

Notes from Foreign Correspondents.

Mr. John D. Wright wrote March 29, from Valencia, Spain, the following note on the carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*):

"I was told that Señor Peregrin Contell is devoting much effort to the cultivation of the 'algarroba' at his 'Masía' (Estate) an hour by motor out of Valencia, and that he has one particular tree which he calls 'El Capitan' from which he has grafted most of his other trees.

"Señor Contell very kindly consented to motor out with me this morning to the Masía de Mompó in the very fertile plain of Quartes. He is cultivating the 'algarrobo' as if it were a fruit or nut tree; he plows, fertilizes, and prunes with the greatest care and persistence. Of course results obtained in this way cannot be expected of trees planted on the slopes of dry foothills in California and left to chance. His trees are irrigated when the season is specially dry. I saw orchards three years old, twelve years old, fourteen and sixteen years old, and many trees which were much older.

"My special interest, being guided by your suggestions, was in his great 'El Capitan.' I made a photograph of this which I hope will turn out well. It is an enormous tree, the trunk having a diameter of about 7 feet, with a spread of branches exceeding 60 feet and a height of about 50 feet. Señor Contell tells me that he has a document witnessed by two persons to prove that he took in one year 2,625 pounds of pods from this one tree (105 arrobas at 25 lbs. to the arroba). He has a 20-year-old orchard (all the trees in which were grafted from 'El Capitan') that produces each year an average of 450 pounds per tree.

"The quality of these pods is excellent for cattle fodder, but they are not the very sweet pods that people like to eat. I am sending, through the courtesy of the consul, a small package of the pods of the 'El Capitan' type, though of course I did not see them picked as the fruit was gathered some time ago.

"I am also sending a few pods from the very sweet variety which is known locally as 'Roches,' or 'Reds.' These are not borne in the quantity of the 'Matalafera' ('El Capitan') type. I placed a paper with each package giving full particulars. I hope the pods with their respective notes will reach you. Señor Contell says that with the good soil of his orchards and the care he gives the trees they begin to bear after the fourth year and sometimes in the fourth year."