

As a result of Mr. Popenoe's exploring work in Ecuador there have come in the seeds of two rather unusual varieties of potato from an altitude of 11,000 feet in the Ecuadorian Andes, in Carchi Province (Nos. 55557 and 55558).

From the new Republic of Czechoslovakia a collection of apple varieties (Nos. 55212 to 55232) has been received through the kindness of Josef Mazanek, but whether or not any of them will prove better than our commercial sorts will have to be determined. They are some of the noted sorts of that region.

The introduction of *Microcitrus inodora* from the Bellenden Ker Range of mountains of northern Queensland is of particular interest, inasmuch as this species, according to Doctor Swingle, the citrus specialist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, is the only one of the whole genus which bears fruit in its wild state of sufficiently good quality to make it of promise for cultivation without any improvement. We are especially indebted to C. T. White for the Russell River lime (No. 55447), as it is called in Queensland.

The matasano of Honduras, *Casimiroa tetrameria* (No. 55445), while not so hardy as its relative the white sapote, *C. edulis*, bears much larger fruit, and since it has shown its ability to grow well and fruit in southern Florida its wide dissemination there is considered a matter of importance.

In the category of secondary fruits of value to the housewife for preserves and for stewing appears to be the Indian jujube (*Ziziphus mauritiana*, No. 55485), bushes of which have borne heavily at Miami, Fla. Since in India there are cultivated forms of this fruit, which might be called a kind of southern crab apple, that seem to be superior, it has seemed important to get them.

Doctor Shantz during his explorations in South Africa was so impressed by the possibilities of the narras (*Acanthosicyos horrida*, No. 55486), a species of cucurbit which the Hottentots almost live upon during certain months of the year, that a new importation of the seeds has been made. This cucurbit, which forms spiny thickets in the Kalahari Desert, bears melonlike fruits, the seeds and flesh of which are keenly relished by the natives. If it can be established in our own southwestern deserts it may prove a very valuable acquisition.

The gum arabic of commerce constitutes a specialized industry in Arabia and the east coast of Africa, and although it is doubtful whether labor conditions would make it possible to develop the culture of the gum-yielding species of Acacias in our own deserts, their introduction for the trial seems worth making. Through the kindness of Mr. Massey, Government botanist of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and of the director of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories in Khartum, a collection of the best species has been made (Nos. 55419 to 55423).

The successful introduction by Mr. Rock of the true chaulmoogra-oil-producing species of tree has led to a search for all those other representatives of the Flacourtiaceæ from the seeds of which a similar oil is obtainable, with the result that from Sierra Leone we have secured *Oncoba echinata* (No. 55465), which Dr. F. B. Power assures us has been shown to bear seeds from the oily content of which the true chaulmoogric acid has been isolated. As this is a shrub