# CLAM FISHING IS EXPERIENCING STEADY GROWTH

## Fishermen at Dixon, Ill., Have Received More and Shipped More Shells This Year Than Ever.

Dixon, Ill., Aug. 13.—Apart from the usual finds of pearls, the clamming industry at favorable points in the Missisippi valley is prospering this year. Pearls are the clammer's sideline. His main concern is digging shells from which buttons are made.

The largest single shipment to date this year from Dixon was three carloads, some 150 tons of shells, which were dug from the bed of the river within a radius of half a mile. They went to a firm at LaCrosse, Wis. The buyer paid $70 a ton, which is the highest price yet received by the diggers, and the three cars represented $10,000 worth of shells.

**Shell Prices Raise.**

Many other clammers have been holding their shells for higher prices. Since this shipment was made shells have gone to $80 a ton.

Along the shores and many of its tributary rivers may be found numerous clammers' outfits which vary somewhat in design although all serve the same purpose. A typical outfit consists of a flat bottomed boat on either side of which is a rod 16 feet long. Suspended from this are chains with six fourprong hooks on each chain, in all 600 hooks.

One bar at a time is lowered and dragged along the river bed, thus catching the partly open clam shell. Muddy water affords the best results, as the clams there open their shells for feeding and can be the more easily caught.

**Spring is Best Season.**

Spring and early summer are the best seasons for the work, as the spring freshets disturb the water making it muddy. Later in the season as the water becomes cool the clams bury themselves in the mud. The industry is protected by the game and fish laws, the season opening legally Junt 2, and closing December 1.

Clams breed in August and are very prolific. The mother weaves a sort of web around herself and young, and when caught on the clamming hooks as many as 50 or 75 young are often found attached to her, while many others are lost in the catching.

The worker's outfit includes a stove of some sort, the clams being boiled for an hour after they have been brought to shore. This opens the shell and enables the fisherman to remove the clam. One by one he goes through his catch discarding the meat which can be fed to swine or used for fish bait.

**Find Valuable Pearls.**

Each shells opened may bring a large reward for many beautiful and valuable pearls have been found in this way. As the clammer runs his thumb along the fleshy muscle of the mollusk he may find big pay for his day's work.

This summer on Rock river near here an $850 pearl was found, also one which brought $130 besides many of lesser value. Almost every tint from white to black is discovered, and exquisite pink and lavender being especially beautiful.

Every clam digger has in his cabin a tiny box lined with fluffy cotton. This is his treasure trove, and here are horded the findings of the day's catch. The experienced clammer knows the value of a pearl, knows about how much a flaw detracts, and knows the degree of perfection of the jewel, so that when the pearl buyer comes through the country the wise old river man is no novice to deal with.

## $1,000,000 In Farm Products Passes Through City Daily

Farm products worth $1,000,000 passes through Omaha daily, according to an Omaha banker who has made a study of the figures.

This daily business will increase in the next two months, however, according to E. E. Calvin, vice president of the Union Pacific, who says 36 new engines have been received to handle this increase.

**City Employes Get Raise.**

Plattsmouth, Neb., Aug. 13.—(Special.)—The city has raised the wages of street department employes from 45 to 55 cents per hour and decreased the working day from 10 to nine hours. A second request by the Plattsmouth Water company for an increase in rates was referred to the firt and water committee.



## Frost Reported In State; Crops Have Not Suffered

It's time to get out the old woolens and prepare for the coming winter.

Frost was reported Thursday at Valentine, Neb., and low temperatures were recorded throughout the state. North Loop, Neb., reported a low temperature of 35.

Reports from farmers over the state indicate that the crops were not damaged by the frost.

According to M. V. Robins, weather prophet, the frost Thursday night was the first one that has visited the state at this time for many years.

Warmer weather last night and Saturday was predicted by Mr. Robins.

## Civil Service Exams for Many Jobs Will Be Held Here

Civil service examinations will be held in Omaha August 18 for the following positions: Calculating machine operators, card punch machine operatives, telegraph operatives, accounting and statistical clerks for departmental service in Washington, Interstate Commerce commission, junior geodetic survey, and for deputy shipping commissioners.

## Relief Committee Gets Many New Infants' Clothes

Generous donation of new infants' wear, made for the old clothes campaign for children of the near east, has drawn expressions of appreciation from members of the Nebraska committee for the Near East Relief.

Old clothes, donated by Omahans to this cause, are now being packed for shipment overseas in the basement of the Auditorium. The supply in Omaha will be added to shipments from out in the state, all to be sent in carload lots to an eastern port soon.

## Sues Driver of Car for $50,000 for Injuries

Miss Bertha Peterson has sued William Le Roy Wilcox for $20,000, for injuries which she sustained on May 18, when a car driven by Wilcox collided with one in which she was riding. The accident occurred at Twenty-fourth street and Redick

## Identify Articles Stolen From Irvington School

Property said to have been found in the possession of Carl Gray, who was arrested last night by city detectives for investigation, was positively identified today as stolen from the school building at Irvington which was robbed last Monday night.

The identification was made by C. W. Anderson, a member of the school board. County officials and city detectives are working on the case and it is believed other goods stolen from the school may be recovered.

The manual training rooms were completely stripped of equipment and every small article that could be carried away was taken from the building.

## Maternity Houses Must Be Licensed by the State

Dr. J. F. Edwards, health commissioner, declares that he knows of no maternity homes in Omaha except those regularly licensed by the state.

"In view of a recent occurrence," said the doctor, "we will make an investigation and we would appreciate information from anyone knowing of the locations of these places. The law requires that a state license shall be obtained after application for license shall have been approved by our office."

**Ship Goes Aground**

Halifax, N. S. Aug. 13.—The American steamer Montara went aground early today five miles east of Louisburg and has been abandoned by its crew, who landed safely, according to wireless messages received by the marine and fisheries department.