

COMMERCIAL SPONGES.

Sources of Supply for the American Market.

Florida Fishing Grounds—Interesting Information as to the Methods of Catching, Curing and Growth.

For many years the United States has engaged in an extensive trade in sponge-producing regions in the world, notably the waters of the Mediterranean Sea and of the coasts of Florida and the Bahamas.

The trade was carried on first in a limited way to supply sponges with the finer qualities of Mediterranean sponges, for which alone there was then a demand.

The people of Key West had long used these sponges in their houses and about their boats, but they had never learned to discriminate between the several varieties, which, based upon difference in structure, shape, texture and solidity, have given rise to many commercial grades, according to which sponges are classified and sold.

GRADES AS TO QUALITY. The Florida grades, arranged in the order of their value, are: Sheepskin, velvet, yellow, grass and glove, the sheepskin taking precedence over the other grades because of the fineness of its texture.

The Turkish and other Mediterranean varieties, like the American sponges, are classified according to their texture and solidity of structure. The Turkish sponges are first graded, as to their texture, into fine and coarse. These grades are again sorted, with reference to their shape and substance, the round compact forms being greatly preferred to those that are flat and irregular in outline, and performed with a regular, fine texture.

The clear, bright specimens of the finest textured Turkish sponges are sold at wholesale at prices ranging from \$5 to \$10 a pound, while the inferior shapes of the same texture can be purchased for one dollar a pound. Next in quality to the finest Turkish grades are the sheepskin sponges of Florida and the Bahamas, bringing from \$2 to \$2.50 a pound.

Superiority of Florida Sponges. While the Florida and Bahama sheepskin sponges range in quality, there is a marked difference in their qualities, due in part to the character and mode of growth, and in part to the method of preparation. The texture of the first named variety is finer, and the masses grow in better and more compact shapes.

On examination the Bahama sponges are seen to have a tendency to develop an open structure, and are often pierced from below by large cavities, produced by the irregular growth of the sea bottom on which they grow.

Marketable sponges range in weight from one ounce to a pound, but the intermediate sizes are most in demand. The fishing grounds cannot be made to yield a desired supply, and there is danger that they will be exhausted by the continuous drains made upon them.

Certain sections of the Florida fishing grounds have become almost depleted, and that a valuable industry is not destroyed, a scheme has been devised to provide for a rotation in the grounds fished over, with a view to leaving each section undisturbed for a number of years, that the young growths may be protected and have time to develop.

Catching, Bleaching and Shipping. Sheepskin sponges are the most difficult to detach from their bases, and yellow sponges the easiest of those grown in

carried out, and the conclusion has been reached that sponges can be cultivated with profit, though a considerable outlay at the beginning is required.

The first trials were made at Key West, and the method of procedure was as follows: The sponges were all raised from cuttings planted in localities not entirely suited to their best development; therefore, they were carried as well as they might have done under better conditions. These cuttings were fastened to the bottom in water two and a half feet deep by means of wires running through them, and were allowed to remain there undisturbed for six months before they were removed.

Each of these cuttings was originally two and a half inches in height; one was started in an inlet in which there was little current, and the other in a large inlet; the others were placed in tide-ways, and grew to from four to six times their bulk.

FOREIGN EXPERIMENTS. The report of the results of experiments in the artificial propagation of sponges in the Adriatic Sea, carried on by the French, contains many suggestions which might be of use in conducting like experiments on the Florida reefs that some of the most important have found place in this article.

BY THE SEA WAVES. A Sacramento's Day-Dreams Down at Monterey.

The Soft and Senseless Lullaby of the Ever-Sounding Surf—The Secret of Resting.

SEASIDE (Monterey), August 21st. Eds. RECORD-UNION: I am sitting in the twilight, by an open window, and the only sound I hear is the ceaseless murmur of the breakers, as they dash upon the beach.

Not only "this fresh breeze" is delightful and brings "healing," but the surf along this great fine beach ministers in a like kindly way. While we have enjoyed the surf very much, we have enjoyed yet more the sport of catching the fish, and have found them very pleasing to our palates.

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Then how restful a day we spent in that Paradise on the Pacific! The lofty towers, the quaint old arches, the rare plants from India and Australia and other foreign parts, to say nothing of many from various other parts of the world, make this a spot so charming as to pass beyond description.

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Royal Baking Powder.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889.

ABSOLUTELY PURE

CALIFORNIA FRUITS. Prices Realized at Yesterday's Sales in the East.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26.—The Porter Brothers Company sold to-day at auction, for account of California Fruit Union shippers, six carloads of California fruit.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26.—The Earl Fruit Company sold California fruit at auction as follows: Bartlett pears, 81 50c; Buero Hardy pears, 81 50c; Buero Hardy pears, 81 50c; Buero Hardy pears, 81 50c.

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Meeting Notices.

L. OF THE G. A. R.—MEETING THIS (Thursday) EVENING at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Emma Kenwick, President. Mrs. Lou Jones, Secretary.

MEETING OF THE W. C. T. U. WILL BE HELD AT 2:30 O'CLOCK. Mrs. M. S. HADLEY, President. Mrs. J. W. HADLEY, Secretary.

REGULAR MEETING OF COURT OF SESSION, No. 6, 8, 10, A. O. F. G. A. T. (Thursday) EVENING, Aug. 27, 8 o'clock. Every member requested to be present.

ATTENTION, PIONEERS—YOUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 8:00 P. M. H. M. LARIE, President. JOHN S. MILLER, Secretary.

WANTED—A DESIRABLE TENANT who would take a furnished house of seven to ten rooms. Address "B," Box 308, Sacramento, P. O.

WANTED—BY A YOUNG LADY, A POSITION to work in an office. Address "P. O.," Box 100, Sacramento, P. O.

WANTED—A COMPETENT GIRL, FOR housework. Apply at 818 Eighth St., Sacramento, P. O.

AGENTS WANTED—FREE PREPAID CREDIT to energetic men; several of our salesmen have secured on installment basis for years past. P. O. Box 1371, New York City.

WANTED—SMALL FURNISHED HOUSE, with location and rent. Address "F.," Box 100, Sacramento, P. O.

WANTED—43 MEN AND BOYS to work on the Sacramento River. \$2.50 per week. Cash on hand. Inquire at MELVIN'S, 718 K Street, Sacramento, P. O.

WANTED—HORSES TO PASTURE. No. 1000, Sacramento, P. O.

Capay Valley Lands.

Real Estate and Insurance Agents. 1007 Fourth Street.

Agents Travelers' Insurance Co., Life and Accident, and Fire, of London; Pacific Coast Savings Society.

W. P. COLEMAN, Real Estate Salesman, 325 J St. \$50 PER ACRE.

ONE HUNDRED ACRES FIVE MILES east of Lincoln, Placer County. Twelve acres in bearing vineyard. Family orchard. Land all fenced. All timber cleared. Part of the bottom land. Good alfalfa. Good dwelling of six rooms. Good barn. 739

Ten acres near Brighton Station. Good land. 737

Nineteen acres east of Twelfth-street Road, North of Holland's ranch. Dwelling of six rooms; barn. Six acres in Bartlett pears. Rent for \$50 per month. 736

MONEY TO LOAN. P. BOHL. E. A. CROUCH. A Desirable and Eligibly Located

RESIDENCE FOR SALE. TWO STORIES, WITH NINE LARGE rooms, double parlor, bathroom, hot water connection, etc. 40x16, filled to the roof with brick. Also, fine view of city. Improvements all completed. Stone steps, marble on porch. In the city. Situated on Fifteenth street, between P and Q.

EDWIN K. ALSIP & CO., Real Estate and Insurance Agents, 1018 Fourth St., Sacramento. \$2,500--FOR SALE.

MILLS & HAWK, 301 J Street, Sacramento. AGENCY UNION INSURANCE COMPANY. ORDINANCE NO. 283.

An Ordinance Concerning Fire Plugs and Providing a Penalty for the Violation Thereof.

Real Estate, Etc.

Another Rush to Capay Park. A FEW LOTS AND TRACTS LEFT FOR this week's sale. Do not miss this opportunity to secure a cheap home.

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DR. PRIC'S Cream Baking Powder. Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the Standard. AFTER SHAVING BATHE THE HEALING POND'S EXTRACT. COOLING POND'S EXTRACT. DOES NOT SMART NOR STING. REDUCES REDNESS. CHECKS BLEEDING. JUST AS IT REDUCES ANY INFLAMMATION, IT SENDS BACK THE BLOOD WHICH THE RASPING OF THE RAZOR HAS DRAWN NEAR THE SURFACE. SO LEAVES THE FACE WHITE, SOFT AND SMOOTH. WITHOUT THE SHININESS CAUSED BY OTHER LOTIONS. FOR THIS PURPOSE FAR SUPERIOR TO BAY RUM, COLOGNE OR PERFUMED WATER. BEST BARBERS USE IT. YOU HAVE A BOTTLE. WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT? WHEN PURCHASING, ACCEPT POND'S EXTRACT ONLY. REFUSE SUBSTITUTES, PROBABLY WORTHLESS. POND'S EXTRACT CO., NEW YORK AND LONDON.

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