

STORY OF AN OYSTER

TOLD BY HIMSELF ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS TRIBE.

The Trials and Tribulations of the Succulent Bivalve From the Time of Planting Until His Appearance on the Fishmonger's Counter.

There were about 800,000 of us when, as tiny flakes of spawn—or "spat," as the oyster spawn is called—we floated out into the water one day on "the flats."

At first we were white and apparently lifeless. Then we turned gray and finally black. At this stage we became visibly alive. For several days we floated, the sport of waves and tides. Some of my brothers were carried out to sea and so vanished; others were swallowed by fish. At last we all began instinctively to sink toward the bottom.

Then began again terrible destruction. Many fell on mud—the most fatal thing a young oyster can do. These perished at once. Others attached themselves to plants and weeds which grew at the bottom of the sea. They lived for a time—so long at least as the plant remained alive. Then, when the plant died, they perished as well.

Fortunately for myself, I drifted on to a bit of "cutch"—that is to say, one of the old shells which the dredgers and oyster men so carefully scatter all over the sea floor of an oyster bed. I settled with my deep shell uppermost and my flat or right shell nearer the ground. At the time I did not know why I did this. I have since realized that it was because in that position I should be more easily able to eject the sand and grit which a rough sea sometimes stirs up in shallow water. I attached myself firmly to my anchorage of "cutch" and felt myself at last fairly started in life.

Soon I noticed that every single morsel of shell or stone around me was tenanted by tiny oysters, all lying in the same position as myself and all firmly anchored.

There I lay, unmoving, for nearly a year. Food, in the shape of tiny animalcules, which an oyster loves best, was plentiful. When the water was thick with it, we all opened our shells wide, and, making currents in the water by means of the tiny hairs which fringe our gills and which men call our beards, we washed the dainties into our mouths. Our choicest delicacies were the minute green algae, which give to full grown oysters that greenish tinge that is the mark of the aristocratic native.

When I first anchored myself, I was but the twentieth of an inch in diameter—so small, indeed, that a microscope would have been necessary to examine me. At that stage my shell was perfectly transparent.

At the end of ten months I had increased in diameter to fully the size of a dime and become what is called "brood."

During all this time I had been learning many things. I found out that it was necessary to close my shell tight when dangers of various kinds threatened, when the tide was low or, in winter, when frost was severe. You may perhaps imagine that an oyster is a creature of such low organism that it cannot see or feel much of what is going on around about it. But you are wrong. The mantle fringe of an oyster is very sensitive. If you watched us from a boat in calm water, you would see that the mere shadow of the boat crossing an oyster bed will cause those of us upon whom it falls to close our shells immediately.

It was necessary to be most careful. Dangers were many and terrible. Sea urchins prowled among us and devoured many. But of all our foes the worst is the five fingered starfish. One of my sisters, anchored not a yard away, fell a victim to this terror of the oyster beds. It clutched her with its long fingers. She closed her shell. But the creature was not to be shaken off. Hour after hour it clung there until on the second day after its first grip she, poor thing, opened her shell to get a mouthful of food. At once the starfish injected into her a fluid which stupefied her so that she could not close again. Then the monster turned itself inside out, shot itself into the open shell and devoured her.

Then, one day a year after I had floated as "spat," came a startling change in my existence. Something huge and heavy came out of the shadow of a boat above and approached, rasping and grating along the bottom. It was a great triangular dredge of wrought iron. At the bottom was a flat bar with a blunt edge, known to the dredgers as the "bit."

As the "bit" approached it scraped the bottom of the sea clean, and next instant I, too, found myself lifted and dropped into the net, together with hundreds like myself and a miscellaneous collection of small shells and other things.

One of the men sorted over the catch and, having selected all the oysters and spat, "shaded" the rest back into the sea through a porthole.

I, in company with enormous quantities of other brood, was put into a "wash"—a measure holding five and a quarter gallons—and relaid. Here life was less eventful and food most plentiful. To fatten well an oyster must have a certain amount of fresh water. In this snug retreat I passed from brood to half ware and from half ware to ware, or full grown oyster. But I still went on growing and developing, until one day the dredge swept me up again, and I was raised once more into the upper air and rapidly brought in.

I was then dropped into a large bag and suspended in a tank of fresh sea water, which is constantly renewed. There I await my final fate, which will, I fear, be a fishmonger's counter.—New York News.

Summer Excursion Rates and Special Train Service Now on Between Portland and Clatsop Beach.

The Summer schedule of the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad has been inaugurated between Portland, Astoria, Gearhart and Seaside in connection with special round trip excursion tickets to all Clatsop and North Beach points, and train leaves Union Depot 8:00 A. M. daily and runs through direct, arriving at Astoria 11:30 A. M., Gearhart 12:30 P. M. and Seaside 12:30 P. M.

The Portland-Seaside Flyer leaves Union Depot every Saturday at 2:30 P. M., arriving Astoria 5:50 P. M. and runs through direct, arriving at Gearhart 6:40 P. M. and Seaside 6:50 P. M.

In connection with this improved service, special round trip season excursion tickets are sold from Portland to all Clatsop and North Beach points at rate of \$4.00 for the round trip, good for return passage until Oct. 15th.

Special Commutative tickets, good for five round trips, are sold from Portland to same points for \$15.00, good to return until Oct. 15th.

Saturday Special round trip excursion tickets from Portland to all Clatsop and North Beach points on sale every Saturday at rate of \$2.50 for round trip, good to return Sunday.

Tickets sold from Portland to North Beach points are issued in connection with I. B. & N. steamers from Astoria and baggage is transferred to and from depot and steamer dock at Astoria free of charge, and all tickets sold by the O. R. & N. Co. from Portland to Clatsop and North Beach points, are interchangeable and will be honored on trains of this company in either direction between Portland and Astoria.

For additional information address C. A. Stewart, Agent, 248 Alder St., Portland, Ore. or J. O. Mayo, G. F. & P. A., Astoria, Ore. Seaside Souvenir of 1904 will be mailed to your address free upon application. Write for it.

Short Crops at Logan.

Mr. Fink, a farmer of the Logan district, says grain threshes from one-third to one-half of the usual yield, oats going from ten to seventy bushels per acre, the latter being from exceptional fields only.

Inference.

Dorothy—What Frank Werser ever could have seen in Bessie Brown is past my knowledge.

Bella—Why, Dorothy, I didn't know you cared so much for Frank.—Boston Transcript.

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Clackamas. C. F. Vonderahe, plaintiff vs. William W. Jones, Carrie P. Jones, defendants.

To William W. Jones and Carrie P. Jones, the above named defendants. In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled action within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons; and if you fail to answer, for want thereof, the plaintiff will take judgment against you, and each of you, for \$35.82 and interest thereon since May 13th, 1898, at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, together with \$35 attorney's fees, and costs; and for an order of sale of the following described real estate, which has been attached in this action, to-wit:

Beginning at a point 5.71 chains north, and 17.52 chains east of the one quarter section corner between sections nine and ten in township two south of range two east of the Willamette Meridian; thence south 16.58 chains; thence west fifteen feet; thence south 3.75 chains; thence east 3 rods and 15 feet; thence north 3.75 chains; thence east 12.18 chains to southeast corner of our land; thence north 16.58 chains; thence west 12.93 chains to the place of beginning containing 22 acres of land, more or less.

This summons is published by order of the Hon. Thomas A. McBride, judge of the said court, dated July 25th, 1904. First publication being dated Friday, the 29th of July, 1904, and the last to be on Friday, the 9th day of September, 1904.

C. D. & D. C. LATOURETTE, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

PETITION FOR LICENSE.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Clackamas. In the matter of the application of H. Jacques for Liquor License.

To the Honorable County Court of the State of Oregon for County of Clackamas:

Whereas, The number of votes cast at the last general election in the precinct of Oswego, Clackamas County, Oregon, was 130 votes; and Whereas, We the undersigned constitute a majority of said voters; and Whereas, H. Jacques is desirous of obtaining a license to sell spirituous, vinous malt, and fermented liquors in quantities less than a gallon in said precinct; Now

Therefore, We, the undersigned, said voters of said precinct, hereby petition your Honorable Body that a license to sell said spirituous, vinous, malt, and fermented liquors in quantities less than one gallon may issue to said H. Jacques, and that the time which said license shall cover shall be the term of twelve months from the 5th day of October, 1904. W. L. Snidow, J. H. Manning, L. E. Marcell, I. Austin, P. Keyser, Joseph Woell, A. J. Fuller, D. W. Kelsey, A. Fortner, G. C. Worthington, B. Woodard, Ed Davis, W. L. Davis, J. N. Lykes, E. Kiser, J. George Nagl, S. Platt, John Kiser, Chas. DeLashant, Harry Farmer, S. M. Brown, E. Worthington, P. Hawkins, Jos. Baehle, Theo. Steinhilber, J. McMaugh, D. Erickson, Chas. Carlson, T. J. Brown, Joseph Lemery, W. Platt, E. B. Gates, G. S. Gates, Jerry O'Brien, Henry Koenig, Herman Koenig, Chas. A. Groshens, J. L. Davis, John Bowles, G. Kiser, W. H. Yates, P. Maister, M. J. Worthington, A. Tapfer, T. J. Whittier, Rich. Ball, E. E. Coon, H. C. Grabenhurst, L. Halliman, C. G. Thompson, I. N. Davis, J. F. Grabenhurst, A. Waldorf, P. Dooley, A. Nelson, James Fee-ney, H. Gans, J. J. Boylen, E. Courand, Philip Pollard, Edward Pollard, Ferdinand Puybrook, Ed Barker, Tom Barker, F. W. Wanker, Peter Puyalt, Jos. Bickner, Alex. McBeath, M. Diddun, Jos. Zivny, Gottfr. Lehman, Henry Lueg, Martin Blanken, Alex. Rankin, O. F. Meagher, Oliver A. Ratcliff, Eathan McMaugh, M. R. Monahan, U. Erickson, G. E. Cline, D. Munro, F. V. Whittier, J. L. Hale, J. N. Bivert, A. G. Shaver, J. F. Bergan, Wm. Worthington, A. E. Campbell, C. L. Sullivan, J. Erickson, A. J. Nickum, Amede Seguin, Conrat Meyers, Steve Blauken, Al Seguin, John McGuire, O. Anderson, F. Dhoelgo, T. Hughes, Frank Whittin, Russ De Lashmutt, J. E. McCutcheon, William Halliman, Charles Weltner, J. N. Stone, W. E. Thurman, John Abeln, Fred Brook, O. C. Davidson, R. C. Worthington. J. H. Platt.

In accordance with the above petition, I will on the 5th day of October, 1904, or as soon thereafter as the court meets, apply to the county court of Clackamas County, Oregon, for a license to sell spirituous, vinous and malt liquors in the precinct of Oswego, Oswego, Oregon, for a period of twelve months.

Dated September 2nd, 1904. H. JACQUES.

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Clackamas. C. L. Mason, Plaintiff, vs. Julia A. Mason, Defendant.

To Julia A. Mason, the above named defendant: In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court, on or before the 15th day of October, 1904, and if you fail to appear or answer for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint, to-wit: For a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony now existing between the plaintiff and defendant, and for such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

This summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of Hon. Alfred F. Sears, Judge of the above entitled court, on this first day of October, 1904. The date of first publication being the 1st day of September, 1904.

T. B. McDevitt, Jr., Attorney for Plaintiff.

LOST—On evening of August 27th

between Oregon City and Parkplace, lady's chatelaine bag containing breast pin, some coin, and valuable papers. A suitable reward will be paid for its return to this office. L. W. Ingram.



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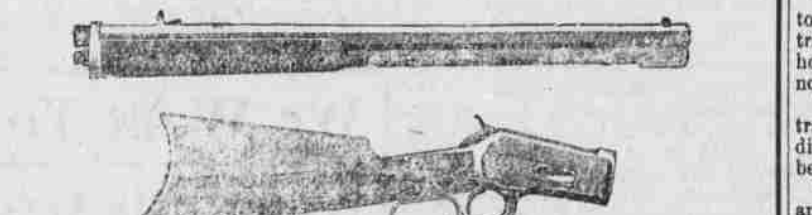
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