

## PERSIMMONS, FIGS, LOQUATS, AND NUTS.

Many kinds of fruit and nuts deserve more attention from the planter. The persimmon, a native of northern China, where it is grown extensively, has done well almost wherever it has been planted in this country. Too often an unsuitable variety has been chosen, but such varieties as Tsuru-gaki and Tamopan are of high quality, and the fruit is said to keep well in cool storage.

On the better class of soils with good drainage figs and loquats might well receive more attention. In this instance, also, growers have been disappointed with seedlings and inferior varieties—experiences, however, that are almost unavoidable for the pioneer. While the Smyrna class of figs is unsurpassed for richness of flavour, they require the assistance of the little *Blastophaga* wasp to enable them to set their crop—an insect that has not yet been successfully introduced into this country. Perhaps nearly as important commercially, however, are White Adriatic and Mission (California Black) varieties, which do not require the assistance above mentioned. The bold foliage of the loquat-tree is a familiar sight in many gardens, but very rarely is a good fruiting variety met with. Named varieties, with fruit of large size and good quality, are now listed by nursery-men. These are worth a trial in good soil and warm localities.

The price of edible nuts warrants further planting. Walnuts, chestnuts, and hazels crop well in this country; it only remains to secure satisfactory varieties, which, in the case of the first two, must be properly worked on seedling stocks. The hazels and filberts are more often propagated by layering.

—W. C. Hyde, Horticulturist.

*Investigation of Irrigation in America.*—On 3rd March Mr. C. J. McKenzie, Public Works Department, together with Messrs. R. B. Tennent and J. R. Marks, writers of the series of articles on "Irrigation and its Practice," concluded in last month's *Journal*, left Wellington for California and Canada on an official mission of inquiry into irrigation in those territories. The subject will be studied from engineering, agricultural, marketing, administrative, and financial points of view. Messrs. Tennent and Marks will return to New Zealand in about four months; Mr. McKenzie proceeds to Europe from America on other engineering business.

*Rabbit-control in Harapepe District.*—Regulations under the Rabbit Nuisance Amendment Act, 1920, were gazetted on 19th February, the effect of which is to suspend trapping in the Harapepe Rabbit District (South Auckland) except by permission and under conditions specified by the Board.

*London Market for Peas and Beans.*—The following advice was cabled by the High Commissioner on 7th March: *Peas*—Market slow. Japanese parcels which have arrived sold at £23 12s. 6d. per ton; March-April shipments, £23 15s. Stocks of New Zealand and Tasmanian Partridge heavy and demand poor; nominal values are—New Zealand 65s. to 70s., Tasmanian 75s. to 78s., per 504 lb. ex store; English best quoted at 51s., inferior down to 42s. *Beans*—English in large supply and demand slow; quoted at 46s. to 51s. per 532 lb. Chinese horse-beans, new crop, July-September shipment, offered at £10 2s. 6d. per ton without finding buyers.