



*Coumarouna odorata.* Tonka bean.

As noted in the text this interesting tropical tree of which this photograph by Mr. Pittier is one of the first to be taken, is cultivated in Venezuela for its seeds or so-called "beans," which are utilized solely for the production of a neutral crystalline substance, called coumarin, which is a very strong and lasting perfume used for mixing with other perfumes to give them permanency. It is the same substance which gives the characteristic odor to new-mown hay. Cultivation of the tree has also been attempted in the West Indies, notably in Trinidad, but it is thought that the tree will not be profitable for cultivation in that island, inasmuch as it takes from 10 to 12 years to come into bearing, the tree can not be used for shade for other crops because of its low head and dense foliage, and especially because of the ample supply found wild in the forests of Venezuela. If in time the wild supply should be exhausted the Venezuelan experiments have shown it to be of easy and fairly profitable culture. From photograph by Mr. H. Pittier, Solorzano Cacao Estate, Borburata, near Puerto Cabello, Venezuela.