

# Marvelous Life Is Led by the Oyster

## Changes From Male to Female and Back Again.

London.—The curator of the aquarium at the London zoo is astonished to find how little people know about that luscious bivalve, the oyster. So with the aid of Doctor Orton, head of the British government survey at Plymouth, he writes a romantic biography in the Observer of London:

"The oyster starts its life as a free-swimming organism, keeping itself afloat and moving in the water for about a fortnight by means of the cilia, its fairy-like paddles, in energetic motion. Gradually its developing shell becomes heavier, the weight becomes too much even for its most tremendous efforts, and it sinks to the bottom or until it touches some solid object.

"On its luck, for one can describe it in no other fashion, at this stage depends its future existence. Landing on mud or soft sand, its doom is sealed and many millions of oysters in this fashion perish annually.

**American Experts' Ways.**

"For cheapness and for ease of detachment of the developing oysters the American experts have lately used the rectangular cardboard egg holders from egg boxes similarly coated with lime and sand.

"Once settled the oyster has literally nothing to do but eat and grow. Its one occupation in life is to strain gallon after gallon of water through its filtering mechanism, which retains the minute food organisms and passes them on into the mouth of the animal.

"Its one protection against its enemies is its hard shell and the ability to keep the two valves firmly closed by the adductor muscle. Crabs, however, can break it open. Starfish may either pull the shell apart, or by means of a convenient arrangement, when the oyster is too big and strong for this operation, and equally too big to swallow, they may evert the stomach and engulf the unfortunate oyster, until at last, compelled to open its shells for fresh supplies of oxygen, it is attacked, weakened, and finally destroyed by the digestive juices.

"In its second summer the oyster reaches maturity, and it is with the investigation of this period of its life that Doctor Orton has been chiefly associated. The oyster is not a hermaphrodite, nor is it propagated by division. It is bisexual; but any one oyster does not belong to one sex throughout its life.

**Transformation of Sex.**

"At first maturity the oyster functions as a male. Within six weeks of that time it may be a female carrying a full complement of developing embryos. When these last are ready for the free swimming stage they are discharged into the water, and the parent, its duty done, again becomes a male, and goes into a resting stage from which it will not emerge until the following summer, or, possibly, a year later than that, when the cycle is again repeated.

"Unlike the eggs of most fish,

the eggs of the oyster are fertilized within the body of the parent, where they are retained until the developing embryos, of which there may be a million or more, have actually reached the form of small oysters. They are not, however, immediately extruded into the water, but first spend an intermediate existence in the mantle cavity of the parent, where they may continue to develop actually in water, but under fully protected conditions.

"At first, unless examined under the microscope, they resemble a milky fluid, and to those in the trade the oyster is then known as 'white sick.' As the shell develops, the mass becomes gray, and then dark, when the parent oyster is described as 'black sick.' At the end of this stage the young oysters are literally blown into the water, thereafter to fend for themselves."

**Body of Emperor's Son May Return to France.**

Vienna.—Prince Bonaparte, head of the dethroned French dynasty, has renewed his negotiations with Archduke Otto of Hapsburg, the Austrian pretender, and with Austrian authorities in hopes of hastening "homecoming" of the Eaglet.

The embalmed body of the "Eaglet," son of Napoleon I, will be transferred from the Capuchin Catacombs, from the company of his Hapsburg relatives, to the Dome of Invalides in Paris, to the side of his great father, if the negotiations are successful.

This wish of the Bonapartists was refused in 1932 by the Republican government of Austria. The present government, which has strong monarchical leanings, may raise no objections if the Hapsburgs are willing to deliver up the corpse of the Eaglet to the Bonapartists, whom they fought so desperately a century ago.

Three years ago the hundredth anniversary of the death of the Eaglet was celebrated by France. Next year the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of his birth will be observed.

The Eaglet, who was made king of Rome when he was born in Paris, died as the duke of Reichstadt at the age of twenty-one in the Vienna castle of Schoenbrunn.

After the fall of Napoleon, his son was deprived of everything that might remind him of his father.

He died of consumption, according to the official announcements. It was popular belief, however, that the young prince was poisoned by Prince Metternich, Austrian chancellor.

**Chinese Racial Traits Studied in California**

San Francisco.—The big Chinese colony here, largest in the world outside of China, is being turned into a great experimental laboratory. Most of young China here is being measured and photographed to determine if America changes Chinese characteristics. Parents of 3,000 school children are to be examined later.

Already changes have been noted in physical stature and cranial features. Heads of American-born Chinese are found to be larger, but growth of their bodies slower than their China-born brothers and sisters.

The work is part of the most extensive anthropological tests ever made on the Chinese people. It is the idea of twenty-six-year old Samuel D. Lee, Chinese graduate of Pomona, and is being carried on as an emergency relief project.

**Octopus Influx Is New Menace for Fishermen**

San Francisco.—An octopus wave from the coast of Mexico is giving northern California shallow water fishermen plenty of thrills and background for real "fish stories."

Several fishermen, particularly those seeking crabs under crevices and backwashers, have been seized and have been saved only by friends who chopped off the tentacles of the devil fish.

The visitation, said Dr. Alvin Seal, director of Steinhart aquarium here, is due to a sudden shift in current from the Mexican coast, the usual range of the fish.

Two species are in the migration—one small, not more than 14 inches across the arms, and the other large, measuring as long as 15 feet.

**Lightning Bolt Restores Use of Paralyzed Legs**

Novara, Italy.—Lightning which two years ago killed the wife and son of a fortune teller, Giacomo Boisson, recently restored to him the use of his legs, paralyzed for years.

Boisson was returning to Novara from Valesia Valley in his wheel chair, pulled by his faithful dog, when a thunderstorm broke. He sought shelter under a great tree, which was shattered by lightning.

The dog was killed and Boisson knocked out of his chair. When he tried to rise, he found the full use of his limbs had returned.

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### ORCHID SILK NET

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Here is an adorable midsummer night party frock. Tiers of ruffles form the skirt of this charming gown which is made of orchid silk net. Anemones that shade from orchid to deep purple are grouped into a lovely corsage bouquet. This exquisite model is a new Mainbocher creation, fresh from Paris. It couldn't be prettier if it tried.

### Scientist Captures Free Electricity

New York.—A scientist's dream—harnessing sunlight as a source of electricity—has come true.

"Free electricity," drawn from sunlight, lit an electric bulb!

Dr. Collin G. Fink, professor of electro-chemistry at Columbia university, showed how his latest development, the "sun converter cell" had tripled the amount of electricity he could gather from the sun's rays.

Doctor Fink placed his cell on a window sill. Attached to a terminal of the apparatus was an ordinary bulb and a galvanometer — for measuring the strength of the current.

He pulled up a shade, allowing the light to strike the cell. The sensitive galvanometer immediately noted a flow of electricity. A moment or two passed. Then the filament wire in the bulb began to glow.

Doctor Fink said he can now collect only 1 per cent of the solar radiation, but hopes to do better.

Washington.—Most of the talk about the possibility of defeating Franklin D. Roosevelt next year, which still seems a most unlikely event, but is being discussed wherever politicians congregate, seems to hinge on the possibility of either a conservative Democratic bolt, or of a fusion ticket—a combination of Republicans with conservative Democrats.

Anything can happen, but third tickets are very difficult to start, and fusions next to impossible to get going. Of the two, the fusion would seem to have the most promise of success, but by the same token is less likely to happen.

More effective than either is simply a wholesale but unofficial bolt of party leaders. That is what happened to the Democrats when Alfred E. Smith was nominated in 1928, and when prohibition and the religious issue resulted in a considerable fraction of the Democracy of many states either staying home on election day, or going all the way and voting the Republican ticket.

Contrasted with the La Follette third party four years earlier, this was tremendous in its effects. But for the present purposes it is interesting to look back at how the La Follette third party in 1924 worked inversely to any conceivable hopes of its backers.

It will be recalled that La Follette carried one state, Wisconsin. That is all his party figured, so far as the electoral vote tabulation showed. But the fact that the La Follette party was in the race changed a great many electoral votes. The point worth considering is that in every case the effect was to drive electoral votes to the Republican nominee, instead of to the Democratic nominee.

This was because the country was prosperous, and was afraid of any element of uncertainty being injected. Widespread polls taken by various independent agencies, particularly the Literary Digest, showed early in the campaign, that there was a possibility La Follette might carry a number of states. For example, this poll showed in September that La Follette was very close to Coolidge in California.

**Scared Democrats**

This resulted in frightening a great many Democrats into voting for Coolidge. They preferred Coolidge to a period of uncertainty, with the house of representatives fighting to elect some one President.

If present convictions are not changed, a great many conservative Democrats next year will prefer almost any situation which might develop to the re-election of Roosevelt. Just as a great many progressive Republicans will prefer Roosevelt's re-election to the success of any Republican candidate.

Hence the situation promises to be much more like that of 1896, when the Palmer and Buckner ticket was put up by the gold Democrats, not with any thought of really electing Palmer, but with the frank object of giving Democrats who would not vote for any Republican some place to go. The object, therefore, was really to elect McKinley, and it succeeded tremendously, especially in such border states as Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri.

It is rather curious that the most difficult method of attempting to defeat Roosevelt—by a fusion ticket—offers such possibilities this time. There is no strong Republican in sight for the nomination, but there is a whole flock of conservative Democrats who would fit well in the picture for a fusion nomination. For example, Senator Byrd of Virginia, Ex-Governor Ely of Massachusetts, Senator Tydings or Ex-Governor Ritchie of Maryland, Senator Donahue of Ohio.

There are those who think, however, that a Republican like Governor Landon of Kansas, or Governor Hoffman of New Jersey, might be all the stronger because they are not so well known nationally—on the theory that fewer people would vote against them.

**Santa Claus in Politics**

Seldom has the power of Santa Claus in politics been so forcibly demonstrated as by the recent senate vote on the AAA amendments, one of the chief purposes of which was to freeze the processing taxes beyond the probability of being upset by the Supreme court.

But this danger is not past, and for a most interesting reason. Expectancy here is that the present processing taxes will be held unconstitutional by the high court. Legal opinion here is divided as to whether the next taxes will pass the test or not. But legal opinion is virtually united that if it had not been for two factors, the high court would uphold the next taxes.

One of these points would have been met if congress, in fixing the taxes, had left out the formula for changing them. This formula has to do with prices paid the farmers for commodities. It provides for a change in the processing taxes if

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

## By Carter Field

FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



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One of these points would have been met if congress, in fixing the taxes, had left out the formula for changing them. This formula has to do with prices paid the farmers for commodities. It provides for a change in the processing taxes if

and when such prices reach "parity," or the amount considered by New Dealers as essentially fair for the farmer.

The other would have been met if congress had levied the taxes in one bill, and put all the other agricultural provisions in another.

These two changes would have made the processing taxes, in the opinion of some able lawyers here, strictly excise levies, and thus well within the clearly defined right of congress to raise money. When the language of a statute is perfectly clear, the Supreme court has held in decision after decision, it is not up to the court to delve into the reasons for the passage of the act—to read the debates and reports of committee hearings, etc.

But the fact that the taxes are included in an agricultural bill, plus the fact that a formula for changing the taxes in the event that farm prices of the commodities affected change, brings the processing taxes in the new bill close to the border line. It opens the door to the Supreme court to look into the motives for imposing the tax. It proves that every one of course knows, that the tax is not levied for general revenue purposes, but to play a part in bringing about a price change—or to improve the estate of a definite fraction of the population—the farmers.

**Doubtful Situation**

This would have been just as true if congress had left out the formula for changing the taxes, and if it had passed the taxes in a separate bill. But in that case the court would have been almost obliged to follow its normal course, and examine merely the text of the bill attached. In all probability it would not have gone into the allegation, which will be made when the present bill is attacked, that the tax is unconstitutional because it is not levied strictly for revenue, but to bring about a specific reform, and in favor of a particular class.

But congress did not dare use this simple device for insuring constitutionality of the AAA amendments. Because if there had been a separate tax bill, the sales tax nature of the measure would have been too glaring. The levies would have stood out as taxing the poor man's necessities—food and clothing.

This is not a prediction that the court will hold the new law unconstitutional. No one knows that. As a matter of fact, it is an open question, about which there is sharp division of opinion. It may be that the high court will decide that the processing tax on wheat, or corn and hogs, or cotton, is on all fours, so far as constitutional authority is concerned, with the six cents a package federal tax on cigarettes. Also, that it will ignore the formula for changing the amount of the tax.

No one knows, but the fact remains that the whole situation is doubtful.

**Golf Parallel**

Golfing senators and representatives often chuckle about the misfortune of a long hitting player who drove the difficult green of a hole on a local course, and then putted out of bounds. It sounds incredible, but it is absolutely true. There were a number of witnesses.

That, in the judgment of keen observers in Washington, is what the utility magnates did in their telegraphing campaign to prevent passage of the "death sentence." They have come pretty near to nullifying all the effects of a remarkable demonstration of the wide spread of the shareholders in public utilities—a demonstration which caused the house of representatives to vote against the President by a majority of 111. And all because they overdid the last touches.

They putted out of bounds!

**Apparently Genuine**

In fact, there was a great deal of quiet checking up on writers of these protesting letters and telegrams by the senators and representatives. And in the early stages most of the letters and wires apparently were genuine. Often the writers did not know anything at all about the merits of the controversy. They wrote because the officers of the corporations in which they held stock asked them to—because the officers told them the "death sentence" would affect the value of their securities.

In this last question the legislators were not so much interested. If a number of their constituents believed, rightly or wrongly, that a vote for the "death sentence" was a vote which would take money out of their pockets, that vote might be highly dangerous when election day rolled around. Particularly if the "death sentence" passed, and the value of the stocks in constituents' hands did decline.

The constituent might never find out the truth about the matter, but he would hold his senator or member of the house responsible, and be very apt to vote against him both in primaries and elections.

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# Sheba's Land



Ethiopian Army Captain in Full Dress Uniform.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

ETHIOPIA, a familiar name in the headlines these days, boasts a long and imposing history. The kings of this ancient empire are traced from Ori of 4478 B. C. to Haile Selassie the First of A. D. 1935—with time out, naturally, from the date of the Deluge until the fall of the Tower of Babel. According to tradition the queen of Sheba was an Ethiopian. She may possibly have lived in what we now call Ethiopia, and certainly she included it in her extended domain.

Modern Ethiopia includes more than 350,000 square miles of the rich and productive northeastern African plateau. It is mainly a mountainous region, much broken by deep valleys. Arid, semi-desert country surrounds it on every side. It does not touch the sea, although some Ethiopian feudal chieftains like to grasp a marine telescope as they pose for a formal photograph.

In the population there are, perhaps, 5,000,000 Christians of the true Ethiopian (Hamitic-Semitic) type. They are the inheritors of an ancient civilization under whose feudal form of government are estimated to be 7,000,000 Moslems and pagans. The latter are mainly negroes.

The country is surrounded by African colonial possessions of Great Britain, France and Italy. As the Ethiopia of Solomon's time, it probably included all of these adjacent territories, with an Egyptian frontier, and that part of southwestern Arabia known today as the Yemen and Hadhramaut.

There is in Ethiopia a very evident mixture of Asia and Africa. Some of the blood came from ancient Palestine, some from Arabia, and some from the shores of the Caspian. Authorities do not agree as to the elements in this African melting pot of races. But the Ethiopian claims with pride a strong relation to the Semites.

**Getting Into Ethiopia.**

The front door entrance and port to Ethiopia is Djibouti, French Somaliland. The French are commendably responsible for Djibouti. It is the base of their 500-mile railway from the coast directly inland to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. This railway is Ethiopia's only modern connection with the outside world. Djibouti is, therefore, very important to Ethiopia. It is headquarters for an Ethiopian consul who gives intending visitors their visas.

There are two kinds of trains now on the efficient but expensive little Franco-Ethiopian railway. On Sunday and Wednesday mornings a train leaves Djibouti to arrive three days later in Addis Ababa. Each Tuesday evening departs the "through express," which does the 500 miles in 36 hours. Passengers can sleep on this "fast" train, not in pullmans, but in adjustable seats. On the three-day trains sleeping is done at little wayside hotels the two nights en route.

The first day of this railway journey ends usually at six in the afternoon, at Dire-dawa, the first town of importance after the train enters Ethiopia. It is on the fringe of a plateau 4,000 feet above sea level and a 200-mile climb from the coast. An interesting side trip from Dire-dawa is the old Mohammedan walled town of Harar, four hours away by rough motor trip or a whole day by muleback. Camels, horses, or mules are available as a means of transportation, but the mule is considered the most appropriate for one of actual or apparent high station in life.

The second night of the three-day train journey is passed on the banks of the Awash river, one of the peculiar streams of the world. At this point it is a swiftly flowing river in a deep canyon. Rising on the Ethiopian plateau, it turns north-eastward toward the Red sea, but loses itself in the Danakil lowlands short of its natural destination. Awash consists mainly of a small railway yard, a one-story brick building housing a hotel under quasi-Hellenic management, a scattering of native shacks, and many cats. Food and accommodations are simple and the most essential thing is a good mosquito net.

**Addis Ababa, the Capital.**

The train gets under way again the next morning at dawn and rolls through lovely grass and forest lands, where gallop many herds of gazelles and antelope. Occasionally one sees the dark blur of a rhino breakfasting on the far side of the Awash river canyon. About four o'clock in the afternoon of this third day the sprawling city of Addis Ababa is sighted in a forest of blue gum trees, across a rolling, grassy plain.

A ride of 20 minutes on mule or horseback, or five minutes by motor, takes the arriving traveler to the main part of the city. Addis Ababa has good streets and no "across the railway tracks" quarter. It has also legations, consulates, hotels, many American motorcars, airplanes of sort, and some presentable business buildings. On one of the two principle elevations of the city is the ever-interesting market place. Here once stood the great tree which served for generations as a gibbet. The other main elevation is crowned by the group of buildings which make up the imperial palace. The most imposing edifice on this designated "Hill of the Gebbi" is the Audience Hall of the Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, constructed of stone and given its high-sounding title by order of the late Emperor Menelik. Menelik claimed his title by virtue of his descent from that first Menelik who was born to Sheba after her visit to Solomon.

Ethiopia claims to be the oldest Christian sovereign state. The teachings of Christ were introduced about A. D. 330 by two shipwrecked Phoenician youths.

**Resources of the Country.**

After the professions of priest and soldier, agriculture is the principal occupation in Ethiopia. The country is very fertile, though methods of cultivation are still primitive. Many fine beef cattle are produced, and the people are great meat eaters. They have what might be called a ceremonial custom of eating a bit of raw beef as a sort of hors d'oeuvre.

In addition to the ordinary kinds of stock, Ethiopian farmers in parts of the country raise civet cats for commercial purposes. From these animals they obtain a liquid musk marketable to French and American perfumers at \$2 an ounce. The chase is also a commercialized industry in Ethiopia, and naturally ivory heads the list of its products. Many an Ethiopian leopard involuntarily contributes his skin to American feminine fashion. As many as 100,000 of these spotted skins have gone to American furriers in a single year. Also monkey furs are an item of profitable trade.

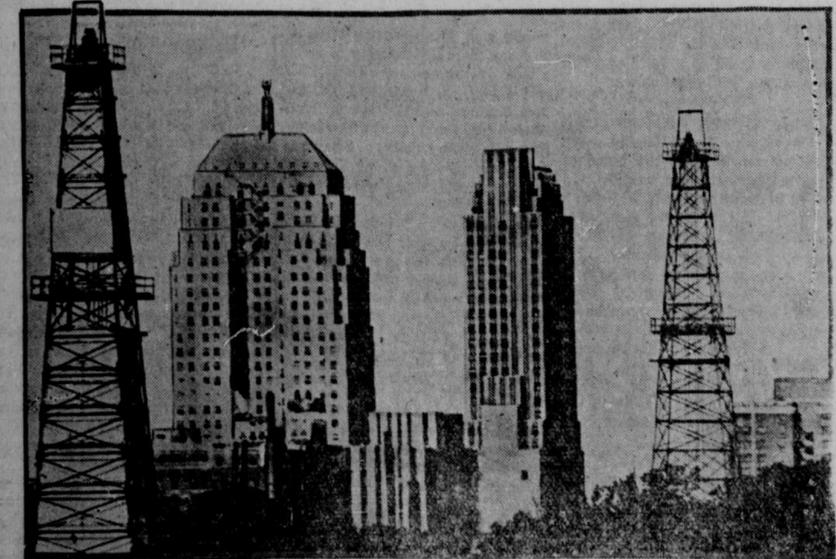
**Where Fine Coffee Is Grown.**

The Harar district town and province, is the center of production of cultivated coffee in Ethiopia. The bean produced is of excellent quality and ranks next only to Mocha in world markets. It is called "long-berry Mocha" and is sold to a discriminating clientele in the United States. Although the Harar plantations are descended from seed introduced from the Mocha district in Arabia, Ethiopia is the home of coffee. The tree was found originally by Arab travelers in the Ethiopian province of Kafa, from which it took its name. Seed was taken from Kafa to Arabia, and thence came back to Harar. According to the Arabs, the cultivation of coffee also spread to other parts of the world from the Yemen, in southwestern Arabia.

In Kafa and adjoining parts of southwestern Ethiopia may be seen today vast and virgin forests of coffee of the indigenous variety. It necessarily grows without cultivation or care and thousands of tons of the berries fall to the ground in waste each year. The outer fringes of some of these forests are worked by natives in sections not too far from export trading centers, where the market value of coffee is known. Egypt buys much of this coffee shipped via Khartoum, in place of former importations of the Brazilian product.

Lions are numerous in the Harar district. They are the fine black-maned fellows so alluring to the big-game hunter. Probably other kinds can chew one up just as thoroughly, but the Harar fellow is particularly respected. When an Ethiopian kills a lion, he has the right to demand a special audience from the emperor during which to declaim and act out the feat. Afterwards he is privileged to wear the mane and skin as part of his warrior dress.

# Skyscrapers May Give Way to Oil Wells



Oklahoma City's new zone law permits oil wells to be drilled in the heart of the business district as shown here. The day may come when tall buildings are torn down to make room for the skeleton-like towers.