

Clamshells, Anesthesia Promise More Pearls After Few Years

TOKYO. (INS). Mississippi river clamshells and an anesthesia for oysters will put more pearls around the necks of American ladies in a few years.

The so-called pig toe shells have been found best for helping oysters grow pearls.

Joe Goldstone, president of Imperial Pearl syndicate of Chicago, has just contracted to ship 100 tons of the shells to Japanese pearl growers, who have not had a shipment since before the war.

GOLDSTONE ALSO has made a private arrangement with Kōchiro Kitamura of Kobe to apply modern methods to planting a shell in an oyster.

It's tough on an oyster to be pried open so a little shell pellet can be dropped inside it. Half the oysters die.

Goldstone's company, in conjunction with the bureau of fisheries, developed a special anesthesia to put the oysters to sleep long enough to make a safe impregnation. Goldstone said mortality dropped to 10 percent.

THE ANESTHESIA is a boon to Kitamura who, like the rest of Japanese pearl growers, is suffering from a shortage of oysters. Before the war the growers kept about 25,000,000 oysters.

Now, largely because of last year's violent storms, they have only about 2,500,000 and can't find more.

Goldstone is giving Kitamura

exclusive rights to his patented anesthesia largely to try to repay in part an old favor.

Back in the depression Goldstone operated a combination drug and jewelry store in his native Bennett, Ia.

The depression ruined him.

HE DECIDED to gamble. He and his wife sailed to Japan on a freighter "because we'd heard about these cultured pearls and wanted to find out what they were all about."

Kitamura showed him. Gold-

stone was enthusiastic. But had to tell Kitamura "I'd sure like to do something with those in America. But I'm broke."

Kitamura laughed and said if that was all, there was no problem.

GOLDSTONE TOLD the story just before he left Japan after his latest visit to Kitamura.

"He handed me \$100,000 worth of his pearls right then," Goldstone said. "He knew I didn't

I could pay him next time I came to Japan.

"It took me about a year to sell all those pearls and then I came back and paid him for those and bought \$150,000 worth for the next year."

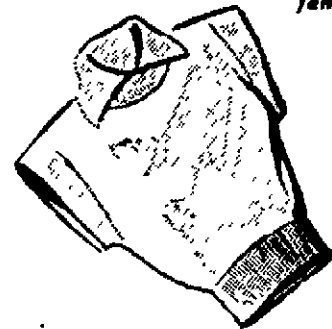
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