

Dai Hoi Chan Kian, North Siam.

October 29, 1920.

"I am writing you from paradise, for indeed this place is worthy of that name. I am camping in the mountains north of Chiengmai in a wonderful forest, beside a little stream which sends me to sleep like a lullaby. My camp is surrounded by mighty chestnuts, many species of oaks, and tall Dipterocarpaceae. I found three species of chestnuts with fairly large fruits and two other small species which I think it worth while collecting on account of the beautiful straight trunks and fine wood.

"Three days ago I ascended Dai Chom Cheng (5,500 feet altitude). On the summit there were lofty pines (*Pinus khasya*), and many beautiful tall oaks. From this point one could see many days' journeys toward the Yunnan border. Mountain after mountain and range after range, a perfect virgin field untrodden by any botanist or agricultural explorer. It is real paradise for a plant lover to be in a pine forest and to look down thousands of feet into deep ravines and forest-covered ranges inhabited by tigers, panthers, and elephants.

"I have collected 10 species of *Quercus*, all valuable trees. They grow on dry, sandy or gravelly slopes, at altitudes of 2,400 to 5,000 feet, and I should think that they would thrive in California and also in Florida. The acorns are very sweet and are eaten roasted. I have eaten many of them myself, and they are rather good. The chestnuts here are mighty trees with wonderful crowns and straight trunks. The chestnuts are quite sweet and very tasty when roasted. Both oaks and chestnuts are prolific bearers, and seeds are plentiful just now.

"In Chiengmai I heard of a cotton (*Gossypium* sp.) with a large lint of khaki color; it grows four days' journey from Chiengmai, and I sent coolies to get it. I have seen Siamese or Loa officials in uniforms woven from this brown cotton."