

BANANA SHIPS FLASH NEWS OF APPROACH TO JUNGLE WORKERS

A day or two before one of the big banana ships steams into its port of supply, news of its approach is flashed to the jungle by wireless, says Newton Fuesle in The Outlook. This flash of news through the drowsy tropical air is picked up by telegraph and telephone, and is at once transmitted to the plantations and their outposts.

Suddenly the waiting banana lands resolve themselves into swift and orderly action. Cutting orders are tersely issued. Glittering blades chop the fruit bunches from their trees. Ox-carts and freight cars are made ready, and in a few hours' time trainloads of bananas, numbering 20 to 40 cars, are winding their way to the waterfront to meet the approaching ship. Not a moment is permitted to be lost between the time the fruit is lopped off the trees and the time it goes aboard ship for its journey to the tables of the world.

Back of the voyages that scores of big, modern refrigerator ships are making to the tropics is a story of the conquest of obstacles that few enterprises have ever been compelled to face.

Penetrate Jungles

These fruit-growers have penetrated regions where organized industry had never been known before. They have taught thousands of natives efficient team-work. They have given steady jobs to thousands of drowsy natives who were never on a payroll before. They have cleaned up jungles that used to be death-traps, have cleaned up mosquito-breeding swamps and marshes, and have sent forth an army of doctors to rout out disease. They have built houses, bakeries, laundries, water systems, and electric light plants for their workmen, and have strung telephone wires through the wilderness.

The banana trade has developed a new soldier of fortune, for this business requires courage and wits and stamina of a hard quality and large dimensions. From the financiers at their desks in Boston and from the mariner on the bridge, down to ditch-diggers and dock laborers, the tropical fruit industry has no room in it for weaklings.

Between planting and harvest a banana plantation is subjected to all manner of hazards. Excessive rains may cause rivers to overflow, and may cause great losses. A hurricane may cause a total loss of the crop. Even windstorms blowing only at 30 miles per hour often do highly destructive, especially where the fruit is about ready to be cut. A drought may seriously retard the crop. Ravages of locusts and other insects sometimes occur.

The fruit trees of the north bear fruit year after year, but the banana tree bears only once, a single bunch, and is cut down when the fruit is harvested. Seed bulbs, or "bits," weighing from three to four pounds each, are planted, and it takes the tree from 12 to 15 months to bear.

After the banana's journey to the loading dock and thence into the hold of the ship, a still stranger drama of modern science enacts itself. Throughout the ship's dash through tropical waters for its northern port the temperature in the hold is kept at about 54 degrees. The fruit is cooled to the required temperature by refrigerating apparatus. The air is passed over brine coils, which cool and dry it, and it is then circulated by fans through the fruit holds.

The same careful inspection and rigid temperature requirements attend the fruit on its journey by rail to the final point of distribution; and the ripening occurs only in the banana rooms of the jobber.

THORN REMOVED FROM LEG

COLUMBUS, Ind., Feb. 3.—A thorn which penetrated the leg of Timothy Lockard, of East Columbus, more than two years ago, was removed after suddenly inflaming Lockard's leg and causing great pain to him. While clearing brush, Mr. Lockard noticed a slight sting, but the lameness which came later was thought to be rheumatism until an examination disclosed the thorn.

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Cut out this slip, enclose with 5c and mail it to Foley & Co., 2835 Sheffield Ave., Chicago, Ill., writing your name and address clearly. You will receive in return a trial package containing Foley's Honey and Tar Compound for coughs, colds and croup; Foley's Kidney Pills for pains in sides and back; rheumatism, backache, kidney and bladder ailments; and Foley's Cathartic Tablets, a wholesome and thoroughly cleansing cathartic for constipation, biliousness, headaches, and sluggish bowels. A. G. Loken Drug Co., 626-628 Main St.—Advertisement.

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Lafuse-Immel Reunion

At Liberty Thursday

LIBERTY, Ind., Feb. 3.—The annual meeting of the Lafuse-Immel reunion will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Gavin, Feb. 8, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. The following program will be enjoyed: Music, phonograph; song, Beulah Land; invocation; recitation, Luanna Lafuse; reading, Mrs. Morris Lafuse; reading, Mrs. Nellie Kitchell; song; reading, Mrs. Lora Lafuse; reading, Perry Lafuse; history of Smith and Immel families, F. F. Coddington; business session. Irvin Lafuse is president of the organization and B. F. Coddington is secretary.

A CLOSE-UP OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

From "The Cortlands of Washington Square," by Janet Fairbank (Bobbs-Merrill).

The president stood at the door of the second parlor, with a secretary beside him who gave him the names of his callers. Ann's first impression was of his extraordinary height, for he towered over the people about him, and then the amazing charm of his face caught her; tragic, humorous, distinguished and kindly; she adored him at first sight. He was obviously bored at the tiresome ceremony of handshaking but as obviously determined to go through with it with painstaking courtesy; he had a routine of greeting, "I am charmed to see you here," he said, over and over, with a look of grave concern.

Births

LIBERTY, Ind.—Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dorsel are the parents of a daughter.

McKoin Returns East

MONROE, La., Feb. 3.—Dr. B. M. McKoin, ex-mayor of Mer Rouge and one of the leading figures in the Moorehouse parish kidnapping case, left yesterday for Baltimore on receipt of permission from Attorney General Cocco, and will resume his post graduate work at Johns Hopkins university.

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