

soon as it ripens. "It grows in such plenty in my garden that the seedlings are a perfect nuisance, so I do not anticipate that you will have any difficulty in growing them." This introduction is a tree already tried in California and found to be a very rapid grower. It is made for the purpose of ascertaining the possibility of using the sawdust of the wood, which is very soft and light, as packing for grapes in place of the cork and redwood sawdust commonly used.

PARAGUAY, Horqueta. Mr. T. R. Gwynn writes January 17 that as we failed to receive the seeds and specimens of "timbo" (*Pithecolobium* sp.), the "urunday" (*Astronium* sp.), the "cud-piy" (*Piptadenia* sp.), and the "cedro" (*Cedrela* sp.), he will get them for us as soon as he can. The "cedro" he describes as having "a leaf exactly like our black walnut, but the wood is soft, grain smooth and even, color of wood exactly that of our cedar, is not an evergreen, is excellent for posts, and grows from posts planted in the ground." He will also send shortly roots of the "guavadamy", and has been promised seed, leaves and twigs of the "ymangasy" or Paraguay rubber tree. In all has spent "something like \$500 Paraguay paper money, which is now at a discount of 1300 per cent and has been down to 1800 per cent, so you see I haven't spent much."

PARAGUAY, Villa Encarnacion. Mr. C. F. Mead writes Feb. 1 that as soon as he can obtain them, he will send seeds of the Yerba carmi or yellow yerba. This grows as a shrub, is a finer flavored yerba but not as profitable. However, it flourishes in very poor soil. "As regards the cactus caraguata, (*Bromelia argentina*, S.P.I. 28689), of which I sent seeds some time ago, giving the plant a bad name on account of its spreading habit, it seems that the fibers of the leaves are used for making rope, the same as henequen and the like plants cultivated in Mexico. While putting up Caraguata bridge, I tested a rough rope of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch made of caraguata and it stood a greater strain than a new $\frac{3}{4}$ inch manilla rope (German make), lifting in succession a steel girder of 560 kilos and then a steel trestle of 870 kilos. The $\frac{3}{4}$ inch manilla lifted the girder but broke on the trestle. The caraguata rope was a rough affair, just twisted together by one of my peons, but most of the fibers were about 30 inches long."