TROPICAL FRUITS.

HOW THEY ARE HANDLED DUR-ING SHIPMENT.

Bananas Require the Most Careful Treatment -- Methods of Packing the Various Fruits.

Between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 bunches of bananas are sold in this city every year, and though St. Louis consumes the bulk of these, a great deal is shipped to points between here and San Francisco. The big warehouses in which this fruit is stored and brought to maturity bealong North Third street. A rammethods employed in handling and ripening bananas, but a deal of other tropical fruit.

Bananas for the St. Louis market come from points in British Honduras, Jamaica and the islands of the Limon, Boco del Foro, Port Antonio, Araranca and the Blue Fields of Nicaragua are the greatest pro-

ducers

tions, and as they are cut are carried on the backs and heads of engaged in the business of transport-States. The fruit is green when loaded into the hull of the vessel, and care must be taken, not only in loading the cargo in the vessel's hold, but also in preventing by the use of ventilation, any sweating process that would arise if the hold were allowed

to grow warm. sheds, it is hauled in huge express wagons to the warehouses already fine day when a cargo of bananas is blossom when made into a bouquet. being received the scenes are truly

As the big trucks, loaded with their precious freight, pull up before dlers, ragged urchins and negro woamusing in the extreme.

because the heat rises and concen- the season is further extended. trates along the ceilings of these slowly than the larger sort.

ness in which the buyer desires the ter and spring. fruit shipped to him. The packing must be done very carefully as it is expensive. The pips may be bought without doubt the most tender of all at retail in November at from 30 to tropical fruits to handle.

big paper bags and these are then porters is far below this, and the rate dipped into cases lined with straw or to florists is such that there is a handsalt hay as a still further protection some profit in the plants when the against the changes of temperature. cut flowers retail as low as five cents In this packing they are easily per spray. As each pip produces shipped to the most distant points in only one set of blossoms and the perthe country.

fruit to the United States, but since | valley .- New York Sun. the Pacific Fruit Transportation Company ceased operating their line of steamers, this business has fallen away altogether.

Oranges of every sort-navel, tangerine and grape fruit-are plentiful in these great stock-rooms, and the supply is usually drawn from Florida, although California is called upon at times. Of the Florida fruit the best comes from Citra, Leesburg, Orange Bend on Indian river Tampa, Gainesville, Emerald Island and points in the south and southeast of the State. part of California where it is followed, and where it has proved wonder-Tangerines and grape-fruit - kid- fully profitable. glove oranges, as they are termed by the fruit dealers-are comparatively new in this market and are little considerable sum, but there is, it known, though in the Far South the cooks use them in delightful salads, marmalade and cake dressings or puddings. They are higher grade in number of wealthy Californians is ida oranges, and are usually packed more carefully in their wooden cases. The long gray Spanish moss that was formerly used in packing is done land, offers every inducement and

Pacific Slope, but the greater portion are imported from points along the Pass Beacon. Mediterranean Sea, and especially from Sicily. Figs are received in bags from Arabia, and these are the coarser sort. Finer, larger figs are sent

nish the finest varieties of white charge of 270 pounds, gave a muzzle grapes and raisins. The grapes are velocity of 2,360 foot-seconds. The shipped in half-barrels, packed in elevation of the first round was 40 cork dust; the raisins in fine boxes, degrees. The projectile fell at a scenes, or of dark-eyed sons of sunny Spain making love to some fair senorita on the shady slope of a vinecovered hill.

ceived from Arabia and Turkey, and Blanc .- [New York Telegram.

this quality is known as the Fard date, for it is much heavier and darker in color than the Golden date, which comes only from Persia.-[St. Louis Republic.

LILIEF OF THE VALLEY.

How Florists Protract Their Season of Blooming.

There is an interesting and curious country in the lily of the valley. Many thousands of those lily "pips," as they are called, the roots, each with a single tight-wrapped bud, are twenty-two days after the pip has monly make their contracts in advance with florists, and order in accordance with these contracts. The great steamers, twenty-five bunched together, tied with a vegetable fibre and wrapped in moss. They are thus delivered to the florists, and then The bananas grow on great planta- transferred to the forcing house. In five or six weeks from the time when the meaningless looking pips have natives to the big vessels which are left their native German soil the exquisite spray of drooping white bells, ing cropical fruits to the United and the sheaf of green leaves is adorning the jacket of some young woman as she trips down Broadway.

When the pips are first planted in sand they must be placed over steam pipes for the sake of the bottom heat, and kept continuously in a high temperature until the blossom is pretty well advanced. They are then re-In this green state the fruit in- moved from the pipes in order that tended for St. Louis and points on the time of blooming may be prolongthe Mississippi is loaded on boats or ed. They are ordinarily planted in cars at Mobile and near New Orleans. rough, shallow pine boxes, and spray From the landing stages where the after spray is clipped off as it is needboats arrive, or from the freight ed for bouquets, or roots and all are transferred in clumps for potting. The plants in the original pine boxes mentioned, and in front of these any are much less attractive than the

Many thousands of these lilies are cultivated in the open air. They may be set out just as they arrive from Germany at almost any time of the doors hundreds of Italian ped- year, and they resist frost with perfect hardiness. The out-door lilies men scramble for such of the fruit bloom in the spring, and continue as, having ripened on the bunches, the season for the florists after the may fall to the sidewalks, and the crop of the forcing houses has been scenes that follow the scuffle are exhausted. When these out door bloomers are exhausted, the florists Now that the fruit has arrived have another resource in reserve. safely at its destination it requires Thousands of lily pips, on arriving even more of an outlay of watchful- from Germany, are at once placed in ness and experience to prepare it cold storage, and kept there at a low suitably for the market. The bunches temperature for weeks or perhaps for are carried to long, dark rooms where months. The development of the steam pipes or gas stoves keep the plants is thus arrested, and some temperature at different degrees of weeks before the time when the outheat, varying from 50 to 75 degrees door bloomers will have been exhaust-The finer formed ed, part of the pips on cold storage bunches, bearing the larger class of are brought forth and either forced fruit, are hung on the bottom racks, indoors or permitted to develop norwhile the smaller sized go to the top, | mally in the open air. In this way

Florists find that the lily of the valrooms, thereby giving greater force ley is most difficult to manage for to the small fruit, which ripens more autumn flowering. The period of development is then at least twenty The orders that come in for ban- days, and the flowers are upon the anas usually state the stage of ripe- whole less satisfactory than in win-

Beautiful as the flower is it is not 40 cents per dozen, or about \$1.50 First, the bunches are placed in per hundred. The price to the imcentage of loss is reasonably uniform, Aspinwall was at one time the florists know pretty well what to greatest port for the shipment of this count on in forcing the lily of the

Ostrich Farming in Texas.

The idea of establishing an ostrich farm on St. Joseph's Island is receiving a good deal of attention, and many prominent men are interesting themselves in the subject. Prof. Attwater has investigated, and believes it quite feasible. The country has a climate very similar to that

The fitting up of a farm, purchase of the land and birds, would cost a seems, no reason why it should not return handsome profits by the investment. Correspondence with a flesh, flavor and price than the Flor- now going on and a company will likely be formed and a farm established in the near future. R. H. Wood, the principal land owner of the isaway with by paper, tinsel and tissue will aid in every way he can. It is more than probable that in a few A few lemons are received from the years ostrich farming will be added to our other industries .- [Arkansas

Long Distance Firing.

A series of tests was recently made from many points in the Far East at Shoeburyness for the purpose of and are beautifully laid one upon an- investigating the conditions attendother, with alternate layers of their ing firing at very long ranges. The own leaves, and packed in wooden weight of the gun used was twentytwo tons, and that of the projectile Almena and Malaga in Spain fur- 380 pounds, which, fired with a whose covers are elaborately colored range of about 21,000 yards, or nearly lithographs of Spanish vineyard twelve miles. A shot at 45 degrees elevation gave a range of 21,600 yards, or about 12.4 miles. The projectiles remained in the air about 66.4 econds, and its trajectory reached a Dates, always in sacks made of height of 17,000 feet, or about 2,000 plaited "vegetable palm," are re- feet higher than the summit of Mt.

CURIOUS COINS.

SPECIMENS PRESERVED IN THE PHILADELPHIA MINT.

The Pet Eagle of the Mint-Queer Things for Money.

trade between Germany and this the government hardly more than the officers of the establishment fore selling and shipping are located imported at this season earlier and coins"—that is to say, the first pieces institution \$1,500,000,000 worth of later. As the habit of the plant is of new issues. Such "proof pieces" ble among these brings out many in- well known, and it may be counted are always made with unusual care, the silver used by the mint was teresting points, not only about the upon to flower in from nineteen to and retain the beauty which is so mostly obtained from South America been planted in sand and placed in a the numismatic cabinet had already comes from Colorado and elsewhere forcing house, the importers com- a nucleus, which exhibited the his- in the West. The copper is derived Southern Atlantic Ocean. Port pips come over in the holds of the added to and kept complete, while dug in Lancaster county, Pennsyl-Congress has supplied money for vania. purchasing foreign coins. In 1839

Of course, such small sums would not go very far, but other means have been adopted for adding to and enriching the collection. A good many coins have been secured by exchange, while thousands of valuable ones have been obtained for merely their bullion value by keeping a watch on the foreign money of all sorts sent into the mint for melting. In such money every now and then a rare and interesting piece turns up and is rescued from destruction. United States consuls abroad, missionaries and other citizens have presented numerous coins to Uncle Sam for this col-

One of the most interesting of the Japan and is worth \$75. It has a of human being was ever stamped on smooth and polished surface, into which an inscription is burned with the Great was thus used. He was so chemicals. Formerly it was the law that anybody who took a gold oban out of Japan should be punished with death, supposing the crime to be intentional; if it were accidental, the offender was to be imprisoned for life. Recently Japan has adopted the American system of coinage.

One trouble that embarrasses the financial problem in the land of the mikado is that the ordinary working people in that country have no pock-Without pockets, what is one going to do with coins? To carry one's ready cash in one's mouth is not always convenient, particularly at square holes in the centre, through is put in a which it was easy to pass a string, thus rendering it practicable to carry them about in the shape of a necklace. The absence of perforations in given rise to so much popular discontent that a new copper piece worth nearly a cent is now being struck for the benefit of the masses.

4,000 years. Many of their coins are what is technically known as a t'fin. and to operate as charms for the pro- heated in a furnace and then taken quired to make \$1.

Not less curious are the Siamese coins. Some of them are known as the ax is heated by being inserted in of silver and gold hammered into a being immersed. It is then cooled rudely spherical shape, with charac- by dipping in water and goes to the ters stamped on them. They bear as a hands of the inspector. An ax is device the sacred white elephant. subject to rigid tests before it is pro-In Burmah the peacock is a sacred nounced perfect. The steel must be animal, and for that reason it ap- of the required temper, the weight of pears on some of the coins from all axes of the same size must be that country. A very extraordinary uniform, all must be ground alike, Burmese piece of money is an ordi- and in various other ways conform to nary gravel stone inclosed in a circlet an established standard. The inof brass.

inet which contains only one solitary blade and striking the edge to ascercoin. An inscription says that the tain whether it be too brittle or not. piece was "struck in the Philadel- An ax that breaks during the tests phia mint at least 2,000 years ago." The mint in which it was stamped, liam Penn took the name for the worth about \$1 apiece, and forty of [Philadelphia Record. them would buy a slave. They were called "spondylus macutus," and it is alleged that from this ierm came the word "spondulics," meaning Indiana. It appears to be a fever of

money. A relic in the cabinet is a superb American eagle, stuffed and inclosed in a glass case. Its portrait has been preserved on the silver dollars of 1836, 1838 and 1839, and on the nickel cents of 1856. The bird's name was Peter, and he lived at the mint perched on a fly-wheel and get-breeches.

ting caught in the machinrey, was killed.

The first coins issued by the United States were half dimes of silver, struck in 1792, in which year the mint was established by act of Some of Them of Vast Antiquity- Congress. The first gold eagles made

were turned out in 1795. So late as 1825 the crime of embez-The wonderful collection of coins zing any of the coins struck at the. at the United States Mint in Phila- mint, or any of the metals brought delphia has been made at a cost to thither to be coined, by any of nominal. It was begun in 1838, says was punishable by death. The same the Washington Star, but previously penalty was attached to the ofa custom had been established of pre- fense of debasing any of the coins serving what are termed "master issued. In the weighing room of this gold has been weighed. Formerly quickly marred in circulation. Thus and Mexico, but now the supply tory and development of American mainly from the mines of Lake coinage up to that date. Since then Superior, and the finest is from the series of proof pieces has been Minnesota. Most of the nickel is

The primitive method of coining \$1,000 was appropriated for that pur- money was by casting the pieces pose, and since then \$300 a year has in sand, the design being afterward imprinted upon it by means of a hammer and punch. In mediæval times the process adopted was that of hammering metel into sheets of the desired thickness, cutting the planchets out with shears, and then stamping them by hand. The first steam coining press was invented in 1833.

In various ages almost everything has been used as money-soap in Mexico, sugar in the West Indies, codfish in Newfoundland, bullets in Massachusetts, logwood in Campeachy, tobacco in the early settlements of Virginia, salt in Abyssinia, bricks of tea in Tartary, silk in China, nails in Scotland, lead in Burmah. platinum in Russia, iron in Sparta, and tin in ancient Britain. The coins is an oval plate of gold four oldest coins now extant were made nches long. It is the "oban" of 800 B. C. It is asserted that no head a coin until the effigy of Alexander anxious as to how people of the future should consider his physical beauty that he would permit only three artists during his reign to make his portrait.

HOW AN AX IS MADE.

The Processes It Undergoes in Its Evolutions.

On entering the main workshop, the first step in the operation which is seen is the formation of the ax-head without the blade. The glowing flat iron bars are withdrawn from the furnace and are taken to a powerful and somewhat complicated machine which performs upon them four dismeal time, though many persons are tinct operations, shaping the metal to satisfied to use that receptacle on or- form the upper and lower part of the dinary occasions as a portemonnaie. ax, then the eye, and finally doubling In Japan the difficulty was got over the piece over so that the whole can formerly by making the coins with be welded together. Next the iron nace and heated to a white heat Taken out it goes under a tilt hammer and is welded in a second. This done, one blow from the "drop" and the modern Japanese currency has the poll of the ax is completed and firmly welded. Two crews of men are doing this class of work, and each

crew can make 1,500 axes per day. When the axe leaves the drop The Chinese claim that they have there is some superfluous metal still had coined money for more than adhering to the edges and forming supposed to have magical properties To get rid of the fin the ax is again tection of the possessor against fever in hand by a sawyer, who trims the and the devil. It is on this account ends and edges. The operator has a that when a Chinaman dies a small glass in front of him to protect his piece of money is placed in his mouth. eyes from the sparks which fly off by The same custom was followed in the hundreds as the hot metal is ancient Rome, but the coin was in- pressed against the rapidly revolving tended to pay the passage of the de-saw. The iron part of the ax is now funct across the waters of the river complete. The steel for the blade, Styx. Some of the Chinese coins used after being heated, is cut by machinas charms are covered with mestical ery and shaped. It is then ready for characters and symbolic animals. The the welding department. A groove Chinese have money of porcelain al- is cut into the edge of the iron, the so. The coin of the least value in the steel of the blade inserted, and the world is Japanese, 7,000 being re- whole firmly welded by machine hammers. Next comes the operation of tempering. The steel portion of 'bullet money," being merely lumps pots of molten lead, the blade only spector who tests the quality of the There is one small case in the cab- steel does so by hammering the

is thrown aside to be made over. Before the material of the ax is in however, was not in the Quaker City, the proper shape it has been heated but in the city of Attalus Philadel- five times, including the tempering phus, Asia Minor, from which Wil- process, and the ax, when completed, has passed through the hands of town of "brotherly love." There are about forty workmen, each of whom also some specimens of the gold shell has done something toward perfectmoney-made out of gold beaten into ing it. After passing inspection the the shape of shells by African natives, who supplied Portugese slave and from that to the polishers, who traders with slaves. These were finish them upon emery wheels .-

> A SINGULAR disease is epidemic in Southwestern Ohio and Southeastern the glands of the body, and is extremely annoying. The disease appears to be contagious, and it is a singular fact that the patient improves after a sharp wind blows. Those afflicted are compelled to take to their beds.

Missouri has a most remarkable six years. He was known as the phenomenon in Ray York, eleven "mint bird," and flew about the city | years old, whose eloquent preaching as he chose, nobody interfering with has been stirring up the dry bones him. He alway returned before the during a revival at Warrensburg, in building was closed. One day he that State. Ray preaches in knee

A GENEROUS SACRIFICE.

A New York Doctor Gives His Blood For a Patient.

The layman's invariable test of surgery is implied in his question, "Did the patient get well?" If the answer is negative, he doesn't care for the operation. The doctor's views are not so prejudiced. He knows surgery when he sees it, and recognizes the merit of it, when it has merit, without regard to idiosyncrasies of the patient. When the doctor says that the operation was entirely successful, but the patient died, the layman usually says nothing, but looks despondent. But even a layman can understand the success of that operation the other day at The most interesting of these curios the Long Island College Hospital, whereby the blood of Dr. Franklin Kemp was run into the veins of Kate Pomphrey. Kate Pomphrey had been found almost asphyxiated with gas, and was dying. Dr. Kemp, the house surgeon at the hospital, proposed to try transfusion of blood, and offered to contribute the blood. The operation was done before two hundred students in the operating-room of the hospital, and though mischances delayed its success and a lot of good blood was wasted, through the efforts of two surgeons, and largely through Dr. Kemp's own pluck and persistence, it was presently made to work right, and for five minutes blood did run through a tube out of his veins and into hers. The effect was immediate. The woman, who had been black in the face and very near death, revived at once, and though she died twenty-four hours later of other complications (Bright's disease), it remains clear that her life was saved for the time being by Dr. Kemp's loan of a share of his own abundant vitality.

Dr. Kemp's prompt and generous benevolence is highly praised, and rightly; nevertheless, I think that far more than most of us realize it runs in human blood to shed itself for humanity when the occasion calls. I suspect that there is a little parcel of heroism put up with almost every new soul, wich survives the crowding of ordinary petty selfishness, and is rarely eliminated altogether, except by years of calculating porcinity. It is strong stuff, and curiously capable of sudden expansion, so that as long as any of it is left, there is always a risk that it will swell out all in an unexpected moment, crowd calculation to the wall, and boss the job in hand .- Harper's Weekly.

A Queer Florida Sink Hole.

Hernando County abounds in the beautiful and curious in nature. One of the most attractive curiosities is the Devil's Punch Bowl. Why a punch bowl, or why the peculiar property of his Satanic Majesty, or why there should be a so-called pulpit in it, tradition has forgotton to keep All that one know a record. it is called the Devil's Punch Bowl.

A drive of a little over three miles over hard roads, a turn into the dense primeval forest, and suddenly on top of a grand elevation surrounded by a magnificent hammock timber, the

Punch Bowl is at your feet. There are several ways to reach the bottom of the bowl. The most expeditious is to let loose and roll down, but that is rather undignified. Once down its depths, its size is forcibly impressed on the mind, for what you took to be saplings and stones develop into magnolia and wahoo trees measuring five and six feet in circumference, and the stones that looked so handy from the brink become boulders of a very respectable size. It is hard to estimate the area of the bowl, but between one and two acres will probably approximate its size at the top, while the bottom is about one-fourth of this size and is from sixty to seventy feet below, the topmost boughs of the trees barely reaching the level of the surrounding ground. Its steep sides are draped with beautiful ferns, mosses and vines, and dotted all over with violets, modestly hiding away with the delicate maidenhair fern under the protecting leaves of the palmettos and vines. Looking up the sides of the steep slope the picture left on the mind is one of surpassing beauty, and it is hard for the stranger to realize that the scene is in Florida .-Brookville News-Register.

What Smoke Consists Of.

Smoke consists of minute particles of solid or liquid matter suspended in the air. and its color depends partly upon the chemical constituents of such particles, but also largely upon their size. Exact experiment has shown that as the size of minute particles suspended in air is gradually increased they rise to colors varying from sky blue down through the whole range of the spectral scale. This is the cause of sunset and sunrise colors in the sky. Its effects can be traced in the case of the two kinds of tobacco smoke modified by the murky tints of the carbonaceous products. The smoke given off from the heated surface of the burning tobacco in the bowl of the pipe consists of matter, all of which has been highly heated and very fully oxidized and decomposed. It consists mainly of exceedingly small solid particles, exhibiting by virtue of their smallness a bluish color. On the other hand, that smoke which has been drawn through the tobacco into the mouth of the smoker carries with it a relatively larger quantity of water and hydrocarbon, which are condensed upon the solid particles above mentioned. The relatively large size of such particles explains the well-known grayish color of the smoke which issues from the mouth of the smoker .-

ESKIMO WEAPONS.

Expert Use of Them by the Natives of the Far North.

To the interesting collection of curios gathered by Capts. Edwards and McDermott, United States Inspectors of Hulls and Boilers, during the last few 'years, have lately been added a number of weapons used by the Eskimos in the hunt and chase, and other articles and relies, presented by various persons in the Northwest and British Columbia.

The Eskimos' weapons were presented to the inspectors by the widow of the late Capt. John M. Olsen of Astoria, Master of the sealer Polar Bear, in accordance with a request which he expressed before his death. is a spear with a poisoned arrow head, which is the most effective of all the weapons used by the inhabitants of the "land of the midnight sun." The spear entire is about five feet long. It is made of wood, mounted with bone, in which are finely carved all the fantastic designs characteristic of the Eskimos in this line of work. The arrow is made in three pieces, two parts wood, and the third, which is the head, of bone dipped in poison. The three pieces are held together by a leather thong, but with a slight movement of the hand these can be disengaged, leaving the head, when it strikes the animal, curved in its body in such manner that it is impossible to disengage it without cutting the

When the weapon is used on whale, seal, or other water animal a floater, made of the bladder of a seal, is attached to the end of the spear, so that the hunter may trace its course and locate his game. The Eskimos have a peculiar way of "shooting" this weapon. The hunter holds in his right hand, high above his head, a short stick, or "gun," with a notch near the top, where the end of the spear fits snugly. Taking aim at his game, he moves his right hand swiftly forward, propelling the spear with lightning speed, and invariably with unerring aim at the mark. Instances have been recorded where a hunter brought down his game at fifty yards, and one or two Alaska story tellers, who have no fear of being discredited by the rising generation, say that animals have been slain at 100 yards' distance. But all agree that the average Eskimo is a marksman who never fails to hit his mark, and who, when so disposed, always provides plenty for his family with his primitive weapons. Sometimes to this spear is attached a rope of leather, one end of which is securely fastened to the hunter's arm, so that he may keep hold of his game. But this is only done on short-distance shots.

A weapon used in hunting birds is a tripod-shaped spear. This is thrown in the same manner as the poisoned spear. The hunter sneaks within distance of his covey of ptarmigan or other birds, and lets fly his weapon. If he be lucky, three birds are the reward of his skill; if not, one or two. The inspectors have weapons of the above kinds of several sizes,

but all used for the same purpose. Among the other articles are a belt and a pair of leggings finely ornamented with beads, made and worn by the Eskimos, and which they sell to curio seekers for \$25; also, a water bag, made of sealskin, a lariat, and several varieties of the well-known harpoon.

Next to the weapons, the skull of a Palouse Indian woman commands attention, for several reasons. The principal one is because her skull is shaped wholly unlike that of the common Palouse, and it is thought that she was a person of high degree -probably a princess, or at least a woman of high birth. From the earliest time in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant-who is still in existence—the Palouse Indians have continued the habit of their forefathers of flattening the rear part of the cranium of their female children of low birth. This was done so that they might be distinguished from the high-born natives. This woman had a full back head, but a low and retreating forehead .- [Oregonian.

Knew the Apple.

A man of about sixty years of age went into a store on Main street Wednesday afternoon and stood by the stove warming himself and listening to the conversation of the men present. Happening to glance at a barrel of apples by the counter, he took one up and bit it. He stopped, looked at the apple, and then stopped reflectively. After taking another taste of the apple, he broke out: 'Say I'd almost be willing to bet a dollar that I can tell where this apple grew. There is only one tree on earth that has the flavor that apple has, and it grew back of the house where I first lived when I was married and set up for myself. Say, now, didn't that apple grow in Bowdoinham? I know full well it did." The clerk told him that a man from that town brought them in, and the stranger said: "I have not been down there in ten years, yes, fifteen, but I remember this bitter-sweet apple tree, and the apples here taste as they did twenty years ago .- [Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

Scientific Discoveries.

A scientist has discovered that people eat more in cold than in warm weather. He may have also observed that they wear more clothing in winter than in summer, and that they maintain fires more constantly, Science is constantly making discoveries, but it sometimes overlooks very common phenomena .- [St. Paul