

"Indigenous Indian cane of the type of the Japanese forage cane which seems to be immune to the mosaic disease which apparently attacks more or less severely all other sugar cane types." (C. O. Townsend.)

Solanum tuberosum (Solanaceae), 50307. **Potato.** From Teteko, New Zealand. Tubers presented by Mr. Charles G. Hallett. "Tubers of a peculiar potato that grows in this district. I was given one little tuber by a government overseer of rabbiters, who had taken some tubers from the spring in which they grow and had grown them in his garden for a year or so. He assured me that frost does not affect the plants when growing in this spring. The tubers I am forwarding you grew in my garden from the one I received from the rabbitier, so they have been out of water for two or three generations." (Hallett.)

"On the northern side of the Rangitaiki River, in the Bay of Plenty district, opposite the old Maori settlement Waiohau, where a splendid spring of fresh water issues from the base of a hill and flows between banks heavily fringed with watercress to the near-by river, a remarkable instance of a plant forsaking its normal environment may be observed. There watercress and potato plants flourish together, and tubers are found among the cress roots from 12 inches to 18 inches under water. Some of the tubers are almost in mid-stream, others may be found snuggled into the bank fiber, and the foliage of cress and potato mingle on the water surface. It may be that the plants are dependent for their growth upon the earthy particles held by the cress roots, and also that there is some fertilizing quality in the water which drains from the great volcanic area. The potatoes when cooked are not at all mealy, but waxy. They grow to a fair size, and are fit for eating as early as August.

"I forwarded some of the tubers for testing at the Moumahaki Experimental Farm last season. The manager's report on the trial is as follows:

"Some of the "water-potato" tubers were planted on August 31, 1916, in the potato variety trials, having the same treatment, soil, and manures as the sixty-six other varieties planted on the same date. The potato in question came away vigorously, and is distinct in foliage, with a large blue flower, bearing seed-apples naturally. The crop was lifted on February 6, 1917, and was free from disease. The yield was as follows: marketable tubers (table and seed), at the rate