

INDIA, Bangalore. Supt., Botanical Gardens, sends a list of grafted mango varieties that will be available in May-July.

INDIA, Rangoon, Burma. Feb. 20, Mr. Gerritt P. Wilder of Honolulu, Hawaii, who is making an extensive trip abroad, writes regarding anonas in Penang.

INDIA, Saharanpur. Supt., Government Botanical Gardens, March 2. Sends an extensive report on the bael fruit.

LETTERS FROM MR. FRANK N. MEYER, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER.

Mr. Meyer sends from Tiflis, Caucasus, a small package of coffee made from the roasted yellow soy bean. He says that it makes a very tasteful and nutritious drink, better in his opinion than the postum sold in America, and he thinks the soy bean may be extensively used for this purpose in the future. In Chakva he visited the tea and bamboo plantations and describes these in considerable detail. (See photograph.) He sends a plant catalogue published by the Imperial Domains at Chakva. He mentions several things as being of special interest, among them *Dracaena indivisa*, which is used as tying material. These dry leaves can be kept for a number of years without spoiling. When needed they are wet and split in strips. Grape vines are tied to trellises with these strips. They last in the open from 2 to 3 years. They cultivate mandarins extensively along the coast of the Black Sea, using the Chinese and Japanese varieties. They graft all their mandarins and oranges on trifoliata stock. The kumquat is also a favorite there within recent years. There is an avenue of *Aleurites cordata* trees at Chakva which is very handsome in early summer when in bloom. *Pueraria thunbergiana* is recommended as a fodder plant for cattle and horses, and as a cover for embankments and waste lands. They have been experimenting with paper making from *Edgeworthia* in Chakva, and even imported Japanese workmen to make it. They succeeded in making good paper, but it was too expensive to be commercially profitable. They are still experimenting with *Rhus vernicifera* and *Chamaerops excelsa*. From the former they hope to produce commercial lacquer, and to utilize the fiber from the latter in mattresses and cordage. They grow several varieties of *Diospyros kaki*, but say that the people do not buy the fruit.