

33800 to 33911—Continued.

Having studied the subject of live fences, I have concluded that this tree will serve admirably and be extremely valuable, for the following reasons in part:

“The tree is long lived and grows quickly. If cut back it forms a dense mass that light will not pass. The wood is extremely hard and elastic when alive; no person or animal can break through. The thorns are so sharp that they are used to extract slivers in preference to a needle. Is extremely ornamental. Grows in any dry soil or sand. A seedling plant a very few weeks old, 6 inches high, has a taproot growth of 18 inches or more. It seeks the moisture at any depth and having reached it the first season is quite independent of surface conditions. If soaked until sprouted, it will grow anywhere in any dry, poor, arid clay or sandy soil, especially if sown in the late fall and the winter rains are allowed to force the root growth. In the spring the taproot has then reached permanent moisture. Sheep are very fond of the seed and new growth; goats and horned cattle also, although the latter do not eat the seeds (it is the pod they eat). The seeds are undigested and being soaked in the stomach readily sprout; in this manner they are naturally sown. When a field has been plowed and cleared of brush for sowing wheat, etc., the espinos sprout anew very quickly.

“Sheep and goats will leave a field having ample pasture and by preference occupy these bare plowed lands solely to eat the new growth of this tree; sheep stand upon their hind legs and stretch their necks to reach the branches of this tree, while goats jump into them or mount upon the backs of their fellows to reach new growth. This feeding from the tree does no damage in any way; it makes the tree more beautiful and increases the food growth. This is the most valuable tree on a Chile farm. A branch can be used to stop up a fox or hog hole or break in the fence; it also serves for lasting fence posts. Branches tied together are used as drags to sow surface seeds, such as alfalfa; this pulverizes the land and covers the seed properly. For charcoal fuel it is the best.

“If pruned as a seedling it forms a most beautiful, round, ornamental, thorned tree. The flowers appear before the leaves; all the branch wood is covered with a dark yellow bloom which perfumes the surrounding air and gives the appearance of a tree covered with yellow snow. The taproot of a plant a month old will be from 12 to 18 inches long. It thrives in the dry lowlands and its taproot finds the moisture, no matter how deep. Its charcoal is the most durable and hottest fuel known and leaves an abundance of long-lasting coals.

“The wood is extra hard, flexible, and nonrotting in the air or in the ground. It is used for fence posts, spokes of the heaviest carts and coaches, teeth of mill cogwheels, and is extra useful for weaving into three wires for a fence that nothing can pass. The new growth is very flexible and easily bent into wires; when dry it is rigid. This fence lasts about five years, then the wood is removed for fuel and new wood again placed. The old way, when the wood is abundant, is not to employ wire but to pile the wood and branches against each other; as the small branches dry and break off new ones are added on top. The heart never rots. If an adult tree is headed back it grows in a beautiful, dense ball and always retains this shape; if cut it quickly sprouts again. Its inner bark is useful to tie up anything. The bark, quintral, and moss are valuable dyes. If cut it grows again before it is wanted. The bark boiled in water is used to cure bruises and ulcers. The seeds are a digestive and a stimulant.”

33834. ACACIA CAVENTIA (Mol.) Bert.

“Espino.”

“(No. 1162.) ‘Espino.’ From the Province of Valparaiso.”

See S. P. I. No. 33833 for description.