

VERONICA HULKEANA (Scrophulariaceae), 57860. From Nice, France. Seeds presented by Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky. One of the handsomest and most graceful of all the New Zealand veronicas, and easily distinguished from others of the group by its shining, dark-green, coarsely toothed leaves about 2 inches long, and its long sprays of lilac-colored flowers which are in panicles sometimes a foot in length. (Adapted from Laing and Blackwell, *Plants of New Zealand*, p. 383, and from Bailey, *Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, vol. 6, p. 3455.)

The Favorita Pear (S.P.I. No. 33207)

In January, 1912, Walter T. Swingle, of the Office of Crop Physiology and Breeding Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, was in Spain engaged upon agricultural exploration work. Dr. Swingle visited the old and well-known nurseries of Pedro Giraud at Granada, Spain. He placed an order with this firm for cuttings, scions, and grafts of a number of promising new fruit, nut, ornamental, and shade trees. Among the lot were two small trees of a pear called "Favorita" by Giraud. The collection was received March 23, 1912. The two little pear trees, after being inventoried under S.P.I. No. 33207, were sent to Chico, Calif., and planted in the test orchard of the Plant Introduction Garden at that place. The only description we had of the pear was published in Plant Inventory No. 30, page 83, as follows:

33207. "Favorita. This pear is described as follows: Fruit very large, lemon yellow, flesh buttery, sweet, savory. Ripens the middle of August. A summer pear."

Three years after the little pear trees were planted, or in 1915, fruit was produced and it showed such valuable characters that five hundred trees were ordered propagated. From time to time other samples of fruit were received and its fine quality noted. In the summer of 1920 we visited the Garden, and while there our attention was called to this pear by W. F. Wight, of the Office of Horticultural Investigations, who was then stationed at Chico. Mr. Wight had been using the Favorita pear in his breeding work and was struck with its excellent quality. From 1915 to 1922 the propagation was continued and something like fifteen hundred small trees were distributed. These were sent into nearly every state in the Union, the heaviest distributions being on the Pacific Coast, in the Southern States, and states of the Ohio Valley. This year, 1923, a large crop of fruit was produced by the mother trees at Chico and opportunity for a more critical study was therefore afforded. From all the samples received, studied here, and submitted to experts for their opinions, it seems that the fruit of our S.P.I. No. 33207 so closely resembles the well-known Clapp Favorite as to be indistinguishable from that fruit. The time of ripening,