

the Mussart Pass, which is very bad at this time of year. Mails from this point are irregular, however, and nothing further has been heard. See reproduction of postcard photograph of Kuldja.

COSTA RICA. San José. Dr. Wercklé writes April 18, "Of *Lucuma* (*Calocarpum*) *mammosa* nobody knows anything here; it is an extremely strange thing; it is considered the best fruit of the Continent (of South America) and yet it is not known in Costa Rica; nor could I find anybody in Colombia who knew where it can be seen; no Nicaraguense could tell me about it either. It seems that it must be extremely rare except in Peru, where it seems to be native, and in Mexico. Oken says the tree gets very old before it bears, but then it bears for 200 years continuously, having all the time flowers and fruits in all stages. It is evergreen, if I am not very much mistaken, which is not the case with *Achras sapota* L. Pittier seems to confound the two, but the "lucuma" of Peru is considered an incomparably finer fruit than the sapote. I think there would be less difficulty in getting this tree than the 'pacouri-uva', *Platonia insignis*, I think this latter grows in the Rio Negro region. The *Persea Pittieri* seeds I had to plant; they shriveled completely in a very few days; they are of a quite different consistency to those of the 'palta' (*P. Americana*) a little soft. Will send plants with the seeds on them yet (this way, strange enough, they keep well.) If nothing happens, I will go next Sunday to the Pacific coast (mouth of Rio Grande and Coyolar) to see if I can still find seeds of the Castilla. I remember when the first fruits were ripe the upper part of the twigs had yet flowers and buds."

MEXICO. Chihuahua. Mr. Marion Letcher, American consul, writes April 17, "In reference to the harvesting of sesame, the people in Guerrero always cut by hand before the pods ripen, cutting the entire crop at the same time. There appear on the pods just prior to the maturity of the crop certain small black spots which serve as an indication that the crop is ready for harvesting. There will always, of course, be inequalities in the degree of maturity as regards the different individual stalks, but this fact does not affect the yield to an appreciable degree. After cutting, the stalks are stacked with the heads up, being thus left until they are opened by the sun. In my opinion the use of machinery would be perfectly feasible in the harvesting of the crop. In the matter of threshing seed from the stalks, it appears to me that any kind of machinery would be unnecessary, since the mere inversion of the dried plants causes the seed to fall out, and the handling necessary to the introduction of the