

Anesthetic May Wake Up Japanese Pearl Trade

New Setup Makes Painless Operation On Oyster and Cuts Down on Mortality

By JANE COCHRAN

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 and it also will 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 recently aboard the SS President Wilson en route to administer the anesthetic to Japan's oysters.

Rebuilt Industry

Goldstone, president of the Imperial Pearl Syndicate, has been dealing in cultured pearls for years, 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 cultured pearl industry. With the co-operation of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters, he helped set up quality standards and got a yen-dollar equivalent so that Jap pearl growers could export profitably 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 cultured 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 which Goldstone is introducing to the Inter-

national Imperial Guild, representing about 60 per cent of the Japanese pearl growers.

U. S. to Share

The Japanese pearl industry did about a million and a half dollars business last year. Goldstone estimates that with the new process the business will be a ten million dollar 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 some 300 million a year now, the ten 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.

One hundred 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.

WRONG PLYMOUTH

FARMINGTON, Me. (UP) — The 10-man Farmington State Teachers college basketball squad piled into two automobiles for a trip to play the Plymouth Teachers college team. Farmington lost the game at Plymouth, N. H. One car with half the squad went to Plymouth, Mass., by mistake.