

variety of it that we appear to have) is much appreciated in America. We also use it largely for stocks. The Bedana (seedless) grape was also another fruit that attracted Messrs. Popenoe's attention. Altogether I am in hopes that these estimable young gentlemen found their visit a fairly profitable one. As a return they have enlightened me as to their conditions in California to the extent that I have almost decided to make it my home when I retire which I hope to do in 3 or 4 years or so."

OMAN. Mascat. Mr. F. W. Popenoe writes, Oct. 29, 1912: "I am just back from Wadi Semail, one of the most interesting trips I ever made, and I am loaded to the guards with facts, and descriptions of 40 varieties of dates, mostly new to science. Best of all, I found there were 1000 or more trees of the Khalas there, so that relieves the situation, and makes it possible, I believe, for me to get this date into California. I had one opportunity to taste the fruit, and it is certainly all that you say it is.

"Most of the plantations there are set out in regular order, a feature that is probably found in no other of the world's great date growing regions, save Morocco; and I suspect this to be the only one where it is the practice to root all offshoots in nursery rows.

"The date season (which lasts 5 months; the var. Hilali is not yet ripe) is the only time of year when the road to Semail is sure to be open, and even then it is an uncertain thing, as I found out by personal experience. It is therefore no certainty that I will be able to get the offshoots out of there when I am ready to ship, but I have every expectation of doing so, in which case I will be able to offer you some very interesting facts.

"Mr. Brett, the consul here, went into the valley with me, and we were personal guests of the Sultan - that is what comes from having a little government encouragement.

"We had a caravan of 11 of the Sultan's best camels and everything was made extremely pleasant for us. Unfortunately, Wilson was obliged to stay here with a touch of fever."