

varieties—but chiefly four, two early and small kinds, known as the Kandak Uriuck and Khasake Uriuck, white and two late, large, very delicate kinds, Pivande Uriuck and Pohar Uriuck (yellow with rose blush).

In the outskirts of Vjerny we still meet occasionally with the Black Uriuck (*Prunus Armenica*), which grows at the town of Djargent, situated at farthest border toward China. The trees bear large fruit, almost round and almost entirely brown in color. The stone is not free. In taste it resembles a plum more than an apricot.

The people living in the inland use the Uriuck fresh and dry it for winter. The Russian ladies cook the Uriuck green in sugar until the stone is soft, and in such a state it is also pleasant to the taste. The Bucharians dry a great quantity of the Uriuck apricots in the sun, and their trade in this article is large. It is brought on the markets from Northern Siberia and from the governments bordering on the Volga. It is possible to buy dried Uriuck even in the market at Moscow.

But, as a garden tree about Vjerny and the outskirts, the Uriuck is the favorite, on account of its early growth, and its merits for cooking, for which purpose it is largely grown. The wood of the Uriuck is also valuable as a material for wood work. Things made from it are very beautiful, but very heavy.

With regard to the hardiness, a Russian officer who lives in China, P. Alexanderovsk writes, speaking of its hardiness. He says: "In the years 1888 and 1889 heavy frosts continued for about two months, from the middle of December until the middle of February. Some days it was  $-37^{\circ}\text{F}$ ., occasionally it was  $+5^{\circ}\text{F}$ . to  $-2^{\circ}\text{F}$ . In February a south wind blew and the thermometer rose one or two degrees. Afterwards it soon fell to  $-13^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Notwithstanding such severe changes, only the old trees of the Uriuck were injured, and this not everywhere. Young trees came out all right, just the same as if there had been mild weather. Rich people living inland had no crop, but the poor had



THE URIUCK APRICOT.

every tree full of fruit, and early varieties are very heavily laden. At first view, this is difficult to explain, but the fact is that riches and poverty are measured in China by the quantity of water controlled. Rich people watered their grounds during the whole summer, but the poor watered theirs very little on account of the scarcity. I am inclined to think that it is almost certain that the luxuriant growth caused by the frequent waterings was the cause of their failure to the fruit."

I shall be much pleased if the Fruit Grower's Association of Ontario, of which I have the honor to be a member, will call public attention to this useful fruit. It will be a gratification to me to see the time when the Uriuck apricot will occupy in the orchards and gardens in your country, a place along with the other highly prized novelties. I send some pits of the Uriuck apricot. The illustration accompanying this article represents the fruit of medium size, and pits of various sorts.

### XIII. SOME HARDY PEARS.

In the gardens of northern Russia the cultivation of pears without protection is very difficult, indeed, almost impossible, with the exception of a few varieties. From this it may be understood why our northern gardeners are so much interested in all