

## Agricultural Extension Notes

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THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, ST. CROIX.

### THE PAPAYA

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This delicious tropical fruit and vegetable deserves to be much more widely cultivated in the Virgin Islands.

Ten years ago the Experiment Station introduced the best varieties of Papaya from Hawaii. The fruits were apparently much appreciated and quite a quantity of seed was distributed. Since then the Station has continued to grow a few Hawaiian Papaya and to give away seed. Two years ago some seed of the best varieties of Papaya from Samoa were introduced and also some fresh seed from Hawaii. The plants raised from this seed have borne fruits already and a quantity of seed from these has been distributed in the Virgin Islands.

In spite of these efforts to introduce this fruit however, it would appear that there is still little interest taken in it, for there are still very few trees of these improved Papaya to be found in the Islands.

It is difficult to understand the reason for this, since the soil and climate of the Virgin Islands are well adapted to the plant.

Any few feet of ground in a backyard is capable of producing two or three Papaya trees, and they ought to be found in every back yard of every home in town, and they ought to be found on every plantation.

The fruit is wholesome; so much so, that, in Samoa, even babies and young children are largely brought up on it. When green, the fruit makes a delicate and delicious vegetable, resembling Squash. It contains a chemical substance called "Papain" which is a powerful digestive, resembling the animal digestive called "Pepsin". On this account alone it deserves a place in the diet of the people of these Islands.

The Papaya plants are of two kinds, Male and Female. Only the latter bear fruit, but the former are necessary to fertilise the latter. It is useless however to keep more than one male Papaya tree to every eight or ten female trees. The male trees bear their blossoms on long pendulous spikes, while the female trees bear their blossoms singly, and close to the main trunk of the tree.

The Papaya bears fruits in less than a year from planting, and, as a rule, continues to bear for about a year. After this time the trees usually acquire disease, and the fruits become smaller, so that it is best to raise a fresh crop from seed every one or two years. Keep the seed of the best and sweetest fruits for propagation.

On account of the ease with which this plant can be raised and the great value of the fruit for its wholesomeness and digestive properties let us determine to raise Papaya, and encourage our neighbours to do likewise. Every labourer should have a few of these plants in his piece of vegetable ground.

### TELEGRAMS.

#### ST. CROIX STATION.

London, June 6th.—The next development in the coal dispute is not unlikely to be direct negotiations between the coal mine owners and the men. The Premier, it is announced, is suffering from a chill and has been ordered to rest for a few days. As he is under engagement to visit Oxford toward the end of the week and then go to Wales, it is not likely that he will be available for any immediate negotiations and the mine owners are already taking steps to invite the miners executives to meet them to talk matters over. A semi-official statement was issued last night to the effect that the coal strike is causing a deficit averaging 9,500,000 pounds monthly on the working of the railways which being under government control this amount has to be compensated to the shareholders at the expense of the taxpayers. Thus with the cost of calling up the reserves, which have only just been disbanded, and of the new defence force and the expenditure of unemployment benefits, there is a heavy drain on the state finances, and it is considered that the government is debarred in this way from holding out for an indefinite period its offer of ten million pounds to tide the coal industry over the difficult period.

St. Cloud, France, June 6th.—Mlle. Lenglen yesterday won the women's world Hardcourt tennis championship by defeating Mrs. Malloyd. The United States contenders in two straight sets, the score being 6-2, 6-3.

London, June 6th.—Dr. Sthamer German Ambassador to Great Britain, today delivered a note to the British Foreign Minister complaining that the threat of the inter-Allied commission to withdraw the Allied troops from the towns in the industrial regions of Upper Silesia, unless a withdrawal of the German defence begins forthwith, is a grave breach of the peace treaty. The note declared the threat of the inter-Allied commission was tantamount to placing the German population of Upper Silesia at the mercy of the Polish insurgents, and make the unloosing of civilian war inevitable, because it was impossible for the German Government to bring pressure to bear on the defence force to leave the German population defenceless to the insurgents. According to the Ambassadors note, his reference was to the interallied ultimatum delivered on June 4th, expiring in twelve hours, and it declared that the inter-Allied

commission had prohibited the Polish insurgents from reoccupying the places they had evacuated since the evening of June 3rd the St. Hamer note says that if the industrial region is evacuated, inasmuch as there are no Allied troops available to prevent the Poles from following up the retiring force, the population would be exposed to the most brutal Polish terror and the situation would be intolerable, not only for the inhabitants in Upper Silesia, but for the whole German people.

New York, June 7th.—The early raw sugar market was nominal. No business was reported. Raw sugar futures were firmer, and at midday were three to five points net higher, though the volume of business was light. No change occurred in refined sugar, with fine granulated from 6.25 to 6.30. Only one lot of September change hands at 6.00, or five points higher.

Oppeln, June 5th.—An ultimatum had been issued by the French to General Von Hoefer, saying that unless within 24 hours he withdraws the German forces which advanced several kilometres on the Annaberg sector in upper Silesia, following the insurgent attacks on Friday and Saturday, French troops in the industrial section will be withdrawn. The ultimatum, delivered by a British officer, was merely acknowledged by Von Hoefer. It was not answered, but an appointment has been made for a meeting at Oppeln at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning between Von Hoefer and the British Commander.

Oppeln, June 8th.—Rosenburg, a town about 20 miles northeast of this city, and located near the old Polish frontier, has been occupied by a battalion of British troops. Rosenburg was taken by Polish insurgents during their first advance in Upper Silesia, and there has been danger of serious fighting there between the Poles and Germans.

Paris, June 7th.—The British Note regarding Upper Silesia declared that the British Govt. has agreed with the French on the establishment of order in Upper Silesia. It considers, however, that it must wait a report from Sir Harold Stuart before pronouncing the course to follow in order to arrive at a solution of the question. Hope is expressed that the arrival of a new British commissioner will quickly enable the Govt. to have a complete idea of the situation.

New York, June 8th.—The German Government made another payment yesterday of about \$14,000,000 towards the Allied reparations account. The exact figures were not revealed by officials of the federal reserve bank to whom the money was turned over to the credit of the Bank of England and the Bank of France. This brings the total payments to approximately \$50,000,000. An additional \$30,000,000 remains to be paid on this side by Germany.