

with the aid of the Argentine Government, on the scientific results of our work. Our topographic maps will cover a zone 50 kilometers wide extending from San Antonio to the Chilean boundary, and we are trying to map the geology and the soils. I would propose that your specialist should map the botanical formations."

CEYLON. Peradeniya. Dr. John C. Willis writes November 30 that he is leaving immediately for England, where he will spend the winter, leaving for Rio de Janeiro in April or May to assume his duties as Director of the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden.

RUSSIA. Rostoff-on-Don. Mr. Frank N. Meyer writes Dec. 9, 1911: "We visited on November 17th the School of Gardening, which is situated near Penza and which is considered one of the best schools of the sort in Russia. It was a dark, misty day and not quite fit to walk over half-frozen earth roads and glide from one mudhole into the other, but weather in Russia is a topic one leaves at rest, for it gets to monotonous. So we saw at that School a very interesting old neglected arboretum, with large specimens of *Pinus strobus*, *Picea siberica*, *Larix siberica*, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, *Malus baccata*, *M. prunifolia*, *Juglans cinerea* and other trees. We also saw a newly laid-out arboretum, with small specimens of most of the every-day trees and shrubs and along the roads there were various hardy herbaceous perennials. Then we saw the fruit plantations. Mr. Sokoloff, who is in charge of the outdoor plantings, took us around, through thick and through thin; they have about 60 varieties of apples in cultivation, but the 2 leading sorts are Antoneffka and Anees, but of both there some sub-varieties. They have experimented with various stocks and have come to the conclusion that *Malus prunifolia* is the best all-around stock for the black soil around Penza. They find it difficult, however, to obtain pure *prunifolia* seed, as this apple readily hybridizes with *M. sylvestris* and *M. baccata*. They also found that the Antoneffka apple is better able to grow on low places than any other variety. As a contribution to the uncongeniality of the East-Central Russian climate, I was told that this year they experienced a frost of 8° Reaumur in May (+14° Fahr.) and that while everything commenced to bloom. They lost of course a whole lot of fruit. Many years ago they also started a collection of dwarf fruits, but, such things are apparently not fitted for climates like around Penza, at least they almost produce no fruit at all, as the blossoms freeze nearly every spring. There are also many greenhouses in the School grounds and I saw some pretty flowers, which are sold for revenue. The heating of