

Cantaloupes

Melons were first called cantaloupes from being cultivated at Cantaluppi, a villa near Rome, where they had been introduced from Armenia, by missionaries. The name is said to be still in use in some parts of Europe for a class of deeply ribbed, yellow fleshed melons. In this country it is applied to different kinds of melons in different localities, and the significance of the word can not be well defined as now used. - Vick's Magazine.

Clothes-Pins.

Clothes-pins are one of the staple exports of this country. In the spring millions are shipped to Europe, the majority being sent to England and France. There are five factories in this country which manufacture over 50,000,000,000 of clothes pins annually. They are situated in New Haven, Jersey City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Boston. Yellow pine, maple, and hickory are the best woods for pins, as they season easily, and dampness does not spring them. The greater portion of the wood comes from Maine, and many thousands of feet of the good pine woods of that State find their way into clothes-pins. It takes only a foot of wood, six inches in thickness to produce nearly 300 pins. The block of the dimensions given is divided into 288 pieces, which are thrown into an automatic machine capable of turning out 500 pins every 10 minutes; square pieces of wood thrown into the machine by the bushel, come out of it with neatly turned heads and smooth slots which fit snugly over the clothes-lines. The domestic trade in clothes-pins is calculated roughly at 30,500,000,000 yearly.

It is a singular fact that clothes pins are seldom used in the extreme South. There the clothing is doubled over the line and allowed to hang until dry, which, owing to the warmth of the climate, is a short time. We first began exporting clothes-pins to Europe in large quantities in 1848, and as the duty on them in foreign ports is only nominal, we can sell them cheaper than they can be made there. The American clothes-pin is a civilizer in no slight degree, for where a pin is needed, a washing of clothing is essential; a clean person after clean clothing is demanded, and if "cleanliness is next to godliness," the clothes pin is a missionary to be bought by the gross. - N. Y. Tribune.



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