

A true sweet corn (No. 53217) from 7,000 feet altitude may indicate to the plant breeder the origin of the sweet corns of our gardens and may be useful in producing a variety for our own warmer regions.

Two promising new species of *Rubus* of good quality (*R. roseus*, No. 53218, and *R. adenotrichos*, No. 53219); a beautiful Andean barberry, *Berberis quinduensis* (No. 53177); the hard-shelled passion fruit, *Passiflora maliformis* (No. 53180), of promise for California; the quiqui, *Osteomeles obtusifolia* (No. 53485), a new tropical hawthornlike shrub which has been used as a stock for the apple in Ecuador; and the higacho, *Carica chrysopetala* (No. 53754), which resembles the mountain papaya, *Carica candamarcensis*, but is specifically distinct and may contribute material for the breeding problem of producing a small sweet-fruited papaya which can be shipped like a tomato or an avocado; are some of the plants which Mr. Popenoe found and introduced.

While Mr. Popenoe was carrying out a difficult piece of exploration work in Ecuador, Joseph F. Rock, our newly appointed agricultural explorer, was searching for the source of chaulmoogra oil in Siam and Burma. This oil, or rather the ethyl esters of its constituent chaulmoogric acid, which were originally discovered and described by Dr. Frederick B. Power, has come into great prominence as a cure for leprosy through the researches of Doctor Dean and his collaborators in Honolulu. The source of the oil, which comes into commerce through Burma, was quite obscure when Mr. Rock first took up the study of these trees and was commissioned as an agricultural explorer to investigate the whole subject; no photographs had ever been made of them. He spent several months in the jungles of Siam and Burma and went through experiences quite as thrilling and dangerous as any to which explorers in tropical countries are liable, including a unique one with a man-eating tiger. In the course of his explorations (fig. 1) he traversed the northern mountainous part of Siam, bordering on Burma, which had not previously been visited by botanists. Not only has he in large measure solved the problem of the source of chaulmoogra oil, but he obtained seeds of the true chaulmoogra tree (*Taraktogenos kurzii*, No. 53844) and of the more important allied trees, including *Hydnocarpus wightiana* (No. 52859) and also *H. castanea* and *H. anthelminthica* (recorded in Inventory No. 66 under Nos. 52514 and 52465), as well as the false chaulmoogra tree, *Gynocardia odorata* (No. 53121), which for years was erroneously supposed to be the source of chaulmoogra oil. Though Mr. Rock's main quest was the chaulmoogra trees—which quest he has described in Department Bulletin No. 1057, entitled "The Chaulmoogra Tree and Some Related Species," and in the National Geographic Magazine for March, 1922—he nevertheless obtained seeds of other trees and plants of great interest to those whose climatic surroundings will permit their cultivation.

The success of the bor (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) on the calcareous soils of southern Florida makes those who are already interested in this new fruit anxious to compare with the plants sent in from Mauritius Rock's variety (No. 52858) from the upper Chindwin River of Burma.