

**41418. OCOTEA sp. Lauraceæ.**

Seeds from San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by Mr. Carlos Wercklé, Department of Agriculture. Received October 9, 1915.

**41419. AMYGDALUS PERSICA L. Amygdalaceæ.****Peach.**

(*Prunus persica* Stokes.)

From Naples, Italy. Presented by Mr. Jay White, American consul. Received October 19, 1915.

"Seeds of a variety of clingstone peach known as the *Pesca-Cotogna*, and locally as the *Percoca*. The peach of this variety is a large, hard, yellow fruit, all of which characteristics are suggested by its name, which is literally the 'peach-quince.'" (White.)

**41420. PROTEA ARGENTEA L. Proteaceæ.****Silver tree.**

(*Leucadendron argenteum* R. Br.)

Seeds from Lawang, Java. Presented by Mr. M. Buysman, Botanic Garden. Received October 18, 1915.

"The *Silver* tree of South Africa, the leaves of which plant are used for various purposes and contain protexin, used in cases of malaria." (Buysman.)

"*Witteboom*, a beautiful tree, native only in the immediate neighborhood of Cape Town. It is a small tree, up to 50 feet in height and 12 to 18 inches in diameter; with verticillate branches and white silky foliage which render its name appropriate and make the tree visible from a distance. Leaves widely lanceolate, 3 to 7 inches long, softly coriaceous, entire, acute. The soft, silky white leaves are now an article of commerce, being salable as curios, bookmarks, mats, fancy articles, etc., especially as when dried they take writing, painting, etc., and are then sold with texts or names inscribed or small scenes depicted. An export trade in these exists, as also in leaves for everlasting bouquets. The tree seldom attains maturity, on account of the constantly recurring fires, but where seeding is allowed these fires appear to assist germination and are followed by dense regrowth which would not otherwise appear. The limited distribution of this tree and its great abundance over that area where it has practical possession are very remarkable. In cultivation elsewhere there is little difficulty in securing germination, and if it does not damp off during the early stages it may continue to grow up to cone-bearing stage in 10 to 15 years, but seldom attains the size or vigor it has on Table Mountain, and nowhere has it shown any tendency to become naturalized." (Sim, *The Forests and Forest Flora of Cape Colony*, p. 294.)

**41421 to 41423. AMYGDALUS PERSICA L. Amygdalaceæ. Peach.**

(*Prunus persica* Stokes.)

Seeds from Shanghai, China. Presented by Mr. C. E. Gauss, American consul. Received October 16, 1915. Quoted notes by Mr. Gauss.

"Peaches are grown in the Zicawei district of Shanghai and are of two general types, viz, the round peach and the flat peach. It is said that the peaches sold in Shanghai must necessarily come from within a radius of about 20 miles, due to the fact that there are no cold-storage facilities in China. Nevertheless peaches grown in Chefoo, Hangchow, and Ningpo are to be found on the Shanghai market. These, however, are said to be picked while green and allowed to ripen during the period of transportation."