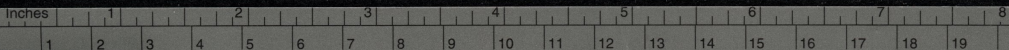


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As I am with you today rather to learn, than to instruct you in the cause of your troubles, it behoves me to be exceedingly brief in my remarks. Indeed I feel that it would be out of place to do more just now than make an expression of my sympathy, and possibly to observe that as long as human nature and tastes remain as they are, so long will the oyster, both from an eatable and financial standpoint remain an important element in our social problem;



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and like every thing else, until
by ~~tentative~~ experiment
we solve the problems of its
life, its needs, its culture,
its supply and demand, I
fear it is destined to be
a disturbing one. So
far as I have been able to
learn, the oyster industry
of this state is undergoing
a process of rapid evo-
lution, and we are simply
experiencing the tribulations
that are consequent upon
the full and final devel-
opment of any industry.

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Could we profit by the experiences of the States of Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia we should no doubt make great and rapid strides towards a final solution of the problem. But human nature has not changed a whit since the time when men preferred to learn from their own, rather than profit by the experiences of others, however bitter. Under the

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ponderous and sometimes unwieldy machinery of a republican form of government, reforms must come slowly; but in this case, as in all others, we must possess our souls in patience until we have found out what is really needed, and then instruct our legislators accordingly. I have your interest, as I have before said sincerely at heart but the duty of the Executive is simply, as you all know to see that the law is executed.

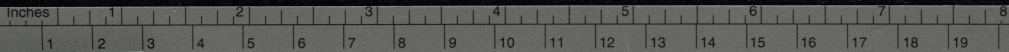
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The Governor has absolutely nothing to do with the making or the repeal of a law, bad or good, that power as you all know, rests with yourselves, — the sovereign people, and through your representatives, in the State Legislature.

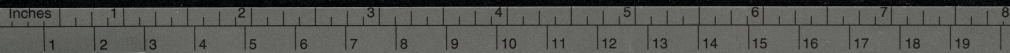
There should, I think, be little trouble, profiting by the experiences of our Sister States, in getting eventually a just and satisfactory cyber law, one that is in every way suited to our people. I heartily deplore this di-



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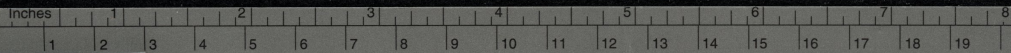
vision among you, and
the consequent disastrous ^{effect}
upon one of our most prom-
inent industries in the State
- an industry which if developed
along the line suggested by
patriotism and sound
business policy, can not
fail to be a great and
ever increasing source
of revenue to the people of
this Easter Country. If it
be true, as has been asserted,
and I have no reason to
doubt it, that we have in
this State 600,000 acres of



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bottom, every foot of which is available for Oyster culture, then the revenue available from such a source, really ought, if properly developed, to make your people practically independent. But this can not be done without persistent, well directed, individual effort. Legislation alone will not bring development, nor effect the law of supply and demand. Let us give the subject the patient research which it evidently demands. If the



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demand be greater than the supply, there is evidently but one remedy. That of the extension of the boundaries of the oyster beds. This would mean increased demand for labor, larger wages, employment of aggregated capital, and all its far reaching consequences. I am unacquainted with any profound disquisition upon the subject of extension of the Oyster beds, but I doubt not that the work, protected by wholesome legislation,

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could be prosecuted with
as little expense, and rendered
as profitable as those of a
majority of the system pro-
ducing fish of the
atlantic seaboard—