

Probably there is no work so extensive and successful in the binding of drifting desert sands as that carried on at Chartchui, Turkestan, by the Russian Government. The railroad, which was previously in continual danger of being covered by shifting sand dunes, has been completely protected by the use of certain drought and alkali resistant plants, seeds of which Mr. Meyer secured for similar experiments in this country (Nos. 28973 to 28977).

The oleaster is remarkable for its extreme hardiness and resistance to drought, and the importation by Mr. Meyer of a large-fruited form (No. 29225) will interest the horticulturists of the Northwest, who are beginning to see the possibilities of this plant as a hardy fruiting shrub.

The rose breeders will be interested in the wild roses from this region (Nos. 29251 to 29258); the melon growers, in an unusual collection of watermelons and muskmelons; the nut growers, in the almond and Afghanistan pistache; the currant breeders, in the black and red currants which Mr. Meyer has secured.

Of material sent in by correspondents, it is worth while to emphasize a new relative of the guava, *Psidium araca* (No. 28911), from Minas Geraes, which is said to be sweeter in taste than the guava; a new variety of alfalfa, which originated in Norway and which is reported to be hardier and larger than the ordinary types grown there (No. 28919); three distinct varieties of the Chinese jujube (Nos. 28926 to 28928); a remarkable citrus relative which lives on the seashore in mangrove swamps in India (No. 28933); a quantity of the wild wheat of Palestine for use in breeding drought-resistant varieties (No. 29026); a leguminous plant, *Cassia mimosoides*, from Assam, recommended as a cover crop in banana plantations to keep down the weeds (No. 29031); the kameel-doorn of South Africa, an extremely hard-wooded, drought-resistant tree (No. 29046); *Passiflora ligularis* (No. 29090), from Mexico, and a variety from Java (No. 29319), relatives of the southern maypop, for breeding experiments with this fruit; one of the largest of the large-leaved trees of the Chinese forests from Hupeh, central China (No. 29095); a new hybrid of the giant wild rose from Burma, *Rosa gigantea* (No. 29096); the Paraguayan tea plant, from which the maté of South America is made, a drink as highly prized by millions of South Americans as tea is by Europeans (No. 29097); four varieties of Japanese sugar cane for trial as a forage plant in the South (Nos. 29106 to 29109); four species of tropical persimmons, related to the edible oriental species, from the island of Ceylon (Nos. 29111 to 29114), for the breeders of this fruit; the yeheb-nut plant, a newly discovered leguminous shrub which occurs in the poor sandy soils of the dry regions of Italian Somaliland and produces nuts which are so sweet and nutritious that in their season the Somaliland natives live on