during the past few years, I would unhesitatingly say that your light is far ahead of any other system of light ever used in the building, either for skating or for hockey. I remain
Yours truly
A. A. BARTLETT

We endorse this statement as above expressed by Mr. Bartlett.

W. B. BREAULT, V. H. C.
WALLACE McLEOD, A. H. C.
M. J. MURPHY, Anchor
R. DRAKE, Crescent.
M. M. STEWART, West Kent
H. S. McLEOD, Y. M. C. A.
SAMUEL DOYLE, Jr. Abeyw's
Wm. A. McKEE Capt. C. B. Co.

Tenders for Coal

Sealed Tenders will be received at the office of Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply, until noon, on **Wednesday 12th inst** for delivery at the Pumping Station of 350 TONS OF ACADIA ROUND COAL. Said coal to be of best quality of this year's mining, to be weighed on city scales, and be delivered early in May, July and September, in about equal quantities, in each of said months; ton to consist of 2240 lbs. Tenders to state price for screened coal and the quality and delivery of the coal to be subject to the approval of the Superintendent of the Works. The Commissioners do not bid themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.
By order
D. McLEAN
Secretary.

Office of Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply.
City Hall, April 5th 1899.

It Pays to Buy at PERKINS



Are you going to a new hat for Easter? If so, you should visit our millinery department.

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—THE—
Millinery Leaders.



Miss Mutch has just returned from New York; where she has been attending the large Millinery openings and studying under the best American Milliners.

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—THE—
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We are now showing a very choice line of fancy straw sailors and walking Hats for Easter.

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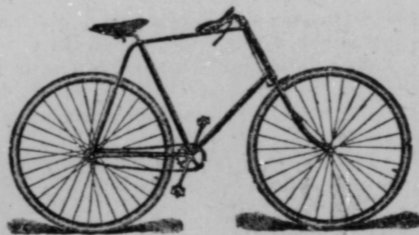
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