4,700 COWS IN KENT COUNTY

The fifteenth census of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1929-30 for the 23 counties in Maryland, shows that on April 1st, 1930, the number of dairy cows milked daily in Kent county on 911 farms reporting to the department was 4700, which produced during the year 1929 3,083,842 gallons of milk, 2,873,418 gallons of which were sold through the county cooling stations and private milk routes, the total value of which is given as $752,012.

The value of chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese on the number of farms reporting was $712,000, while the total value of field and orchard crops, vegetables, and farm gardens was $2,130,619 for the number of farms. reporting. The value of chicken eggs sold was $185,241, while the farms reporting sold 93,885 chickens during the year. These figures do not represent the entire value of the various crops because of the fact that not all farmers in the county filed reports. These figures compare favorably with other counties in the State and show the prosperity of the farmers during the year just prior to the drought and financial depression.

It will be interesting to compare these figures with 1931 when they are issued.

OLD DOLLAR BILL

The American dollar is at the top of the world. Up to the World War the English pound was the standard of value, by which all currences were measured. But now old Dollar Bill is on top, while proud Mr. English Pound is laid up in the hospital for repairs.

Dollar Bill's pre-eminence is not due wholly to his own merit. It is partly the result of good fortune, that the people who employ him are protected by 3,000 miles of ocean from the worst of Europe's turmoils, so they were not so crushed by the losses of the war. Now it is up to Dollar Bill not to get too cocky over his superior position, but to give 100 cents worth of work to every one who gives him a job.

Second thoughts are ever wisest.

CHESTER RIVER GOLF FEATURE

Facing a stiff breeze and biting cold weather H. G. Nicholson, youthful Washington Golf and Country Club golfer, carded a total of 154 strokes to win the first annual Eastern Shore Amateur Golf Championship held on the Chester River Yacht and Country Club course here Sunday. Nicholson, who. several years ago was medalist in the Middle Atlantic States Amateur, played the best golf of the day and except for a lapse in the second nine would have scored much lower.

The championship was decided by 36 holes of medal play. A. W. Reid, of the Sparrows Point Country Club, was second in the Shore Championship. which was held under the direction of the Maryland State Golf Association, of which the Chester River Yacht and Country Club is the only Eastern Shore member. Reid scored 159 strokes for the play. W. J. Stenger, club championship of the Chester River Yacht and Country Club, captured the special prize offered for the best score among Eastern Shore players entered when he carded 170.

Hayes Wilson, Jr., of the Dover Country Club, was second among the peninsula golfers with a score of 172. Nearly 50 golfers from clubs thruout Maryland, Delaware and Washington completed in the championship, which the home club hopes to make an annual affair.

STATE TEACHERS MEET IN BALTIMORE

The sixty-fourth annual meeting of the Maryland State Teachers' Association was held in Baltimore on Oct. 23 and 24. More than 5,000 teachers from cities and towns all over the State attended.

One of the innovations in the program will be a social meeting at the Lord Baltimore Hotel on the evening of the first day.

Another feature in the two-day program will be a concert during the morning of the second day by the All-Maryland High School Orchestra, an organization composed of the best student musicians from the various schools of the State.

The regular business meeting and election of officers will be held during the morning of the second day. This will be followed by a professional session.

END OF PURSE-NET INDUSTRY

Maryland's pursenetters will become history after November 1.

The abilition of purse-net fishing in Maryland will mark the end of a long and bitter controversy that smouldered for years between biennial flare-ups. At practically every session of the Legislature during the last twenty years a bill to outlaw purse-net fishing has been introduced And just as regularly it has been thrown out.

After the usual fight, which was more heated and vigorous than before, there was passed a bill prohibiting the use of purse nets in Maryland waters at the conclusion of the 1931 season; this ends October 31.

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In taking this step Maryland is merely following the lead of the other tidewater States, which long ago abrogated the use of the purse net for food fishing for the purse net is the only kind that makes it possible to land many tons of fish at a single haul. As many as eighteen tons have been caught in one operation. The case is different with the other nets used in commercial fishing — the pound net and the various types of gill nets, including the anchor and the drift. The fish that swim into them are captured only because they become entrapped in the pound or their gills are caught in the mesh.

In the case of the pound net, the fish might escape as easily as they entered if, instead of swimming aimlessly in circles, they sought the opening through which they came. With this, as with the gill net, the size of the catch is largely a matter of chance, and only those of a school of fish which get an unlucky break find themselves trapped.

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The purse net is a long strip of heavy cotton netting well coated with tar in order to preserve it. The length varies. Some of the larger nets spread over an acre and extend to a depth of forty feet. The size of the mesh is approximately four inches square, so that the undersized fish can swim out of it.

The top of the net, which lies even with the surface of the water, is called the "cork line," as it is floated by means of corks placed at one-foot intervals. At the bottom of the net is the "ring line." Through rings, which are attached about six feet apart, the purse line is inserted. This is usually made of hemp and is about an inch in diameter, having a swivel in the middle to prevent kinks from forming.

The technique of purse-net fishing is simple. Two small, flat-bottomed boats are used to lay out the net, one-half of it being coiled on each stern. Then with the net stretched between them, the boats are towed by a mother boat until a school of fish is sighted.

The small boats are then released and they each slowly encircle the quarry with the net. When they meet, the two ends of the net are quickly pinned together, while the ton, a heavy iron weight tied to the bottom near the purse line, is thrown overboard to stretch the net downward. This accomplished, it usually takes a crew of six men to pull on the purse line which draws the net in at the bottom so that the fish are completely trapped.

The net is next pulled up alongside so that the fish are scooped out on the deck. These are iced and picked and then brought to the markets. In this manner a whole school of fish, whose weight may exceed fifteen tons are caught at a single haul.

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Purse-net fishing began in the Chesapeake Bay approximately forty years ago. One of the first to use this type of net was Capt. Jospeh Downey, of Rock Hall, Kent county, who began purse-net fishing in 1890 when he started out in the Wesley Stevens, a round-stern bugeye. The large profits made from his successful hauls soon led others to thrust aside the other nets for the kind used by "Old Cap'n Joe," as he was called.

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In the early days of this fishing the boats were propelled either by sail or oars as the gasoline marine engine hadn't became generally used. At first pungeys were employed by the purse netters and later schooners were used. In recent years the bugeye has been the more popular, because being small, its draft is less than the other boats. Therefore, the bugeye can make shorter cuts for the harbor, and the ease of towing and pushing it in times of calm weather has added to its desirability.

The advent of the gasoline engine caused little flurry with the purse netters. Only a few adopted it, and then, generally as a gasoline push boat, which, as its name indicates, shovels the mother boat. This is pressed into service mainly after the haul has been made and the trip to the market is begun.

The purse-net boats would leave their home port on Mondays and in most cases would not return until the following Saturday. The crew on each boat consisted of the captain, a cook and six able-bodied men to work the nets.

On Monday the home ports of the boats would be the scene of great activity as early as 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. At the docks there was heard the groaning of the blocks in the rigging as the crew hoisted the sails in preparation of getting the boat under way, and the metallic clank of the anchor chain tightening around the windlass as the anchor was made "short." Soon there would follow the familiar chant of "All short" from a member of the crew and then the captain's command of "break away." Then with canvas hoisted and filled to the early morning breeze, the standing light would be lowered from the rigging, and silently the mother boat with the small vessels in tow would glide out of the harbor into the open bay.

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The bay fishermen have become noted for their wide knowledge of the topography of the bay. Most of them know the depths at many places and can tell where the bottom is hard and soft. Almost every captain had his favorite "lump" or other variety of bar, and in this way the lumps became named after the captains who frequented them. Most of the names have survived and many of them, such as Henry Urie's Corner, Georgie Ayres' Lump and Buddy Taylor's still provide hunting groudns for the purse netters. Some of the old lumps have been worn away by the currents so that only remnants of them are left and they yield little, if any fish.

Bombshell, Little Hole, Middle Lump, Spar Buoy and Phoenix are some of the old chance lumps with whose peculiar corners and edges many present day purse netters are familiar. These were called chance lumps because dips would be made with the net at certain tides, even though no fish could be seen. Sometimes the dip would prove profitable, but more often it would be a water haul, not containing a scale of fish.

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Fishing is largely chance and when the purse net was introduced in the Chesapeake Bay the fishermen adopted it in the belief it was one of the surest ways of providing them with a livelihood. But this kind of fishing was not without hazards.

The severe storms that rocked the waters of the bay occasionally capsized one of the purse net pungeys or schooners. Frequently the net would become torn, which delayed the fishing for a spell of mending, for even a small hole would mean the loss of hundreds of fish.

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After the fish were caught the prospects of profits still remained a big gamble. It remained for a kind Providence to stir up a stiff wind to send the mother boat up the bay to the markets. Once arrived, there might be a glut and the haul would be peddled for the proverbal song. On the other hand, a favorable market meant that the captain left town with a well-filled purse. An unusually large haul sometimes brought $1,000.

During the first thirty years of pursenet fishing prices were not as high as they have been the last decade, for in the early days food fish abounded in the bay, hauls were made easily, and consequently, there were plenty on the market and a glut was not infrequent. There were so many engaged in purse-net fishing that it became necessary to license these fishermen as well as to limit the season.

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During the palmy days of purse-net fishing almost a hundred captains were engaged in it, but the number has decreased steadily so that by 1929 only twenty-four licenses were issued, and the next year there were only fourteen. This season fifteen licenses were applied for; the slight increase is accounted for by the fact that one veteran purse netter, who long ago gave up this fishing, said he wanted to have his last fling at it as he enjoyed it as a sport rather than a money-making scheme.

It is said that several ex-purse netters will make more money acting as guides to amateur fishermen than they made in recent years with their nets. Guide's fees range up to $25 a day. The fact that purse net fishing has passed makes it likely that next season will bring out more pleasure fishermen as they will have a better chance to return home after good sport.

SUCCESS

Achievement is not always success, while reputed failure often is. The most successful men are not necessarily the ones noisly attracting public attention. The best and most useful women are not the bright butterflies of fashion or the stage, whose press agents incessantly flaunt their pictures and their pretty doings before the public.

The unlauded men and women who are quietly attending to their own little duties, every day contributing something substantial to general industry, prosperity and progress, rearing children in habits of useful work and right living and supplying examples that elevate the moral and intellectual level of their little communities—these are the men and women of real influence and power.

Success is theirs in the fullest measure.

How shrunken and pitiful a thing, how hollow a delusion, is the shining so-called success of self- absorbed men and women.

They have only the husks of life's golden grain.

Like that soldier under Galerius who found a shining leather bag filled with pearls and cast away the pearls, but carefully preserved the bag, these self-absorbed ones are spurning true riches, real success, to hug to their hearts things that are empty and worthless.

CELEBRATION AT CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge is preparing for a big day Wednesday, November 11, when their third Annual Armistice Day Celebration and Parade will be held.

This celebration is under the auspices of Dorchester Post No. 91, American Legion and everything will be done to make it the outstanding event of the year.

Everything will be free. Special steamer excursions will be run from Baltimore and the legionaires are planning to have 25 bands and 50 floats participate in the parade which will start promptly at 3 P. M. A big Mardi Gras at night will wind up the days' celebration.

It is estimated a crowd of 50,000 people attended this celebration last year.



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