

"Concerning curd made from acorns, I have not come across it yet; it seems to be rather a country product.

"Concerning obtaining quantities of *Davidia involu-crata*, it seems that the tree is especially abundant south of Patung, but with all the fighting going on there no one knows what time a collector could travel in that district.

"Concerning similarity of fruits of *Pyrus calleryana* and *P. betulaefolia*, well, that has been some problem. I found out that the first, when fully ripe, turns into a brown color and the last becomes black. However, when natives bring in several thousands of pounds of fruits and not all entirely ripe then you may realize what a job we had in trying to separate the two kinds.

"Growing Chinese yams for flour production in America; well, the digging of yams is a very laborious process and right here they are really in the nature of a luxury. This whole hunting for new food products is really a trying situation. So much experimenting is needed to establish a new crop that often a person's whole life might have to be devoted to it.

"I think that soy bean flour might come to the front and all sorts of beans should be tried, especially in the Southern States.

"Your very sympathetic remarks are surely appreciated by me. Times certainly are sad and mad and from a scientific point of view so utterly unnecessary.

"Well, later on I'll answer more correspondence from you and from others in our Office.

"With kindest regards to you all, I remain,

"Very sincerely yours,"

(Signed) Frank N. Meyer.

c/o American Legation, Peking, China.