

the finest of all tropical fruits and told of varieties as large as a peach. An effort has been made to obtain some of these varieties, but as yet we have been unable to locate any of them. Our correspondent, Dr. J. Simão da Costa, replying to an inquiry regarding the pupunha, March 6, 1922, says:

"This palm grows in clusters and is among the most elegant and useful trees of the Amazonian flora. In the gardens of the Museum (at Para) there are a few distinct varieties, and the most valuable of all the pupunha trees I remember seeing were located in the village of Mosqueiro, near the capital.

"Some native Brazilians are passionately fond of pupunha fruit, but not one of them would think of placing it among the most delicious of tropical fruits. The pupunha takes its place at the table of the middle classes and poorer people, and children of all classes and ages eat the fruit eagerly while it is in season. But if this fruit were to be had throughout the year, the average Brazilian would not prefer it to any other vegetable."

From this we deduce that the pupunha is not better than the pejibaye, - if, indeed, it is as good - for Costa Ricans of all classes, from poor and humble to the most opulent and aristocratic are exceedingly fond of the pejibaye and consider it one of the best foods produced in the country. It is not fair, perhaps, to compare the pejibaye with other tropical fruits, since it is not a dessert fruit like the mango and pineapple, but a staple foodstuff, more properly likened to potatoes or beans. It may be compared very appropriately to the avocado, in so far as food value is concerned.

Grapes for Tropical Regions.

The development of grape varieties suitable for cultivation in tropical regions has received considerable attention in recent years, and this office has introduced several tropical species for the use of breeders. In the course of our exchanges with tropical botanical gardens and other institutions, we have supplied several of them with standard varieties of North American grapes.

In this connection the following paragraph, taken from a letter from Willis T. Pope, horticulturist at the Hawaiian Experiment Station (dated March 18, 1922) is of interest: