

CONCLUSIONS.—From the foregoing facts I conclude as follows:

(1) The fish-culture practiced for many years at Val Nova proves beyond a doubt the suitability of the lagoon of Caorle for constructing inclosed fish ponds.

(2) The tract selected for the inclosure of new grounds offers every condition necessary for insuring happy and very remunerative results.

(3) The swamp of Dossetto is the best of all the localities visited by me for constructing piers for raising oysters.

(4) Oysters are reproduced along the coast of Caorle, and in the Canal Canadare, for which reason it would be well if Messrs. Grego could obtain exclusive control of the fisheries, at least in one of the localities, which, owing to the proximity of the Dossetto swamp, are well adapted to the reproduction of oysters.

(5) In the waters of Caorle there is also found the *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, and it is possible that the cultivation of this mollusk could also be carried on successfully.

(6) It is necessary that the Government should issue strict orders for the better observance of the fishery laws, so as to avert the dangers resulting from the destruction of the young oysters, and this not only in the interest of cultivators, but for the preservation of the species.

56.—A REASONING LOBSTER.

By WILLARD NYE, Jr.

While at Bird Island, Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts, I noticed what seemed to point at reason rather than instinct in the lobster. One had his home for the time in a hole under a rock, where the water was about 5 feet deep. Thinking to catch him, I made a noose at the end of a fish-line, and by means of a stick spread it carefully around the hole; then let down a piece of menhaden, holding it 6 or 8 inches away in front. The lobster soon reached out to take such a nice morsel, when, by jerking the string, I had him noosed around one of his big claws near the end; but after I had him half out of his hole the string slipped off and he got back. However, I had no doubt of catching him the next time, so, spreading the noose as carefully as before, and again letting down the piece of menhaden, I awaited results, when, instead of boldly putting out his claws as before, he first put his feelers through the noose, and, with a waving motion, felt the string all the way around, then pushed one claw under the string and grabbed the bait. Three or four times I tried him with the same result. He first carefully felt the noose all around, then rooted one claw under the string and secured the bait. I finally had to give up all thoughts of getting him, and came away firmly believing that until this fellow dies of old age the lobster will not be exterminated in our waters.

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