

TURKESTAN, ASKABAD. MR. F. N. MEYER, AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER.

Writes that Turkestan does not compare favorably with the Caucasus. It is very hot and dry, and the vegetation not very varied. The temperature was 100° F. at 8 A. M. the day he wrote. Most trees have to be watered periodically or they die in one or two years. In Krasnovodsk, which is quite mild in winter, there is a beautiful flowering bush, *Poinciana gilliesii*, which thrives with very little irrigation; *Eleagnus angustifolia*, *Populus diversifolia* and a species of *Saxaul* bush, also need very little water. There are, however, apparently few trees that resist the aridness of the Central Asian plains, where hot summers are followed by cold winters, and high winds blow frequently in both winter and summer. The trees that look the best are the native form of *Ulmus campestris*, the Chinese *Ailanthus glandulosa*, and the North American *Robinia pseudacacia*. There are lots of apricots, cherries, plums and cucumbers on the market. The fruits are all of small size, apparently nearly all seedlings, and according to Mr. Meyer's interpreter, all are imported from Persia, where in the northern part between the Vudsnur and Mesked, he saw whole mountain sides covered with wild apricots. Mr. Meyer has seen trains of camels come in loaded with cucumbers and apricots. The apricots are sweet-kerneled. He will send seeds.