

The elevation I found them was almost exactly 4000 feet a. s. I gathered some fruits, but they are not quite ripe: I am trying to ripen them off, however, so that we may obtain at least a few ripe seeds. As a stock however it has not the value the *dauriana* peach has, not being as vigorous and apparently being attacked by the same pests that infest cultivated peaches. This "find" is of great interest however, showing that wild peaches exist much nearer the coast than we suspected and that the peach naturally is a native of semi-arid regions. Whether China is the real home or whether it is only one of the homes of the peach is a question we cannot solve as yet. Will it prove to be that the peach occurs also in Persia and Afghanistan, like the walnut, which is found wild in the Caucasus, Persia, Western China and N. E. China?

There are some more plants occurring here in North Eastern China, which are found also on the other side of the Continent, like the Apricot, *Diospyros lotus* (Crimea, Caucasus, India, etc.), *Ziziphus sativa* (North Africa and North China), *Buxus sempervirens* (Western Caucasus and Western Hupeh), *Nelumbium speciosum* (Lake Hanka, E. Siberia and Caspian Sea, at mouth of Volga), and on this last trip I have found so much real wild alfalfa on the whole way from Lin hsien in Honan, almost up to this place here and in such out-of-the-way places and so utterly out of reach of men and of animals and often in company with other medicagos, like *M. lupulina*, that we safely can say that the common crawling and spreading strain of *Medicago sativa* is a real native of this country. The tall, upright form might have been brought from Central Asia, no doubt, as is stated in Chinese chronicles.

We have had some very hard days on that whole trip from Changte fu, over Lin hsien, and Luanfu to here (Ping yang fu), for the whole country, with a few exceptions, is very mountainous and most of our travel had to be done with packmules and the heat!--Great Scott!--All of our candles are molten together and the sealing wax inside of a small case, within one of my trunks, had fraternized with leadpencils and rubber bands, and the whole thing has become one fantastically looking mass. The alcohol in an iron tin, which is inside a wooden case, became heated, and we had to let the gas pass off to prevent an explosion. Now however I find that this alcohol has been reduced considerably in volume and worse yet it has no strength anymore. The fruit I had in the tin, as peaches, plums, apricots, etc., have all become dissolved and only the stones and some pieces of skin are left on the bottom.

I conclude, therefore, that in the heat of the summer one cannot carry fruits in alcohol with one. This winter I'll try it again.