

**BANANA WITH SEED IS RARE PRODUCT**

**OCCASIONALLY HAPPENS**

**Believed That in Earlier Periods Condition Was More General, Museum Scientist Explains**

Did you ever bite into a banana and get a mouthful of seeds, as big as hazel nuts and as hard as bullets? This may happen to you some day, but probably it never will, declares Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, acting curator of botany at Field Museum of Natural History, as he placed on exhibition two specimens of banana seed. One of these has just been received from Panama, where it is an introduced plant; the other is from India.

**Sporadic Cases**  
"The cultivated banana which we eat is said to develop seeds in sporadic cases, similar to those of the wild banana," said D. Dahlgren, "but I know of no authentic instance, and such seeds are probably rarer than pearls in oysters, if not as scarce as

hen's teeth. The chances of finding a fruit with seeds are apparently not one in many millions, which is fortunate for people who are fond of bananas, as the seeds would prove to be jaw-breakers. They would be black, and of the size and consistency of shoe buttons.

"In the cultivated species of banana the seeds have degenerated into the small, soft, sometimes black specks observed in the center of the fruit. The banana plants bearing these species are propagated by 'suckers' or sprouts which shoot from the underground stem. These have great vitality, a fact which has facilitated the spread of the banana to many parts of the world far from its ancestral home in southeastern Asia."

**Species Has Seeds**  
Dr. Dahlgren explained that most of the 50 for more species of wild banana plants bearing inedible fruit multiply by means of seeds; some of them by sprouts as well. The Panama seeds received at the museum were obtained by a joint expedition of Yale university and the Field Museum. They are from a species commonly called the "virgin" banana, which is said to have no sprouts; it sends up only a solitary stem, while the cultivated banana plant, once established keeps producing new fruiting stems almost indefinitely. The elimination of the seeds in the

fruit may have occurred spontaneously in the ancestors of the cultivated bananas, or may have taken place after the banana began to be cultivated, Dr. Dahlgren declared. There is a wild banana in Fiji in which seeds are not common, and not abundant when they do occur, he said.

"But all we know definitely about the history of the edible banana's loss of seeds is that it happened before the time of Burbank," Dr. Dahlgren says.

**BRITISH DEVELOP NEW MOTOR OF 1000 H. P.**

**It Is 12-Cylinder Aero Engine Designed by Royce of Automobile Fame**

British aeronautical experts have attained another achievement. They have constructed an aero engine capable of developing 1,000 horsepower. Equipped with 12 cylinders and called the 490 h.p. Rolls-Royce F-12 this engine will add about thirty miles and hour to the speed of heavily loaded bombing planes. It uses in proportion to its power, less fuel, and has a smaller frontal area, than any other standard aero engine in the world, according to International News.

This economy in fuel will enable bombing aircraft to be built for a greater radius of action, and the reduced frontal area will permit the fuselage to be so streamlined that a much higher speed will be obtainable.

The frontal area is considerably less than that of the 900 horsepower engine used by the Italian "ace" Bernardi when he obtained the world's air speed record of 318 miles an hour.

The twelve cylinders are arranged in the shape of a V. The carburetors are between the cylinders and the magnetos are tucked away at the rear of the engine, which has many novel technical features, the details of which are unavailable owing to the secrecy of their design.

The compression ratio is 6 to 1, and the fuel consumption at normal power and speed is 30 gallons an hour.

The politician who tried to win by running down his opponent ought to learn a lesson from the case of the saxophone. Thousands of mean remarks have been made about the sax during the past few years but it seems to be more popular than ever.

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