FARMS UNDER WATER.

THE LONG ISLAND OYSTER BUSINESS.

An Industry that Yields a Good Revenue but Demands Hard Work.

[From the New York Sun.]

The oyster market at the foot of West 10th street is one of the sights of the city. From a distance it looks like a very compact row of two-story wooden buildings, modelled like cross-road groceries. From across the street the buildings are seen to float on big square boxes that rise and fall with the tide, so that while the main floors of the buildings are occasionally on a level with the street they are usually some distance below it. The houses are moored a few feet away from the bulkhead, and are reached by wooden bridges with cross pieces nailed on them so that people will not slip when passing up and down.

The houses contain two rooms and a basement. The first floor is the salesroom, the second room is the place where no end of tongs and dredges and dunnage for the oyter boats are stowed, and down in the basement, or what a sailor would call "'tween decks," is the storeroom for the oysters while awaiting a customer. Each building is the headquarters of a wholesale dealer. Behind these buildings lies the oyster fleet.

The oysters sold in the market usually come from the shores of New York Bay, or from the coasts of Long Island and Connecticut. They are brought here from the beds in little sloops that will hold from 400 to 600 bushels each, but there are a good many schooners in the trade, and many steam tugs. The oysters from Virginia waters which find their way to this market are brought in smart schooners and by rail from Baltimore. These vessels are packed so closely in the slip that a stranger would find it difficult to get enough clear water to float a yawl in. The slender masts stand up like poles in a hop yard, only much closer together. And yet it is no uncommon thing to see a fleet of a dozen sloops arrive, and without creating any disturbance worm their way through the compact mass in waiting.

A well-dressed business man stood on a big timber stretching along the bulkhead before the oyster market yesterday and contentedly watched the driver of a cart dump a load of empty oyster shells on the bulkhead, while two other men in blue flannel shirts carried baskets of oysters from one of the buildings to a two-horse wagon, to be carted to some customer about town.

In answer to a question the business man said:

"Those oysters in the wagon are from Freeport, Long Island."

"Natural beds there?"

"Not that I ever heard of. They are obtained from beds that are cultivated about as carefully as market gardens. Jones' Inlet sets up in behind a long range of land dunes off Freeport, and from the dunes to the main land there is a stretch of salt meadows that are cut up in all directions by natural ditches. Where the bottom is good the inhabitants of the village stake off patches of three acres each, and sow their seed oysters. About everybody in Freeport is engaged in the oyster business, but ther is plenty of land thereabouts for others to rent for that purpose."

"Rent?"

"Bless you, yes. They pay bigger rent for land under water than for choice farming lands in some places. The price is $5 an acre.

"Where does the seed come from?"

"A good deal of it from New Haven. The Newport people buy of the oyster farmers who own the beds near New Haven, which are sowed every year with oyster shells like those just dumped out of the cart. The spat from the oysters in the proper season falls on the shells, and after a time the little oyster shells are developed. Thus it sometimes happens that two or more oysters are brought up adhering to each other. The New Haven people charge 50 cents a bushel for the rakings from the bed, old shells and new, just as they come up with the dredge. The freight to Freeport is about 10 cents a bushel more. Some of the oystermen get their seed up the Hudson. Little sloops can be seen at anchor gathering them during the season all the way from Spuyten Duyvil to Tarrytown. They have the flavor of sludge acid when taken up, but they lose that after a year on Freeport beds. The New Haven oysters are usually transplanted in the spring when two or three seasons old. The oystermen usually expect to take up from 500 to 600 bushels of oysters from an acre, although the average is rather less. As oysters sell from $1.25 to $2 a bushel the skilful oysterman is pretty sure to make $1,000 a year or more off of his three acre farm under water. He has to hire a man to help him get up his crop when the season comes on, and he has some expenses for his boat and tools. Then he has to pay for watchmen who guard the beds from pirates day and night. The work is very hard, for the oysters are not marketed till cold weather comes on, and if there is any place where the wind is piercing it is out on those meadows. James Bennett and Thomas Beecham of Mount Sinai narrowly escaped being frozen to death while fishing in the Sound last winter. They got caught in the ice and had to pass the night there."

"Are the oysters taken up by men on the decks of the sloops?"

"No; the oysters are taken up in duck-breasted yawls, carrying from ten to twelve bushels. The yawl's cargo is dumped into the little fresh water stream called Mill Creek, and allowed to remain over night. They would be too salt if taken from the beds to market, but for use raw I much prefer the oyster from the bed to the one that has been freshened.

"The oyster planting industry is growing rapidly, while the productiveness of the natural beds that supply part of New York's trade is decreasing. The oystermen do not live in peace with each other. There are plenty of pirates cruising around ready to dredge up the oysters from private beds. Last winter the oystermen at Glen Cove fired on the pirates with rifles several times, but no one was hurt. The trustees of the town of Huntington leased sections of the natural beds in the waters of the town, and those who had taken leases objected. The matter got into the courts, and Justice Bartlett settled it by sustaining the course of the trustees. The planters spend $300,000 a year in seeding the bay, and gather a crop worth $700,000. During the past year Great Paconic Bay has been seeded, and the Suffolk Board of Supervisors have passed an act making it a midemeanor for any person to throw overboard a star fish or periwinkle in Gardner's or Peconic Bay, or their tributaries, under a penalty of $20 for each offence. Those and the mud coral insect are the worst enemies of the Long Island Sound oystermen. In New York Bay the trouble is with the men who are dredging out harbors. Hundreds of acres of beds along the Jersey shore have been smothered under the mud from the dump scows. Some indignant oytermen followed a tow, in a schooner, not long ago. The captain of the tug threatened to run them down if they did not sheer off, but when he failed to scare them, he offered to dump on beds located in another direction if they would let him off. Maryland has an armed oyster fleet to protect her oyster beds. Jersey ought to have one swift steamer armed with a howitzer and commanded by a man who is not afraid to shoot."

"The export trade in oysters," said another dealer, "is about fifteen years old. A Fulton Market man began the trade. It has had its ups and downs like other export trades. Blue Points hold the first place in the English market. They are packed in barrels holding about 1,200 each, with the deep shell down to hold the juice. It costs about $1.25 for freight and packing, and the barrel sells on the other side for a little over $5 on the average. They have sold for $2. England consumes about 130,000 barrels of oysters in a year. Our total export to foreign countries runs from 80,000 to 100,000 barrels. A great many oysters are shipped to England and planted on English beds, where they get the copper taste peculiar to English oysters. American oysters reach the market over there about ten or eleven days after they are shipped, and they are generally in prime condition. The heaviest shipments are made in the spring. Last spring a Norwalk, Conn., dealer shipped a quantity to the order of the Queen. His neighbors are laughing at him yet for having sandpapered the shells."

ALL ABOUT MOTTOES.

Brother Gardner Gives the Lim'-K'ff Club Some Good Advice.

"I doan' go much on mottoes an sich," said Brother Gardner as he opened the meeting on the usual degree and winked to Samuel Shin to open the alley window.

"I once knowed a man who sot out in life wid de motto: 'Excelsior.' He was proud of it, an' he stuck to it, an' de las' time I saw him he was in de poo'-house. He got so tired of luggin' dat motto around dat he couldn't work ober three days in de week.

"I once knowed a man who had de motto: 'Time is Money' hung in ebery room in his house. He invariably rushed in his co'n ten days too airly, an' den tried to aiverage up things by plantin' his taters twenty days too late. De only occashun when he got even wid time was when he jumped his clock half an hour ahead. De only time when he had a decent crap was when he lay sick an' his wife worked de truck patch.

"I once knowed a man who carried de motto of 'A Penny Saved am a Pound Airned' in all his pockets, an no pusson ever found him wid a dollar in cash to his name. He was all on de save an' nuffin on de airn.

"Doan' you git de ideah inter yer heads dat a motto or a maxim am gwine ter feed an' clothe ye an' whoop up rent and doctor biils. It's mo'in de man dan in de maxim. I kin show ye fo'ty pussons in my nayburhood who sot on de fences all summer an' keep deir eyes on de maxim: 'Industry am de Road to Wealth.' I kin show ye fo'ty mo' who hang up de motto of 'Providence will Purvide!' and sot down for Providence to do so. If de wife airns a dollar dat's Providence.

"Stidy work at fair wages, wid a domestic wife to boss de kitchen, am motto an' maxim 'nuff for any of us. If anything furder am wanted let us strive to be honest, truthful, charitable an' virtuous. We needn't hang out a sign on de fences dat we am strivin', but jist git dar widout any Fo'th of July fireworks to attract public attensun. Let us now purceed."—*Detroit Free Press.*

How Conscience Money was Paid.

The St. John (New Brunswick) *Globe* says:

A clerical gentleman called at a ticket agency in the city and asked the price of two first class tickets for Halifax. The agent said that the cost would be $15.

"Then," said the clergyman, "how far could I travel on a $3 ticket?"

"To Point du Chene or Memranicook," replied the clerk.

"I will take two tickets for Halifax, also a ticket for Point du Chene," said the divine.

The tickets were handed over to the reverend gentleman, who, after paying $15 for them, immediately tore up the two first class tickets for the trip to Halifax. The agent naturally looked in astonishment at this proceeding. After the pasteboard had been scattered in pieces and deposited in the scrap basket, the clergyman turned to the agent and said:

"I suppose you wonder at what I have done?"

The agent answered: "Well, yes, sir, I do."

"Well," said the clergyman, "a man with whom I was talking told me he had cheated the railway out of $15, and his remorse was so great that he gave me the money to pay it over to the railway department. I do not know of any better way of squaring the account."

POISONED.—The much-abused drug clerk is not the only person liable to accidents with poisons. A recent case is cited in Jeannerette, La., in which the father of two sick children gave the medicines prescribed for each of them to the other, thus killing both children.

The Last of His Race.

A good story was told us the other day about a purse-proud nobleman who was travelling through the rural districts of Sweden. Over in the country the people do not have quite as much respect for the title aristocracy as in some other localities on the Continent.

One day this nobleman came rolling up to a country tavern, and as he stopped his carriage, he called out in an imperious tone,—

"Horses, landlord, horses here at once!"

"I am very much pained to inform you, my lord, that you will have to wait something over an hour before fresh horses can be brought in," replied the landlord.

"How!" violently exclaimed the noble man; "this to me? my man, I demand fresh horses, and at once!"

Then, observing two fresh and sleek-looking animals, which were being led up to another carriage, he said,—

"For whom are those horses?"

"They were ordered for this gentleman," answered the landlord, pointing to a tall, slim individual a few paces distant.

"I say, my man," called out the noble man to the slim gent, "will you let me have those horses if I pay you a liberal bonus therefor?"

"Not much," answered the slim gent; "I intend to use them myself."

"This to me!" exclaimed the haughty nobleman.

"That's what I said," replied the slim man.

"Perhaps you are not aware who I am?" roared the now thoroughly agitated and irate nobleman. "I am, sir, Field-marshal Baron Geo. Sparre, the last and only one of my race."

"I am very glad to hear that, said the slim man, stepping into his carriage. "It would be a terrible thing to think that there might be more of you coming. I am inclined to think that your race will be a foot-race."

A Mississippian's Little Artifice.

A few days ago a rich planter boarded a steamer off Natchez. He purchased a paper from a newsboy and was soon lost in its perusal.

"Colonel," said a bland young man, a few moments after, "you have just dropped this," handing him a fifty dollar note.

"I reckon not," said the old gentleman, as he overlooked his spectacles.

"I just picked it up under your chair," replied the young man, "and see no other way to dispose of it. However, since it seems to belong to neither of us, we might just as well divide it."

The plan worked well. The old gentleman passed over twenty-five dollars in change, and the young man sauntered carelessly out on land. A few minutes after the vessel had taken to water the old gentleman presented the fifty dollar note to the clerk in payment for his fare.

"Counterfeit!" exclaimed the clerk, and then for the first time the whole truth dawned upon the old man's mind.

A Timid Lover.

A young English rustic and a girl met in a little town to be married by the registrar. Being late the girl urged the youth to "make haste." He stopped short, declaring she was becoming "his missus" too soon, and in spite of entreaty he went to a hotel where he spent the day, and then went home with his father at night. The girl had a fortunate escape.

True Friendship.

Those though in highest place, who slight and disoblige their friends, shall infallibly come to know the value of them, by having none when they shall most need them.

In the Hospitals.

Baltimore and Philadelphia hospital physicians are prescribing the new proprietary medicine, Red Star Cough Cure. It contains neither morphia, opium, nor any other injurious ingredients. The price is only 25 cents.

Mrs. Mary J. Holmes has just turned off her twenty fifth novel.

MANY A POOR SUFFERER has expended hundreds of dollars in the purchase of costly medicines put up in "prescription" form for the cure of rheumatism or gout, and without any benefit. If all such would but drop drugs and attack blood impurities with VINEGAR BITTERS, they would find that nature had provided at least *one* remedy for these terrible afflictions.

There are two thousand insane persons in North Carolina.

Wrecks of Humanity,

who have wasted their manly vigor and powers by youthful follies, inducing nervous debility, impaired memory, mental anxiety, despondency, lack of self-confidence and will power, weak back and kindred weaknesses, should address, with 10 cents in stamps, for large illustrated treatise giving unfailing means of cure, World's Dispensary Medical Association, 663 Main street, Buffalo, N. Y.

A bon-ton London restaurant is serving up roast swan.

A Poor, Weak Sister,

who is suffering from ailments peculiar to her sex, dreading to go to a physician, but knowing she needs medical help, will find in Dr. Pierce's "Favorite prescription," a preparation which will give her strength and new life through the restoration of all her organs to their natural and healthy action. It is the result of many years of study and practice by a thoroughly scientific physician, who has made these troubles a speciality. To be had of all druggists.

The Japanese language is being Latinized. This will take some of the kinks out of it.

To break up colds and fevers, use early Dr. Pierce's Extract of Smart-Weed.

A man with a noisy dog calls him "Tree," because all the bark is on the outside.

A Remedy for Lung Diseases.

Dr. Robert Newton, late President of the Eclectic College, of the city of New York, and formerly of Cincinnati, Ohio, used DR. WM. HALL'S BALSAM very extensively in his practice, as many of his patients, now living, and restored to health by the use of this invaluable medicine, can amply testify. He always said that so good a remedy ought to be prescribed freely by every physician as a sovereign remedy in all cases of lung diseases. It cures Consumption, and has no equal for all pectoral complaints.

FOR DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, depression of spirits, general debility in their various forms, also as a preventive against fever and ague and other intermittent fevers, the "Ferro-Phosphorated Elixir of Calisaya," made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York, and sold by all Druggists, is the best tonic; and for patients recovering from fever or other sickness it has no equal.

It is thought the sickness in Western New York is due to rotting potatoes.

E. L. Noyes, Revere, Mass., was cured of scald-head by using Hall's Hair Renewer.

A sure cure for obstinate coughs and colds—Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. The best remedy.

Why Jews Live so Long.

The *New England Medical Monthly* comments very favorably on the proverbial long and healthful lives of the Jews. Dr. Picard holds that this superiority is due to their stringent health laws. The Mosaic, like the older Egyptian code, is very stringent regarding the eating of flesh and other articles of food. Of the animals examined a large proportion are always condemned as unfit for food. People who eat meat indiscriminately are very prone to disorders of the blood and of the kidneys, for meat is composed of nitrogen, which the kidneys have to remove from the blood, and of course they cannot do this successfully except by the aid of Warner's safe cure, the best kidney strengthener, unless it is temperately partaken of and only the very best meat used. Jews also use alcoholic liquors very sparingly and thus keep up good digestion, and then again they are a holiday-loving and Sabbath-observing class —*Housekeeper.*

It is exceedingly poper that wrestling matches be held in the fall.

With Ely's Cream Balm a child can be treated without pain or dread, and with perfect safety. Try the remedy. It cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, and Colds in the Head. It is easily applied with the finger and gives relief from the first application. Price 50 cents. At druggists, 60 cents by mail. Ely Bros., Owego, N. Y.

Ely's Cream Balm has entirely cured me of a long standing case of catarrh. I have never yet seen its equal as a cure for colds in the head and headache resulting from such colds It is a remedy of sterling merit.—Ed. L. Crosby Nashville, Tenn.

I have been a severe sufferer from Catarrh for the past fifteen years, with distressing pain over my eyes. Gradually the disease worked down upon my lungs. About a year and a half ago I commenced using Ely's Cream Balm with most gratifying results, and am to-day apparently cured.—Z. C. Warren, Rutland, Vt.

A Distressed General.

What General causes more distress, is more prevalent and spreads more dismay? General Want. If it was from the want of sound lungs, Taylor's Cherokee Remedy of Sweet Gum and Mullein would out-general it.

The best Ankle Boot and Collar Pads are made of zinc and leather. Try them.

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Is the Stardard Axle Grease of the world Use it and save your horses and wagons. One greasing will last two weeks.

If afflicted with sore eyes use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water Druggists sell it 25c.

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B N 2

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