

WANTON WASTE AND RECKLESSNESS OF THE FUTURE HAS RENDERED SPONGES IN BEST LOCALITIES EXTINCT.

By Frederic J. Haskin.
Washington, March 29.—Unless experiments in artificial propagation now being made by the national bureau of fisheries prove successful, another of our "inexhaustible resources" will become all but depleted—the sponge fisheries of the Florida coast. Those of the Mediterranean sea have been worked almost to extinction, and many of the sponge divers of that region have transferred their activities to the Florida waters. There the wanton waste that has marked the fisheries has been almost as reckless of the future as was the use of gas in the Indiana towns where it was found cheaper to burn the street lights all day than to employ a man to turn them out.

To Propagate Sponges.
There are two ways by which the sponge may be propagated artificially. One method is to take a large sponge, cut it up into sections, with care that a part of the lining membrane adheres to each section, and then fasten it to a wire and place it out in free sea water. Each piece, if the bed is properly protected, will grow to maturity in about four years. The other method is to take the millions of tiny eggs found in the sponges in autumn, and to plant them where the chances for growth are good. The latter method, it is hoped by the propagators, may yet prove commercially feasible. If so it will save the Florida sponge fisheries.

What we know as a sponge is no more like the living sponge of the skeleton of a horse is like the living animal. In fact our bathtub sponge is nothing more than the deserted city of some millions of little gelatinous animals that once inhabited it. Huxley beautifully expressed it when he said that the sponge he knew once was the waiting up city of myriad tiny creatures, so grouped along roads and streets that each one could get his daily bread from the water as it hurried by him.

There are two canals in the structure of a living sponge, the one leading in and the other out. The canals are called canals all through the structure, starting and ending in these two trunk lines. At the entrance to the one canal and more sparsely throughout its course there are little hairy like filaments which make it like the inside of a net. They always wave water inward, and give the inhabitants of the sponge city an opportunity to get plenty of food from it as it passes. The other canal leads outward and by the same process the food exhausted water is driven out again.

Gathering Sponges.
Sponges are taken commercially in three ways—by undressed divers, by men with diving suits, and by hooking the sponges from the beds in which they are found. The hooking method has been used in Florida waters from the beginning. In these waters the divers are fitted out by men who own them, and let on shares to the operating crews, which usually consist of from six to ten men. The vessel claims one third of the sponges taken and the remainder is divided equally among the crew. An outfit consists of a boat for every two men, two or three sponge hooks, a marine spyglass, and an oar for each boat. The men provision their own vessel, and then set sail for the sponge bank. Arrived there they drop anchor and the boats are manned. They are headed into within ten or fifteen minutes and one man stands erect and propels the boat with the single oar. The other places his bucket like spyglass into the water, puts his head into the top of it, so as to cut out daylight, and scans the bottom of the sponge beds. He is able to see through as much as 30 feet of water. When he sees the sponge he wants he drops his hook into the water, catches his sponge and pulls it up.

Must Be Expert.
Both men must be experts. To keep the boat in one position with a single oar, in the face of a swift tide and when a running cross sea, without moving an inch is an impossible task save to the expert oarsman. Likewise, to recognize a commercial sponge from others at a depth of several fathoms, and so to allow for the refraction of light and the deflecting tendency of the tide as to hook the desired sponge is something no novice can do.

As soon as the boat is filled with sponges they go back to the fishing vessel and deposit the catch first in the deck and afterward in the hold. Sponges smell bad enough when alive, but when packed in large quantities on a sponging vessel they put a fertilizer factory into the class of perfume distilleries by comparison. Each Saturday, without exception, the sponge ship puts in to land, to a place where a "craw" is maintained. This is a staked off enclosure in shallow water where the tide can sweep through. The inflowing and outflowing of the tide serves to wash out the decayed corpses of the millions of little sponge animals.

After a week of this treatment, the sponges are beaten by men in order to remove what little animal matter still remains in them. No clothing can be worn by the beaters, as thousands of little spicules inhabit the sponge, and clothing added to the sponge into the body. After being beaten and washed they are placed upon high, safe ground to dry, and when a full cargo is secured, the vessel sails to some sponge market, where its catch is sold at auction, baled, and shipped to the markets of the world.

Divers Go Naked.
Divers were unknown in the Florida waters until the advent of those from the Grecian beds. As they can dive deeper than fishing could be done by grappling hooks they are able to work beds that hitherto were undisturbed. The methods of the divers are exceedingly interesting and are practically the same in Grecian waters as they are off the coast of Florida. Those who dive without specially constructed suits are naked. They can go into as much as 15 fathoms of water. They carry with them a bag in which to put the sponges they tear loose from the rocks. A rope is tied about their waists, and a tug on the rope tells those above that it is time to haul the diver up.

The sponges are located by a sort of submarine spy glass. This is a big bucket like affair with a lens in the bottom. The user places it in the water and puts his face into the top of it. This permits him to see the formations on the bottom. When the undressed

diver begins operations at the commencement of a fishing season he bleeds at the nose and ears when he comes from the water. The uninitiated regard this as a terrible thing, but no experienced diver will begin regular operations until this bleeding sets in. For it is taken as a sure sign that the diver is fit, and its absence means that he is not in diving trim. After the first few dives the bleeding stops. The sponge diver works in 15 fathoms of water, while eight fathoms would crush the untrained diver to death. The Grecian divers learn to dive almost as soon as they learn to walk.

Waste of Product.
The prodigality that characterizes the waste of the sponge resources is viewed with much concern by the bureau of fisheries. It is said that thousands of commercially worthless small sponges are gathered and thrown away; and that if such sponges were permitted to stay only six months longer they would add a full hundred thousand dollars to the total value of the annual output of the Florida fisheries. In one case a dealer stated that some fishing men had brought him a lot of sponges for which he paid only 15, and that if he were to let them stay on six months longer they might have been worth fully \$400.

Substitute for Asbestos.
In the waters of the Pacific there is a sponge which serves in lieu of American asbestos. It is one of the most beautiful of all sponges. It has a sort of fine frame that will not break if it falls on a tile floor but which will be crushed to smithereens if stepped on. This frame is encased by a covering of long fibre which is used to make a nonheat conducting material which is used as a substitute for asbestos.

Sponges have enemies as well as other animals, and they try as best they can to protect themselves. One of these parasites is a long sea worm which gets into the outward flowing canals of the sponge. It makes for itself a kind of paper tube in which to live, the walls of the tube being very thin, and resembling paper when dried. It gets into the sponge by boring up through the base attached to a rock. Some of them measure as much as two feet long, and almost dam up the outgoing canals.

With all that is known about the sponge there is still much information that is wanting. How to handle them so as to propagate them in other waters than those in which they grow is a problem more than one government would like to solve. If this could be done, the 450 pound Grecian sponge might be transplanted into Florida waters and for a time would be the practical cultivation of them. No one yet has been able to devise a method whereby cuttings or whole sponges will live out of live sea water more than a few days, so that transportation from the Mediterranean to Florida is impossible. If, however, the egg method of propagation proves a practicable one it might be comparatively easy to accomplish such a desirable end.

Tomorrow—The Comedie Francaise.

Rogue river tract of 380 acres sold to Portland parties for \$25,000.

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QUEEN OF THE SEA LAUNCHED IN MAY

New Battleship Florida Soon Ready to Take First Plunge—Great Event.

New York, March 29.—The construction and building of the battleship Florida at the Brooklyn navy yard are jubilant over the progress made and are anxiously awaiting May 12, when the big battleship will glide into the East river on her maiden plunge. Barring a few minor details the vessel is ready now.

The launching of the Florida will be one of the greatest events in the history of the navy yard if the plans of the commandant and Naval Constructor Baxter, in charge of building work, are carried out. Invitations have been sent to President Taft, his cabinet and nearly every naval officer of prominence. The governor of Florida, his staff, and the members of the Florida

delegation in Congress will be on hand. Miss Helen Gould and Miss Anna Morgan, who have been liberal in their benefactions to the naval Y. M. C. A., are expected to be present as special guests of honor.

The navy yard officials believe the launching should be as elaborate as possible on account of the Florida being the largest American battleship, except the Utah, her sister ship. When she is finished and placed in commission she will be 1000 tons larger than any battleship in service, and until the 26,000 ton Arkansas and Wyoming are completed the Florida will be queen of the seas.

The Florida is the first battleship to be constructed in a government navy yard since the Connecticut was completed at the Brooklyn yard nearly a decade ago. The navy yard officials are in hopes that when the Florida is finished and placed in commission they will be given the contract to build even a larger battleship than the Florida or her successors of the 26,000 ton class.

Bristol Grange to Build.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Bristol, Wash., March 29.—With the lumber for its new hall cut and sized, Fruit Mountain grange of this place is casting about for a new location on ground for which it can secure a free deed. Last fall Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Lindsay donated a half acre site, providing, however, for the reversion to the owner of the land in case it was ever used for other than grange purposes.

The local grange is now reported not to have sufficient funds to complete the proposed new hall, and asked the Lindseys for a free deed, with a view to borrowing money for its building fund, which was declined.

Fotheringham-Sweetman.
Toronto, Ont., March 29.—The Church of the Messiah was the scene of a notable wedding today, when Miss Gladys Sweetman, daughter of the late Archbishop Sweetman, was married to Rev. J. B. Fotheringham, M. A., of Trinity college.

Coughs That Hang On
Coughs that start in the fall and hang on until spring are sure trouble breeders unless checked and cured. Bronchitis, pneumonia and consumption are the direct result. Foley's Honey and Tar cures the cough, stops the hard breathing and heals and soothes the inflamed air passages. Refuse substitutes. Skidmore Drug Co., 161 Third st.

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They're on the way.
They are for men.
WAIT FOR THEM.

JEWELL OIL

STOCK OFFERING AT 30 CENTS

The Jewell Oil Company is incorporated under the laws of the state of California with 600,000 shares of a par value of one dollar each. The property consists of a lease on thirty acres of the best ground in the famous Kern River district. There are already seven wells drilled and the eighth is down close to 1000 feet and will be finished and producing within ten days. The location is in the western portion of the district in section 25, 28, 27, and the property is known as the "Emerald" lease.

JEWELL GROUND FLOOR PRICE 30 CENTS PER SHARE

The initial offering of stock in the Jewell Oil Company is now being made at 30 cents per share. This is the ground floor price and those desirous of participating in a proposition of this nature, with a production already developed, MUST subscribe immediately as a material advance in price may be expected within ten days or two weeks. As soon as well No. eight is finished there will be an approximate additional production of from 50 to 75 barrels of oil per day.

THE WISDOM OF EARLY BUYING
Premier stock was originally placed at 10 cents per share before a well had been drilled, before a production had been established. It is now selling at \$1.30 after two years of development and will go to much higher figures.

San Francisco & McKittrick was started at \$1.50 a share and is now selling at \$30, with twelve wells, and is paying dividends of \$3.60 per share.

Illinois Crude was selling at 25 cents per share when we called attention to the stock, and is now selling at 55 cents.

Lucile was sold at 25 cents per share and is now worth about \$12 and has only three wells as yet producing.

The original price of Templor Ranch was 10 cents per share and we placed hundreds of our clients in this stock who can sell today at two and one-half times more than they paid, and Templor Ranch is still advancing in price.

We could mention hundreds of instances of the same nature where stock purchased at a few cents per share is now worth many, many times the initial price. There is a reason for this, and the reason is that California oil production is the most profitable industry in the state today and has been for many years. Even at one-third the present price of oil scores of companies have paid handsome dividends.

It is a little out of the ordinary that opportunities of the nature of Jewell should be offered at extraordinarily low prices. In Jewell a large production has already been established. The ground has already been proved and is of the best of the Kern River district. The property is magnificently equipped for economical development and production. Every convenience is provided that is necessary for operation at a minimum of cost. Stock in a developed and producing property can be had for the price of a fare prospect. We selected this opportunity for the benefit of our clients and our clients will secure the large profits to be made from an investment in the shares of the Jewell Company.

THE KERN RIVER DISTRICT
The Kern River district is probably the largest pool of oil in the world. It has already produced over 120,000,000 barrels of oil and is now producing at the rate of more than a million barrels a month. The district is constantly widening and new productive territory is being opened up, especially to the west and north. The oil sands are thoroughly well established. The oil contents can be figured out to a nicety and it is known that hundreds of millions of barrels are yet to be produced. The western portion is apparently the most productive, as the wells run as high as 75 and 100 barrels. The Jewell wells will average probably from 50 to 60 barrels daily, some of them running higher. It is a fair estimate to place them at not less than 40 barrels to be on the conservative side. The sands are more than 125 feet in thickness and many hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil will be produced from them. Wells can be completed in about thirty days. Well No. 7 was finished in 26 working days. A large production can quickly be developed. Hence the value of Jewell stock will constantly increase until the entire thirty acres is drilled. There is room for about 20 more wells. If twenty-five wells are drilled a production of about 1000 barrels per day may be expected. This 30,000 barrels per month. Oil will be sold at more than 63 cents per barrel, but, assuming the net price, after the royalty is deducted, to be 50 cents per barrel, the company

will have an income of \$15,000 per month or \$180,000 a year, one hundred per cent each year on the present value of the stock.

BUY JEWELL NOW
We advise the immediate purchase of Jewell stock because we know the value of the property. We can prove this value to anyone who will visit the property and we invite personal inspection. Parties who have visited the property are enthusiastic and have purchased stock. We recommend the purchase of the stock on its merits. It is worth more money right today. It should be on a dividend-paying basis in the course of the next four or five months. The capitalization is low. The equipment is unsurpassed in the Kern River field. The management is all that could be asked for. The superintendent is a practical oil man of many years' experience and has been in charge of the development for a long time. The Jewell is a member of the Independent Agency. It, therefore, has the best of marketing facilities. It will secure as much for its oil as any producer and more than some. Direct pipe lines take the oil from the tanks without expense. No waste, no delay. The company is marketing its oil monthly, making regular runs through the Independent lines.

PROFIT IN OIL
It is an acknowledged fact that no other business in California shows a greater profit than oil. That is why our shrewdest bankers and business men are heavy investors in oil. The industry has probably paid in profits upwards of forty millions of dollars. It has increased in production from two million barrels in 1899 to 58,000,000 barrels in 1910 and the demand is still ahead of the supply. Hundreds of companies are paying dividends. Only a few are known except to the interested stockholders and they are perfectly satisfied. This year the profits in oil will be from ten to twenty millions of dollars.

LOOK INTO IT
Look into this oil business. Investigate it through every possible source. The more you look into it the better will it appear, because concrete, absolute facts cannot be disputed. California's greatest of all industries is well worth investigation, and those who are willing to secure more than four or six per cent income without impairing the safety of the principal will surely have the wisdom to verify the statements made regarding this vast industry.

Not everybody can invest a large amount of money, but anyone with a small amount can invest in Jewell on an equal basis with all. They are assured of the same rate of income. Both large and small stockholders profit only in proportion to their investment. You can buy 100 shares for \$30, or 5000 shares for \$1500, or 10,000 shares for \$3000. It is 30 cents per share to all.

An easy payment plan has been arranged also so that you can buy five times as much stock as would otherwise be possible, and you take no chances in so doing. For instance, suppose you could today pay \$30 for 100 shares, next month you could buy another 100 shares and so on for five months. But, if you bought this way you would not be able to get it all at 30 cents. If you buy on the installment plan, you get the benefit of ground-floor price for all the stock. The advance is all yours.

Jewell stock will without question advance materially as soon as we sell the allotment provided at 30 cents. This allotment will all be gone in a few days. Rush that order. Sign and return one of the attached coupons with cash or part payment as you desire. See notes.

In conclusion, we wish to urge the immediate purchase of Jewell oil stock. There is only a small block of stock remaining to be sold at 30 cents a share. It may be sold any day. Do not delay your order.

We predict that the stock will advance 100 per cent within the next few months, possibly within a few weeks. We predict that the stock will go on a substantial dividend-paying basis within six months. We do not believe you will ever have another opportunity to buy Jewell oil stock at anything like the present price. Application will be made for listing the stock on the San Francisco and Los Angeles Exchanges within the next thirty days. Just as soon as this stock is listed, the price will commence to advance.

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