

excellent growth. There is no reason to suspect that they will not prove adapted to that region, since the variety appears to be a straight West Indian, and this race is known to thrive in southern Florida. As to the season of ripening, however, it is unsafe to make a prediction. If it should happen to precede other West Indian varieties by two or three weeks, it would be of unusual value; if it is no earlier than other sorts now grown in Florida, it may still be worth growing, because of the excellent appearance and quality of the fruit.

Wilson Popenoe

New Chestnuts and Related Trees from Southwestern China.

One of the objects of J. F. Rock's agricultural explorations in western China was to secure new and promising chestnuts and related species for introduction into the United States. His search in the province of Yunnan brought to light a number of interesting forms, some of which have been successfully introduced into this country and are now being carefully nursed with the object of establishing them here.

This bit of exploration carried on by Mr. Rock illustrates some of the difficulties met with in such undertakings. The province of Yunnan is a remote part of western China, lying north of Siam and on the northeastern border of India. The country is difficult of access, and when once entered, traveling is not without serious hardships. It is a region of magnificent mountains, high plains, small and large valleys, deep gorges, and rushing waters. The climate is unlike anything we have in this country, but if the southern part of Florida could be elevated so that considerable areas were from 5,000 to 15,000 feet above sea level we might have something approaching conditions as they exist in Yunnan. The temperatures, even at the high elevations, are never very low, but snow is common. It would seem likely that the species of *Castanea* or chestnut and of *Castanopsis*, which is closely related to the chestnut, secured by Mr. Rock, may find a congenial home in portions of the South where our own native chestnut grows, and possibly also on the Pacific Coast, notably the cool humid sections such as that around Eureka, in northern California.

The northeast corner of Mississippi, the northern half of Alabama, and about one-third of Georgia bordering on Alabama and Tennessee constitute the southern portion of the territory covered by our native chestnut.

Chestnut blight is continuing its ravages and is gradually encroaching on the remaining forests found in the Southern States. It is too early to say that the chestnuts discovered by Mr. Rock are blight resistant. We are hoping that this may be the case. Anyway, they have characters which make them promising and worthy of trial here.