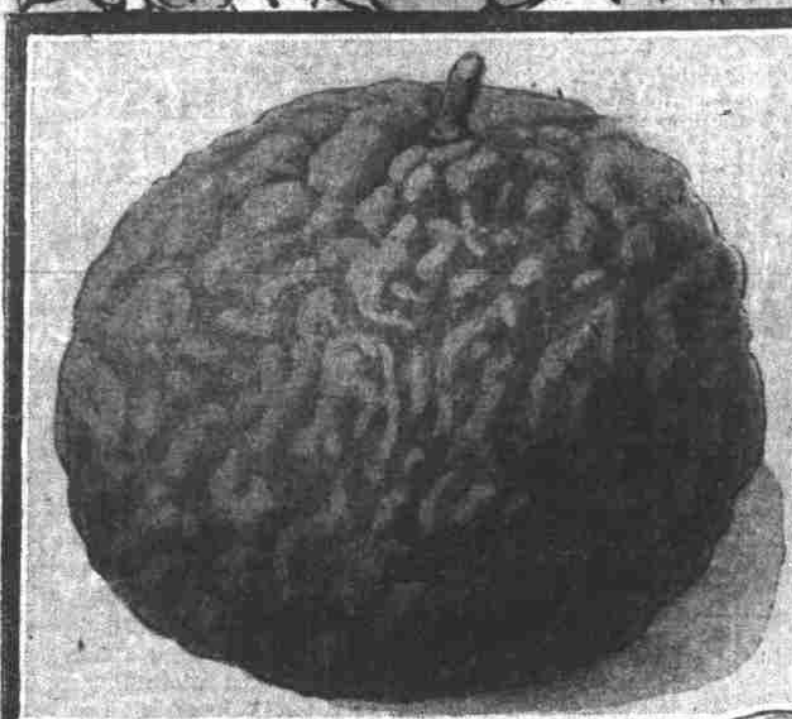


NEW ORCHARD JOYS TO PLEASE OUR PALATES



This Delicious Orange Was Imported from China.

For These Fruits of the Tree We May Add to Our Thanksgiving

AMERICA, land of the wonderful, can rejoice in having accomplished miracles of which all-powerful Rome, at the height of its grandeur—and in the depths of its decadence—despaired.

For the sated Romans groaned amid their surfeits, "Where is he who can give us a new pleasure?"

Within the last few years the United States has created, merely in the ordinary course of its miraculous agriculture, many new delights for the appetite. Could one of these have been given Lucullus as an addition to his diet of nightingales' tongues, the heart of the great epicure, no doubt, would have warmed with joy.

Heirs of the ages, the sybaritic Romans rejoiced to call themselves. Poor, indeed, was their richest fare in comparison with the dainties that fall to the lot of moderns—palate joys that help give Uncle Sam a real Thanksgiving.

THE Department of Agriculture, at Washington, has shown a shrewd comprehension of the varying requirements of the nation's domestic and foreign markets.

So the government itself, the agency which alone is qualified to obtain a comprehensive view of the discoveries in fruits that are being constantly made throughout the land, has brought to the attention of practical orchardists the more prominent fruits of victory continually attained by the American farmer in changing the harvests of the earth.

There are romances of nature among those victories; for the Burbanks are few, even among the millions of agriculturists who know their trees as college professors know their books, and nature, every little while, takes a hand in the eternal transformation, flinging up rare and delicious exceptions to her rules and leaving it to man to make the best of them.

She did just that in an apple orchard of a farmer at Peru, Madison county, Iowa. From the stock of a yellow Bellflower apple tree, the top of which had been destroyed, a sprout about six years old was noticed.

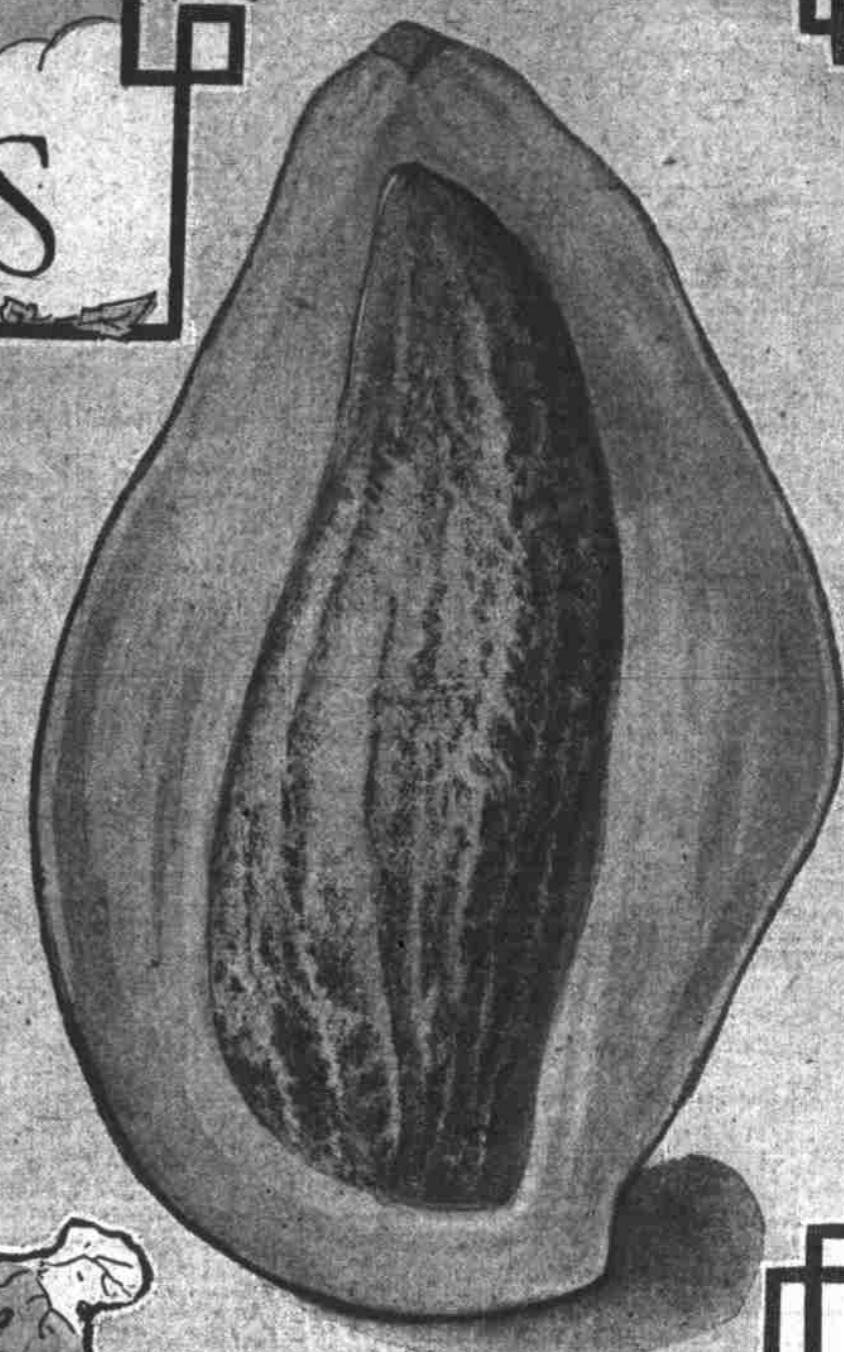
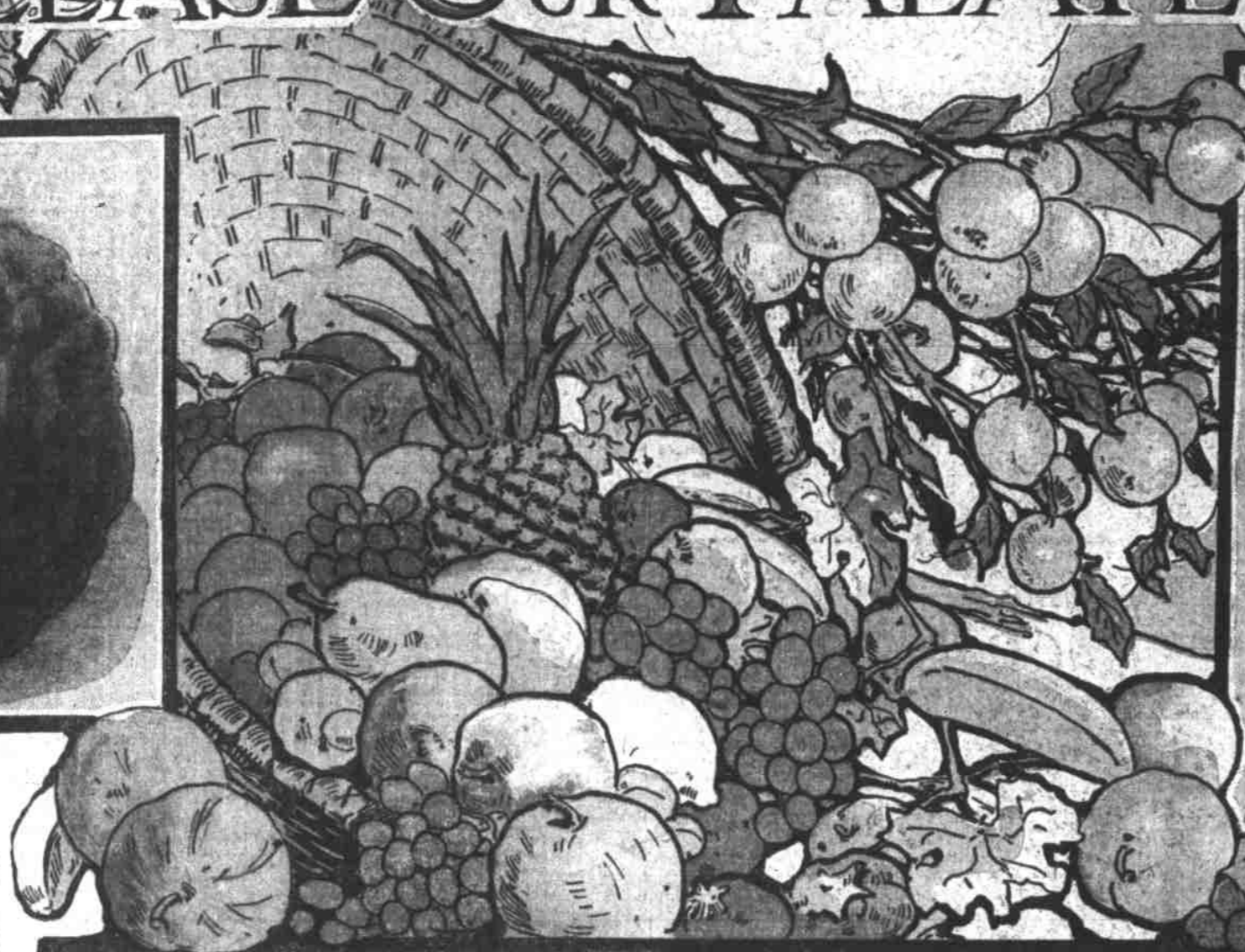
The farmer was astonished at the beauty and the fine quality of the fruit it bore. The flesh was yellowish, juicy, mildly sub-acid in flavor, and the general quality was extremely good. In size, the fruit ran from medium to large, with a smooth, glossy surface, which when only slightly rubbed took on a high polish.

Most of the skin seemed washed over with mixed red, striped and splashed with dark crimson—in brief, an apple to make a picture in a dessert, beautiful to the eye, delicious to the palate.

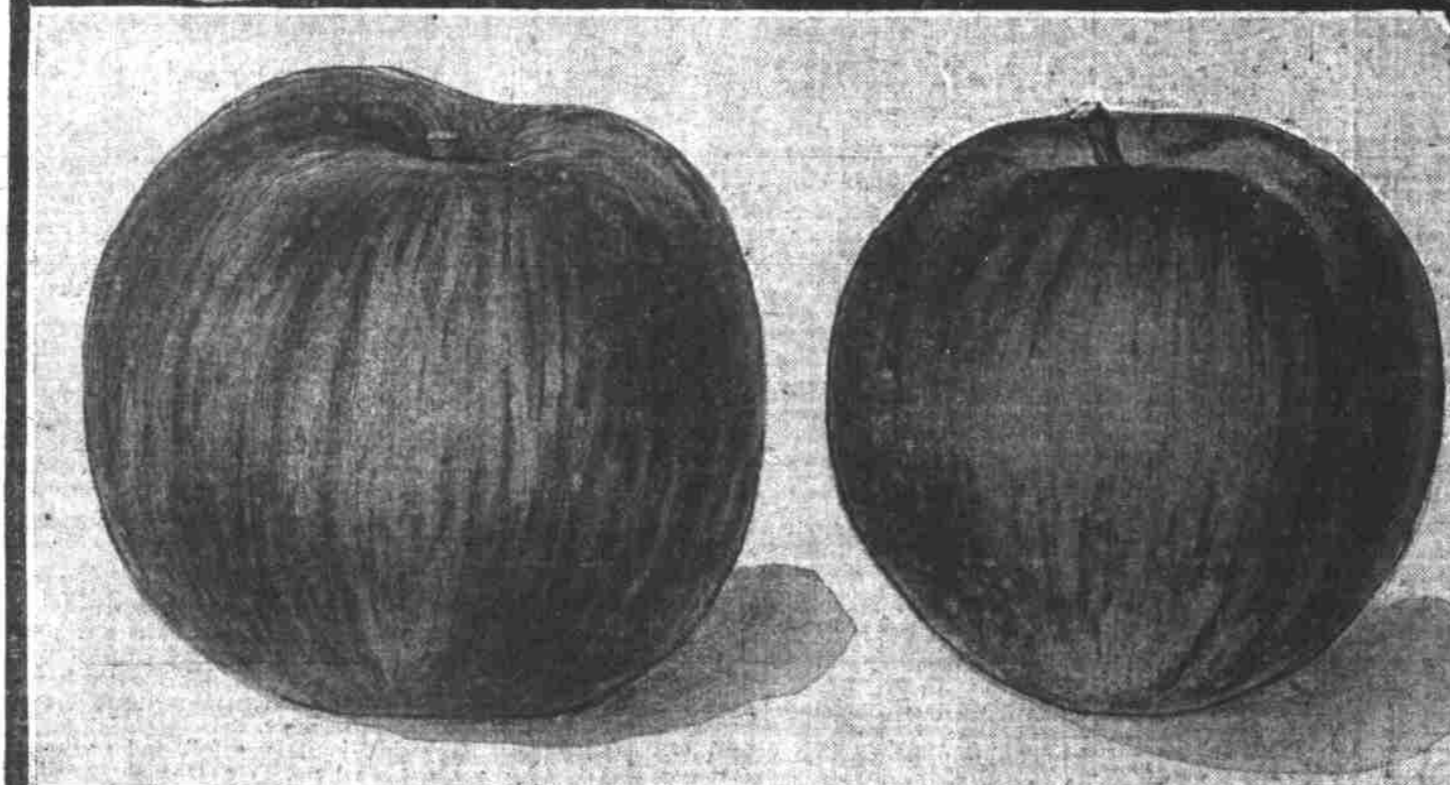
KNEW A GOOD THING

One of those who knew a good thing was the farmer, even when it came to him for nothing. He guarded that sprout, and watched it; for it was, in very truth, the apple of his eye. It proved to be a hardy, vigorous, upright grower, with very heavy dark-green foliage, and a regular, annual bearer. At fifteen years of age the original sprout measured thirteen inches in diameter at the ground. When eight years of drought and cold had ruined three-fifths of his orchard the farmer found that this miracle of nature had not been harmed in the least.

Its only handicap is that, grown in cool and humid climates, it needs spraying for apple scab, to which it shows some susceptibility. During the last few years it has been fruited on



A Mango from India that Does Well in Florida.



Two Promising New Apple Varieties.

young trees in most of the apple districts west of the Mississippi river, and it is now especially promising in the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast states.

Chance had played its part, a short time before, in producing another wonderful apple from a stray seedling near a spot where, in earlier years, cider had been made on a farm in Windsor township, Lawrence county, Ohio. But man's discernment here was not so keen as it was in Iowa.

Year after year the lost orphan of some mighty stock went on, bearing its splendid burden, fit for the table of royalty, yellow in color, but washed with red and crimson, great, sub-acid, richly flavored fruit that came in season in the late autumn and early winter, and keeping perfectly in cold storage.

OF GREAT PROMISE

After a time the owners of the tree divined that there should be something more than mere eating in the crop of that splendid, lonely tree. Yet today it still awaits its true exploitation in the districts to which it is peculiarly adapted, the middle states and the irrigated valleys of the West.

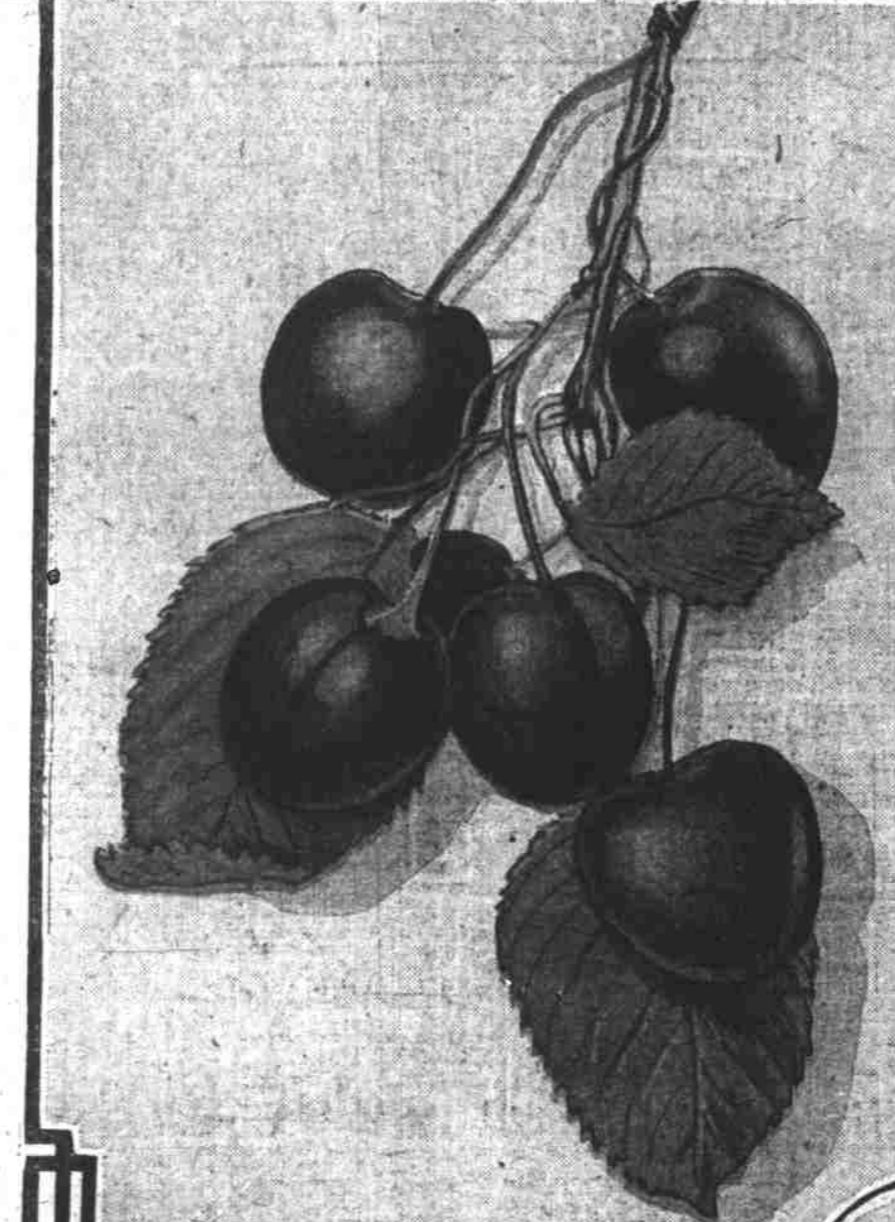
Wherever sweet cherries thrive a welcome should await that exquisite fruit that had its origin in Oregon—and who, when the cherry of which he makes one rejoicing bite proves worthy, regrets the early taste he formed as the agile boy, juice stained and reveling, high in the fork of the trees nearest home?

In the Willamette and Columbia river valleys, in Oregon, the great size and beautiful color of the sweet cherries have been a source of marveling delight to all who saw and tasted them. Chance, there, leaned heavily on man's intelligence, for the earliest introduction of cherries—in 1848, at Milwaukee, Ore.—included some of the choicest varieties known to the United States of that generation.

As the years passed, some of the seedlings, under the influence of the land and the climate, displayed remarkable merits. One of them developed under a Napoleon, or royal Ann tree, in an orchard at Milwaukee, Ore., an orchard planted sixty years ago.

The seedling tree, supposed to be a cross of Black Heart on Napoleon, was grafted to a May Duke tree before it reached bearing age, and was transplanted to a location at one end of the old orchard. Some years ago the May Duke top broke off, or died; but a sprout from the seedling stock was permitted to form a new top.

When that new top bore its fruit the owner perceived immediately that he had treasure trove. He sent small shipments of the cherries to Boston and other eastern markets. The prices



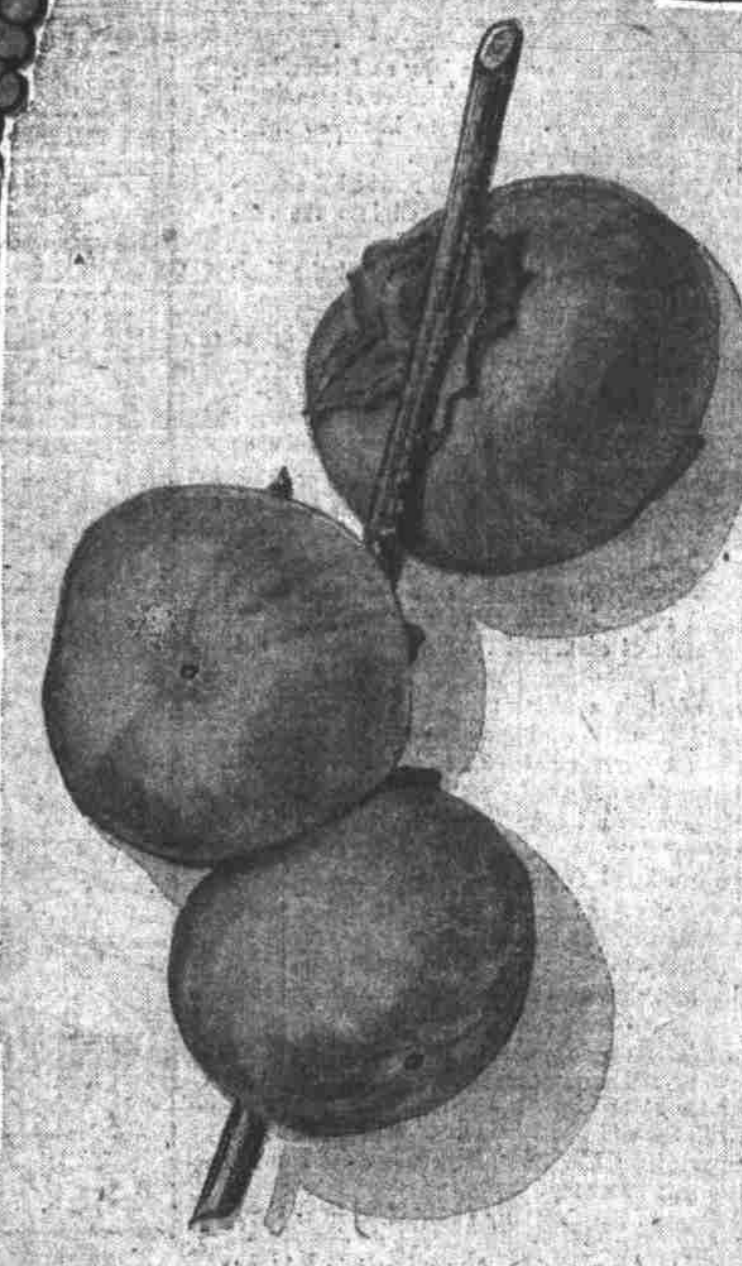
A Cherry that Originated in Oregon.

received were a revelation.

It is not yet extensively planted east of the Rockies, but is regarded by Agricultural Department experts as worthy of the test at any place where sweet cherries grow.

Heart-shaped, large—often very large—it is light red in color, beautifully marbled with a darker red. The flesh is purplish red, with lighter marbling, sweet, rich and juicy. The fruit is borne in large clusters, one twig three and one-half inches long having twenty-three well-developed cherries.

In an abandoned field in Jackson county, Mo., a fruit grower of Harlem, Mo., discovered a remarkable persimmon tree of the variety Diospyros virginiana. He secured scions, and has now an orchard of 200 trees, the fruit of which,



A Real Thanksgiving Persimmon.

The Missouri persimmon is extremely large for its class, with a translucent reddish color and a flavor sweet and rich. On the thin, dry land of Jackson county, Mo., it ripens in September, but the government experts deem it worthy of testing in all persimmon-growing sections, where, if the land be rich and under cultivation, it should ripen and be marketable for a period of several weeks during autumn and early winter without the need of cold storage.

The Department of Agriculture, in the luscious domain of the orange, has at last decided that a stock imported from China, previously classed with mandarins and tangerines, is too splendid a variety to endure longer without a distinct horticultural dignity all its own. It may even reach the importance of being rated a sub-species of orange.

The parent stock was secured by a woman of Riverside, Cal., through Hon. John S. Bingham, then United States minister to Japan, who obtained it from the Chinese Imperial Gardens at Peking. The juice is abundant and peculiarly sweet and rich, with a distinctive and agreeable aroma. It is considered a distinct addition to the orange family, and is already grown in Florida.

A variety of mango, imported by the Government Section of Seed and Plant Introduction in 1901 into Florida from Bangalore, India, has turned out to be a truly giant mango, which attains a weight of twenty ounces as a regular thing, and often reaches two pounds.

This enormous fruit has rich reddish yellow flesh, very juicy and tender, and almost entirely free from fiber, with a flavor both sprightly and refreshing. It is a genuine wonder in mangoes, believed to be unique among its kind. And any one who has ever eaten a fresh, aromatic mango will comprehend what a gift of the gods this must be.