

# RARE FRUIT GROWN IN BUTTE COUNTY

## Semi-Tropic Products Thrive in Nursery and Will Soon Be Raised Commercially

BANGOR, July 12.—A large number of semitropical fruits are being planted in Butte county this season. Among them are the avocado, better known as the alligator pear, which is attracting so much attention in southern California. Other rare fruits are the feijoa, combining the flavor of the pineapple and banana; the mango; citron of commerce; cherimoya, a large fruit somewhat resembling the pineapple in appearance, and some 20 different varieties of Burbank's spineless cactus. All of these are now flourishing at Sunny Slope.

Butte county thus has secured one of the most extensive semitropical nurseries in the United States. A number of the rare plants imported for the nursery were purchased at prices ranging as high as \$15 per single tree, these same trees being not more than four feet high. Twenty different varieties of the avocado, budded seed and seedbed stock, have been recently imported from Mexico, and 2,000 of these trees will eventually be planted, the work of planting now being in progress.

The feijoa and the cherimoya are so new in their importation that they can not yet claim the honor of being California fruits, but their culture, along with that of the avocado, gives great promise of becoming one of the state's most profitable industries, where natural conditions favor success. The peculiarly sheltered location of Sunny Slope, protected by surrounding foothills from the hot, blighting winds of the Sacramento valley, and entirely frostless, have encouraged the introduction of these rare, tender subtropical fruits, which so far have been successful in very few localities in all California.

The feijoa is a native of Uruguay and Argentina, and is a species of guava, but larger than the ordinary Florida guava. Where grown to perfection the cherimoya is regarded as one of the finest fruits in the world. A fully ripe cherimoya is so delicious that not one in a hundred, after once tasting it, could fail to be delighted. In Mexico it is not uncommon to find trees bearing 200 or 300 of these delicious fruits, while California is just learning the value of this wonderful fruit and the great possibilities of its culture for commerce.

Mangoes, many of which will be planted at Sunny Slope, are now raised quite extensively in Florida, and command a very high price in the markets. In fact, the demand for all these fruits will always far exceed the supply, owing to the few localities favored with the peculiar natural conditions necessary to their real success.

Some 26 varieties of the spineless cactus are to be planted on the small unirrigable portion of the Sunny Slope tract, and if they flourish to the degree that it is believed by those personally interested in their growth, they will completely revolutionize the forage problem in northern California, as well as in Butte county. This plant produces from 100 to 150 tons to the acre each year, the leaves of some varieties being good for stock, while both leaves and the pear fruit of other varieties, when boiled, are considered excellent as food for human consumption.