

BANANA BOATS EVERY 14 DAYS

'Daily Sketch' Correspondent

THE arrival at Avonmouth, Bristol, to-morrow of the Elders and Fyffes liner Tilopa with a cargo of 95,000 stems of bananas will inaugurate a regular fortnightly delivery of bananas from Jamaica to this country.

The cargo is enough to provide each child in the West Country with a pound of bananas.

In two weeks another boat will arrive at Liverpool, and London will probably welcome the third banana boat two weeks after that.

"Only three ships will be operating at first and Bristol, Liverpool and London are the three ports that will be used," Mr. W. H. Richards, manager of Elders and Fyffes, told me.

"Bananas must be treated carefully, and they will be distributed in the area served by the port of their arrival. The Tilopa's cargo is about 30,000 stems fewer than a normal peacetime cargo.

"They will not be ripe enough for sale until about a week after their arrival."

Recording History

On Monday these first bananas for six years will receive a ceremonial welcome.

The Lord Mayor of Bristol, representatives of the steamship company and port officials will watch the cases being unloaded, while news-reel cameramen record the scenes on the dockside.

Afterwards there will be a civic lunch—but without bananas. They are reserved for the under-eighteens.

The Tilopa's cargo, which will be broached early on Monday morning, will be distributed in the south-west area and as far north as Birmingham.

27/12/45.

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