

upon the flora by reason of which this latter would present some features of distribution quite different from what would obtain on continental areas, and this we find to be true in certain representatives of tropical families, which are carried to a higher northern limit than would otherwise be possible.

Comparing Yezo with the known climate of similar latitudes, we find in some instances, a fairly close correspondence. Thus, taking Boston in latitude $42^{\circ} 22'$, and Sapporo, the capital city Yezo, in latitude 43° N., and we find the same mean, annual isotherm common to both. The region about Montreal being considerably further north—latitude $45^{\circ} 30'$ —the climate, is necessarily somewhat more severe, and could not fairly be brought into comparison. From its insular character, the climate of Yezo is necessarily much more equable than that known here, or even in New England, a difference which is more manifest from the fact that while the mean annual temperatures of Boston and Sapporo are the same, the extremes of summer and winter temperature in the latter are much less, rarely exceeding $+80^{\circ}$ or -7° Fah. There is thus an absence of those extreme and sudden variations in temperature which are so trying and often prove so destructive to vegetable life.

From the earliest days of exploration and conquest, to the present time, there has been a constant interchange of floras between remote parts of the earth at the hand of man, a sure, though artificial means of rapidly distributing those forms which would otherwise long remain confined to narrow limits. This movement has been greatly accelerated in recent years, and is constantly augmenting as the special value of plants becomes more clearly defined. Interchange between different localities where the physical conditions are largely similar, and the distribution of plants over new areas where they may come to have important local or general value, are determined by such well defined economic principles as to need no further and special argument in favour of it. It was in fact a recognition of these principles which first led to the introduction of mulberry trees into Europe from China, and of many of our most desirable fruits from Europe, as well as the transplanting of the pine apple from its native home in the West Indies to the antipodes. It is also a recognition of the same principles which lead the Japanese to-day, to import and distribute throughout their country all our improved varieties of fruit, grain and even forage plants. The principles which at first applied to the distribution of food plants, applies to-day with hardly less force to the