## PORTO RICO'S FINE PALMS.

Furnish Food, Clothing and Utensils for the Natives.

Broad Palm Leaves Used for Wash Tubs-The Gourd-like Fruit of the Calabash Tree Makes Plates and Spoons-Valuable Medicinal Oils Taken from Many Trees.

to be issued by the department of Agriculture Mr. Kobert Hill gives some valuable and interesting information about Porto Rico trees and fruits and also the soil formation of the island There are many species of pam upon the island, and these trees are perhaps the most used by the natives of all the foreign products. Combined in them are sustenance, clothing and utensils for the natives of the tropics.

In Porto Rico the leaf of the paim is largely used for thatch and sheathing of the houses of the poor, and its briad leaves for washtubs and other domestic utensils.

Concerning the Moriche of Sago palm, it has been said that 'when the heat of summer has parched everything about this tree, travelers find at its roots water aways cool, which escares from subterranean veins. The most tender part of its fruit center serves as a garden vegetable to the nutives and from its yourg eboots they draw the cords which form their fish nets and from which they weave their hammocks. It is refreshing nourishment before its fruit is matured and when ripe it makes oil, soap, and postes, which are sweetened with hency. With the dry leaves of this plant the Indians cover their hats, from its sprouts they manufacture mats, blankets, hats, and sails for their vessel. The trunk contains in its upper portion a sweet jaice. from which a kind of wine is produced. From the trunk, beards and sometimes small boats are made. A natural texture which covers the cluster of fruit before it mutures serves as which is called yuruma, used for makried wemen. The palm which does not bear fruit furnishes a mealy 14th, which is called yuruma, used fo making bread and also pottage or scup. A thick, white worm is found in the rotter medulla, which is eaten and considered a great delicacy.

The yagua or cabbage ralm grows on the plairs and in the forests The back is flexible, very durable, and serves to cover bouses and divide their interiors, to make chests and boxes for storing clothing and for transporting rice and coffee. On a journey the leaves are taken as a protection from heavy rains, and they serve many other rees.

The reyal palm is most highly prized by Porto Ricans. Growing to 100 feet or more, his siender trunk is crowned near its summit by leaves. A green shoot, delicate andpointed, from 10 to 12 feet in length, constitutes the upper end of the trunk. At the hase of this a fruit cluster from 3 to 4 hands in length, divided into different olive-shaped fruit, larger than the soon sours. fillert, the interior nut being covered with a green substance. This fruit of the royal palm is very useful in fattening swine, which is the only use made of it.

In other iglands they extract an oil from this fruit which is very good far lights and other uses. The central part of the palm is cooked and eaten like cabbage, and is sometimes prepared as a salad. The Indians call it the "pira." In Ferto Rico it is rarely used, although it has an agree.

The palms called "coyures" are taller than the royal palms. The fruit grows in clusters, but is smaller, and the hard, round nuts, much like the above, serve as food for swine. The negroes extract from this palm a liquid which is very agreeable and healthful. It is used as a specific in cases of fever

The pelm called "corozo" (oil palm) is very common. Its tall trunk is entirely covered with sharp thorns three fingers king. At the top it is crowned by very long frends. Its fruit is in small clusters, composed of nuts as large as eggs, whose yellow covering is very hard and bursts when ripe The inner nut is white, divided into three parts, less solid than the outer shell. Its taste is agreeable, but it sours in a short time. In Porto Rico the corozo serves as food for swine, but foreigners extract from its nuts an o'l which is medicinal, and

useful for many purposes, The coco paint is found in great numbers on the plains and coasts, and is a profitable plant for cultivation. The external sheath of the communut is composed of a multitude of fibres which form a nap of reddish color, which is excellent for calking boats, as it resists water letter thun tow, and endures longer. The Indians make a cordage from this fibre and sails for their boats, and in the dockyards of Guayaquill, Equador, they we no other calking material in repairing vessels. Beneath this exterior fibrous covering is another, the color of chestnuts, which is very hard, and although elastic, is easily broken. A fine oil made from the meat of the eccoanut is used for lighting and cooking. The Indians make an intextcating drink from the sap of the court nut tree, which at first has a bittersvect taste, afterwards becoming sour. In Porte Rico the nuts are utilized by drinking the water from them when young, by making sweetmeats from the meat, and by 'naunfacturing drinking cups from the outside shell. From the trunks of the trees the best plain boards are made for the houses, because of their resistance to the inclemency of the weather. There are masses of fibre at the base of the leaves, which appear like bunches of tow or bast. These are the fitrous remains of dried leaves which have lost their fleshy acrtion. and appear like pieces of cloth woven

Washington Sept. 26, - In a bulletin | from thick tow. This is used for filtering and sifting.

Hardly second to the Jalms in point of usefulness is the bami-so cane This beautiful plant may be seen evtrywhere, growing in graceful, feathery clumps. Its stem is used for fence posts, telegraph poles, and construction of the huts of the peasant. The individual joints are also used for utensils, flower 1 ots, and for propagating the coccanut seed.

A small tree known as the hignerta also called the Palma-Christi, abounds on the coast. This tree produces a bunch of berries similar to the coffee, which, when beiled, yields very clear oil. This serves as an illuminating oil, giving a clear light without odor and without smoke. It is also much used as a purgutive, as a remeily for fevers, and the Indians apply the leaves for relief from headurhe.

The tamaring is found in the plains and in the forests. It grows equally well on the warra coasts and in the cool mountains. The tree is very large and spreading. Its trunk reaches 10 feet in circumfeence. The wood is hard and red in color. The feul' has a pleasant taste. Diluted with water it forms a delicate and whole some teverage like that of the lemon, and is considered by some even more agreeable Sweetmeats are made of the fruit; also remedies for fevers, vicious humors, scurvy, etc.

The papaya, or "pawpaw tree", is found in the mountains and is grown near the houses, because the islanders enjoy the fruit as well raw as cooked in the "olla." The tree is small, reaching 3 or 4 yards in height and less than a foot in diameter. It is straight and has he branches, from the middle of the trunk to the top it throws out leaves. The fruit grows in the argle of the leaf where it is joined to the trunk and covers the entire circumference of the latter in such a manner that it cannot be seen from its middle to its top, being covered by pawpaws. The fruit grows to the size of an ordinary melcu. The very sweet pulp of the fruit is somewhat nausecus and insipid. Eater with the setds it has an agreeable taste, is strengthening, diuretic, antiscorbutic, ac's as a vermifuge, and is used in making comfits.

The guanabana grows here, but is small. It blooms twice a year. The fruit is heart shaped, and ordinarily weighs from 6 to 7 pounds. It's pulp is very white, tender and full of a juice which is rauseous because too sweet, and contains small black seeds like the watermelon. This fruit is used as a remedy for diarrhoea and fevers, being very cooling and healthbranchlets, grow coit about once a ful. The juice extracted has the colmonth This cluster is full of a green or and tast of muscatel wine, but it

The tachuelo or totumo (calabash) tree is found nea: all houses. This tree is quite large, its trunk and branches are crooked and knotty, with a few small, fleshy, lustous green leaves. The fruit is ovul, with a smooth, light-green and very compact, although pliant, covering, and on the tree presents different forms The pulp is white, spongy, like that of the sandles watermelon, and the seeds resemble those of that fruit but the taste is bitter and biting. The guardlike fruit serves for plates, pitchers. spoons, and other domestic uses. furnishing most of the dishes and utensils of the poor. The guiderc, or guire, a peculia: musical instrument used by all the peasantry, is also made of it.

The tree called tahanuco, which vields a valueble resin, is common, especially in the mountain of Luquillo and in high parts of the Island. This resin is very white, very bitter, and is said to kill the borer and other pests that destroy wood. For this reason it was used in former times for calking boats and was of great utility because of its durability and value as an insectioide. It is sometimes employed in the churches for incense and as a remedy in some diseases.

No less useful are the cystra of the trees called cupey, mora, algarroba, and especially that called pinuela. The latter makes a varnish-like cement so permenent thek broken articke may be united so firmly that they never break again at the print of un-

icn. The celiba tree grows to over 100 feet in height. Its diameter is so great that from its trunk canoes are 50 feet in length and 10 to 12 feet in breadth. This tree produces a great quantity of peds, 4 inches in length and I inch in width, which are full of a fine soft cown called wool of celba. When these pods mature they open and the wind carries away the contents. The same is the case with the tree called guao, which differs but little from this. Some value the wool highly for mattresses and cushions, for providing pensions for and assistbecause they are cool and soft.

The canalistolo it not uncommon. form of a lance. The tree is covered with yellow flowers in the spring. The physicians call the pulp of the fruit caua, and purgatives are made from

Another tree which the forests contain produces the pamients of all- form a ring. Then some one blow the spice. Although it is abundant and feather into the air and sil must do of the best quality, it is little known their part to keep it in the air and is ordinarily gathered by the natives blown from one side to another, while only after falling from the trees when the efforts made to keep it floating are it is ripe, on wet soil exposed to rain very funny. Sometimes in the exciteund dews, which cause it to deteriorate. Therefore its condition when exported is not a criterion of its real quality. This tree grows among the and fun follow.

forest trees of the southern coast of of Porto Rico, especially in the districts of Ganyuma, Ponce, and Coama which are the dryest and least fertile in the island, the tree being rare on the northern coast, which are fertile. Its stem is tall, straight, and smooth; the wood is hard and suitable for working, having a dark realish color, which in time becomes a lustrous black. Its bark is a silver gray, its branches rich in foliage; the leaves, which resemble the laurel, have the odor of papper and serve for condiments and different remedies. In Jamaica and other places this tree is cultivated by transplanting it to uplands which will not serve for sugar The pimienta is also gathered cane in Jamaica by bearing the branches with a role before it is perfectly ripe, and it is dried in the sun, protected from all campness and dew. It is cleansed with care and put into bags for transportation to Europe, with which there is a presperous commerce. In Porto Rico it ir utilized mostly without any precautions for preserving it from humidity or any preparations for drying it in the sun, as it is gathered a few barrels at a time, the rest being abandoned. The climate produces a variety of

fruits, unusual in their growth, and of excellent quality. The orange, lime, lemon, citron, guava, cashaw, anona, corazones, mamey, johos, aguacate (alligator pear), mango, and other fruit trees of warm countries are common throughout the island. The Antilles are comparatively free from harmful animals and poisonous plants, but there are a few species of the latter with which the traveler should become acquainted in . rder to avoid unpleasant consequences. Three of these are alleged to be especially injurious-the guao tree, the manchineel bush, and a small herb called the tibey. The tree called guao, called by the

Mexicans tellathiam, although useful for the juice extracted, is poisonous; it is alleged that it benumbs the persen who rests under its shade and causes the hair of animals which rub against its trank to fall off. It inflarges for some days the hands and eyes of carpenters who work it. It is employed for making beds, because it drives away the chinch (or bed) bug, and its juice kills the wood borer which grows in articles made of wood. More serious still are said to be the results of resting in the shade of the mansanillo or manchineel. This tree spreads throughout the sea coasts and river banks, is covered with regular leaves, its stem almost two feet in circumference, its bark smooth and delicate, the flowers rose tinted; it is loaded with small apple like fruit of a pleasant appearance and odor; the eaves resemble those of the pear tree; the entire tree is full of a milky juice. which exudes in the heat of the sun. According to current beilef, the Incantious traveler, attracted by the beauful appearance of the mananzillo reposing in its shade, soon finds himself poisoned, and if the lacteal substance falls upon him from the leaves, or if he touches the leaves, he suffers on from an aplication of some blistering substance, It is also said that a fish which eats the food becomes infected. the gills becoming velow and black. and one who eats the fish in this state is said to fall into a profound lethargy with a general relaxation of all the limbs, according to the quantity of fish he has eaten. This effect, arcording to popular belief, continues suits in death. The use of brandy or other spiritual liquers or the drinking of sea water is considered benefit inl as an antidote.

A small berb called the tipey, the flower of which resembles the lobella, grows in the pastures of the island. Its poison is said to be so active that a horse or other animal eating of it dies in a short time The natural instinct of the animal teaches it to avoid this dangerous plant as soon as the odor reaches bim.

The cowhage abounds upon the limestone soils of Porto Rico. This is a tropical climbing plant, with beantike pols, very much resembling huge brown caterpillars. They are overed by a multitude of fine poisonous hairs which, when disturbed, irritate the skin like the sting of nettles.

THE BRITISH INDIA COMPANY. It Owns 99 Steamships, 11 of Which Exceed 5,000 Tons.

At the close of May the fleet of the British India Steam Navigation company, limited, consisted of 99 steamships, the gross registered tonnage of no fewer than eleven exceeding 5,000 tons, says an Australian newspaper. Moreover, the directors had contracted for seven more steamships, each of a dead-weight capacity of over 8,000 tons, four to be delivered this year and three next year. But, owing, doubtless, to the rapid development of an enormous coastal trade, and possibly to the prospect of trooping engagements from India to the cape, the company haz purchased four of the largest steamships of the New Zealand Shipping company, each of a gross tonnage of about 4500 tons. The British India company has been very prosperous, having, with a paidup capital of £694,800, accumulated a reserve fund of £300,000, a boiler and repair fund of £100,000 and an insurance fund of £350,000. It has another fund worth noting, viz.: "good service and compassionate fund-amount held ing widows and children of old or incapacitated and deserving employes The tree is tall, its wood hard, of a of the company, at the absolute direcreddish color, and the leaves have the tion of the directors, £37,632, 18s 3d."

BLOW THE FEATHER.

tlet a large sheet or table cloth and a small feather. Have the company take hold of the edges of the sheet and because of its limited exportation. It not let it touch any one, and so it is ment of keeping the feather up, some-

## BUILDING NEW TELEPHONE LINFS

Peculiar Features of a Comparatively New Business-How the Work of Construction of Long-Distance Lines Is Carried On.

closely.

girl "operators" to brawny "ground- and it has also tended to make conmen," it takes SC,000 persons to keep the telephone business of the United States moving, Twenty-eight thousand are employed in the operation in maintenance of the completed lines; the other 2000 are hustling constantly in the strotching of new lines. There is much of the humdrum and the monotonous in the life of the 28,000, for their duties, mostly of a routine nature, are gone through with week after week and year after year, without much variation of method or change of scene. Monotony is an unknown quantity among the 200, they are continually on the move, for telephone extension is going on in nearly every state of the union, and they encounter new combinations and novel problems almost daily.

The laying out and building of line of speaking wire requires the services of individuals following many different kinds of occupations-men of profound scientific and technical knowledge, shrewd professional men with political aptitude, men trained to a dozen different trades and common laborers-not counting those who ilraw the wire for the line or those who make the instruments and the numerous minor essentials of construction.

It would not be easy to say along which line of activity the energies of the telephone men are first exerted in actual construction, but, logically, the man who lays out the line makes the start, with a great number of county and city maps, covering the territory to be crossed, spread out be fore him. When the line is several hungred miles in length his examination of these maps is long and tedious. Both telegraph and telephone wires are almost invariably strung along either railroads or highways, that repairing linemen may reach them readily. Raillroads offer the shorter rontes, as a rule, but telephone lines generally the highways, because the telegraph being earlier on the ground, had pre-empted most of the railroad lines before ever a telephone wire was strung. It is the duty of the man who lays out the line-his title is engineer of construction-to determine what roads shall be followed in order to get the shortest route and provisionally to indicate its exact location in vivid red-ink lines on, the map of every city and county between terminal 1-cents. A thousand men are preparing the

materials for construction, meanwhile, but the work next in order, logically, is that of these advance couriers of the telephone, the "right-of way men." Their first task is the securing of franchises or other legal permits from all the local authorities to go ahead. These were often over looked in the early days of telephone construction, but never are now, lack of fermal permits having been taken advantage of in some places by the ill-disposed, to the great inconvenience of the public as well as the telephone folk. It is in doing right-of-way work that the professional med with political aptitude are employed. They are generaled by a man who has had much previous right-of-way experience in various parts of the country. but local characters, possessed of 'pull' with the councilmen, town boards and other home authorities, are necessarily taken on from one end of the route to the route to the other. Besides franchises, they also secure permission for the placing of poles from the farmers and other property owners in front of whose premises the line is to pass. This must be very carefully and thoroughly done, hence lawyers are employed, mostly, and well paid for their services. The title of every piece of property involved must be looked up, and when there is a mortgage, the mortgagee's consent, as well as the owner's, must be obtained, otherwise, in case of foreclosure and sale, the new owner might cut down the pole; thus crippling the line seriously, and still be within the

law. Naturally, the right-of-way men operate in harmony with the surveying party. The surveyors are as inportant in laying out a telephone line as in laying out a railroad. As fast as franchises and permits are got the poles are located and their height deterpiloed. There is variation in height only when the country is broken; then roles of extra length are employed to overcome irregularities of the ground. Telelphone men term this "grading." At curves in the line the strein on the poles is equalized by guying. A stake is driven by the surveying party to show the exguyed or not etc., being written indelibly upon the top of the stake, which has been smoothed off for that purpose.

of new country. They are placed ly, a transposition "scheme" trolled by a foreman

the locaters. Ground men dig holes, shinning up and down poles. half a stick of dynamite is inserted construction party can make them, and the hole is "blown out." The use So much for the actual construction of dynamite has increased the rapidi- work between towns. The commis-

Including all hands, from pretty ty cf telephone construction vastly struction gangs unpopular in some places. Thus, in a certain town the blowing out of a hole located near a back yard, where a week's washing sprinkling the spotless linen on the lines with a liberal deposit of fine red earth cust and called for the payment of a crisp \$2 bill to a highly excited housewife.

> a "butting board." 'pike poles," a "deadman" and a 'plumb bob." The butting board is placed upright in the hole for the pole to "butt" against, so that the hole may not be enlarged agains the process of crection, the pikes are for the pulling and hauling of the peles this way and that. The curiously named "deadman" is a tool us-d only in setting tel-phone and telegraph poles. In length the "deadman" is a little less than 6 feet, to correspond with the average live man. It is made of heavy, strong wood. One end is sl-od with a piece of pointed iron, so that it will penetrate the earth a little way; the other end is hollowed out for the reception of the pole and furnished with a sharp steel

> The name deadman was first used after the killing of a live man who filled the place now filled by it. Erectors use the deadman as a prop while raising the pole. Having fitted the pole to the butting board, the small end is lifted by main strength till it is about 6 feet in the air. Then the deadman is put in place underneath and the pole allowed to rest on it while the live men get a fresh hold and-lift it a little higher. When this has been accomplished the deadman is shoved a few feet nearer the big or hold, and of the pole, and these operations are repeated till the pole is up After the erectors the "alignment man" comes along with his plumb bob to see that the pole is exactly vertical, and he and the tampers complete the setting of the pole.

> The wire stringers follow about two miles behind. They work much more rapidly now than formerly. In the old days they were content to put up one wire at a time; now they string ten together. The first wire-stringing operation is

performed by a rian who drives a horse hauling the "running rope," To it is attached the "running board," pieces of the poles and a hallt is made reached it. While the horse has been shinning up the pole. He attaches each wire to its proper insulator with done at an incrediblel rate. Then he climbs down, makes for the next pole, ing" to the talking wires. 130 feet away, and repeats the operation. This goes on at the rate of forty poles to the mile and two and LINES HIS WALLS WITH LEGS. one half miles a day (100 poles is a and cay after day till the line is completed. At every three-quarters of a mile the wires are cut, temporarily when the wind blows and never strike each other-wires of varying tensions vibrate variously, often strike to gether in windy times and so cause to be there. no end of confusion among telephone subscribers.

After the stretching comes "transposition" of the wires. "Transposition" means cutting two wires carried by the same crossbar and crossing them at definite intervals so that the curon the other side of the line of poles. I came home to Chicago. This is often overlooked in telegraphle construction, but never in long distance telephone work. A complete gives, owing to some reasons connectexplanation of its whys and where- ed with the way my leg was ampufores would need to be a treatise on induction and other intricate electric-induction and other intricate electric-al phenomena, but a hint or two may al phenomena, but a hint or two may first leg. In '66 an express package be given. In medern telephony metallic and not ground circuits are used; that makes two wires necessary for legs were of no use to me, and, thereeach circuit, so that ten wires mean only five circuits. Experience has shown that the mystic current plays in '67 another leg came. I wrote again act location of every bole, instructions all sorts of pranks with the trans-as to its length, whether it is to be mission of sounds when a lot of wires of their legs now that I couldn't use, running straight along are strung on and didn't want them to go on and the same poles. The pranks are bankrupt the government buying me mostly elin-inated by transposing the wires, but curiously enough, it won't The construction party follows the do to transpice two sets of wires got another leg. They began to get surveying party as rapidly as maybe which run over the same line of poles in the way around the house, so then It takes a party of about eighty men at identical points, for this leads to I started the labeling and dating of to build a fine of ten wires through a "complete parallelism," a phenome- each one, and hanging them up on the well settled region. Including all non which all telephone men dread, walls of my den. They come regularthe extras, 106 men at least are need- but which few outsile the busi- ly-one each year. There's thirty-five ed for construction across a stretch ness have ever heard ct. According- there now, and I guess I'll last long has under discipline, almost military in to be wrought out for every line, and its reverity, the party as a whole he- when there are reveral wires the ing in charge of a construction super- scheine is a highly elaborate affair. GUN TO SHOOT FIFTEEN MILES. intendent and each division being con- Like the man who fastens the wires to the insulators, the one who trans-The "groundmen" come first after poses them spends much of his time He of course, and are armed with crow- must have great experines, but his hars, picks, shovels, angurs and dyn- knowledge of electricity need not be amite. Formerly dynamite was not great, no matter how complicated used save when rock was found near the transposition scheme, for it is taining its maximum rarge. When the surface; nowadays holes are dug made ready in advance and he has fired for the first time, the shot went only a little way down with pick and only to follow instructions. He is out to sea miles beyond the targets. shovel; even in the softest soil, after the last man to pass over the line. Though the range of the new weapon which a boring is made with a 2-inch | When he has finished the wires are as has not been actually measured or augur as deep as the pole is to be set, nearly ready to talk as the overhead

sary and material departments are quite as important, for the men must se housed and fed in their hustilli progress across the country and their materials must always be at hand.

The method for conducting the commissary department varies according to the nature of the territory passe through. In thickly settled res the men eat and sicep at hotels, farm houses and boarding houses along the route, hotels being preferred. The advent of a gang of eighty men creates no end of excitement in each neighborhood, and, of course, their accommodation fills all the spare bedrooms and the extra places at the table. Every construction gang is prewas hung out to dry, resulted in creded by one or more men hunting for boarding places, and these men are also charged with arrangements for the transportation of the force to and from work mornings and nights, The "erectors" follow the ground- far as they can be taken economical-From seven to eight miles is about as Each erecting gang carries ly, and there is, therefore, an average distance of about lifteen miles between headquarters,

> When the country is thinly settled the party is furnished with vansgreat specially constructed wagens, sumewhat like circus wagons-so containing berths for sleeping purposes, some being fitted with ranges and cooking utensils to serve as kitchens, and others being loaded with food for the men, foder for the horses and misellancous supplies. A camp is pitched at the ckss of each day's work and the number of men in the party is augmented by teamsters, cooks, waiters and deers of all sorts of odd jobs. Houseboats were Enilt to accommedate the party which constructed the line along the course of a certain Southern river through region ill-supplied with highways, and all hands were foated down the stream by night between two days' work. That party was highly unfortunate; the men insisted upon drinking tha river water, a lot of them fell sick of typhoid fever and several died before its ravages could be checked.

Getting poles, wires, cross-pieces and other essentials of construction to the men premptly is as necessary as feeding and housing them. work in charge of the material man, who precedes the construction party, and must be possessed of unusual executive ability. Entering towns, building and organ-

izing excharges and connecting the same with the trunk lines are the final operations, though generally carried on simultanexsly with the wire stringing. Formerly towns were entered on poles, but the time is undoubtedly coming when burial of wires will be insisted upon in all municipalities, and, therefore, the longdistance telephone now passes "the limits' invariably underground. This necessitates the employment of subway builders and cable layers instead of ground men, erectors and wire men, formerly made of wood, but now of and of tile, wooden or metal conduits steel, triangular in shape and fitted in place of 1s les. The erection of exwith "snap hooks" somewhat like clange buildings, the laying out and those on harnesses, to which the wires installment of switchboards, the putunwound from he reels, are attached ting in cf batteries and dynamos, the The rope is carried over the cross establishment of lightning amestors, the threading of the sulways-all for each pole as soon as the wires have these operations call upon as many different sets of men as one employed hauling them a lineman has been in general construction, and al must con plete their several tasks before the pretty girl operators may sent fingers so expert that the work is themselves before the switchboards and begin their interminable "hello-

standard Jays' work ), mile after mile Chicago Veteran Turns Uncle Sam's Bounty to a Novel Use.

Henry Curtin, a veteran of the civil "deadened" to the insulators, and new war living on the West Side, has a lengths of wire are taken up. While room in his residence that impresses the latter are being got in place the all his visitors as a veritable chamber wires already strung are carefully of horrors. This is because its most stretched by another gang of men conspicuous decoration and ornament werking with "block and fall". This in a row of human legs suspended on is done in order that each wire may the walls and entirely circling the be of exactly the same length as all room. Mr. Curtin always laughs at the others and under the same strain the fright of strangers at the first Wires exactly equal vibrate in unison sight of this room, and then explains that the legs are only artificial ones, and there's nothing to be afraid of. Then he tells them how the legs come

"You see," says Mr. Curtin, "In '64 I was so foolish as to try and stop a cannon ball with my right leg. Of course, I wasn't one, two, three, and the next thing I knew I was in a camp hospital with only one leg left. That ended my soldiering. The government had me measured for an artificial leg rent travels first on one side and then as soon as I was able to be about, and

"Well, I discovered that I douldn't wear the kind of leg the government tated, and the only leg I can wear is brought me another. I sat down and wrote the war department that the fore, not to send them. They didn't take a bit of notice of my letter, and

"They never noticed me. enough to see fifty or more if Uncle Sam doesn't get tired sending them.'

The Koyal gun factories at Woolwich have, it is stated, just turned but a gun with a range so much in excess of any previous ordinance that the government range at Shoeburyness has been found in-ufficient for ascercalculated, artificriets estimate it, at fifteen sales, is about ten miles more than that of the latest rifle small arms - St. James's Gazetta.