

growth. Tea is a doubtful crop, but could be grown in small patches where the soil is of a light loamy nature. Sugar-cane grows excellently, but unfortunately there is no market.

Sweet potatoes are the main native food and they can be produced all the year round. Two crops a year may be harvested interplanted with corn. Dalo or dasheen (taro) is also a staple food and takes five or six months to mature. It is planted in June or July. Yams and manioc are grown mainly in the Chirima and Biagi villages, but will also grow well in low-lying lands. Rice and sago are not grown to any extent, but there is an excellent future for rice on the level stretches.

Bananas and pawpaws grow in abundance and are very prolific. Coco-nuts can be grown—the smaller inland variety being the best suited. Citrus growing on a small scale is quite a success, but they are readily attacked by scale and dieback if neglected.

Vegetables such as beans, tomatoes, cabbages, lettuces, cucumbers, eschalots, turnips, radishes, chokos and pumpkins are very easily raised if protected, but will also do quite well in open beds.

Cattle and pigs should do well in the valley. Berkshires and Tamworths are the best for the climate and they both cross readily with the native pig. Shorthorn cattle are perhaps the best of breeds, but beef animals also do well.

The main grasses are summer and couch, but paspalum is doing well in patches. Blue grasses, rye and kikuyu do very well, but the country is not stocked to any extent and consequently they have not been encouraged.

Pines are found in the Biagi and Chirima Districts, while hardwoods, semi-hards and softwoods of excellent quality are found in large quantities in the valley.

The valley shows excellent promise for agriculture and as freighting becomes less difficult it will no doubt show its worth in this regard.

MARCOTTING.

Marcotting is adopted in the case of trees which are difficult to propagate by cuttings or to which other methods of propagation cannot easily be applied.

The method employed in the Botanic Gardens in Rabaul is as follows: a firm, healthy branch with well ripened wood is chosen and just below a node, 2 inches of bark, including the water-bark, is removed. After about 24 hours, when the wood is dry, it is plastered with wet adhesive soil ($\frac{1}{2}$ cow dung and $\frac{1}{2}$ loam) which is held securely in place with hessian tied with string.

It is most essential that the soil be watered daily and when the roots appear through the ball of earth, the branch is severed from the parent tree just below the roots and planted in a bamboo pot or basket.

These operations are best carried out during the rainy season.—Ah Fat.



A healthy mangosteen branch with the bark cut.



The soil bound on the marcot.



Marcots on mangosteen tree.

(Photographs by Chee Hoi Meen.)