

Anesthetic for the Oyster Will Boost Pearl Output!

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SAN FRANCISCO.—(INS). A whiff of anesthetic is going to put a lot more gorgeous pearls around milady's neck in just a few years. It will also go a long way towards putting Japan's economy back on its feet and off the backs of American taxpayers.

This double aim is the goal of Joe Goldstone, who sailed from San Francisco Saturday, aboard the S. S. President Wilson en route to administer the anesthetic to Japan's oysters.

Goldstone, president of the Imperial Pearl Syndicate, has been dealing in culture pearls for years and especially since Japan's surrender.

In 1947 he went to Japan at the invitation of the U. S. army to aid in the reorganization of the

wrecked culture pearl industry. With co-operation of Gen. MacArthur's headquarters, he helped set up quality standards and got a yen-dollar equivalent so that Jap pearl growers could profitably export to the American market.

At this time, the rehabilitation was nothing more than getting the industry back in working operation. No new development had come along in the industry in 25 years. To make a culture pearl, a pellet of mother of pearl is laboriously inserted in the pearl sac of the oyster and it is then placed back in its watery home to produce. In some five years, a fine pearl. About 60 per cent of the oysters died in the process.

Experiments on the part of Goldstone's syndicate, however, developed a patented anesthetic which makes the opening of an oyster practically painless to the

oyster and has reduced the mortality rate to 10 per cent.

It is this anesthetic Goldstone is introducing to the International Imperial Guild, representing about 60 per cent of the Japanese pearl growers.

The Japanese pearl industry did about a million and a half dollar business last year. Goldstone estimates that with the new process the business will be a \$10 million industry annually within five years.

Considering that Japan has only two natural commodities to export, pearls and raw silk, and the cost to America of the occupation is \$300 million a year now, the \$10 million is not a small contribution to rejuvenating the economy.

The U. S. will even have a share in this rejuvenation. For some strange reason, the good mother of pearl pellets that are introduced into the oyster to produce

pearls, all come from fresh water mussel shells found in the Tennessee River.

And only Oriental oysters, an inedible variety, produce good pearls. These pearls are almost impossible to tell from those the oyster produces of its own accord.

100 tons of these mother of pearl pellets were shipped to the Japanese pearl industry in 1948 and 500 tons will be sent this year.

Imperial Pearl Syndicate is also establishing a secondary jewel industry in Japan, importing into Japan raw jade so that Japan can take over the place in the jade business vacated by China through its civil war.

The anesthetic will be introduced into Japan within the next 60 days and Goldstone predicts it will be a boon to the lady who loves pearls but has a pocket book to consider.