

of lime is rather general. By consulting the local Farm Adviser or the College of Agriculture, Berkeley, arrangements can probably be made to test the acidity of the soil in any particular locality.

- (6). PROFESSOR W. L. JEPSON, in his "Manual of the Flowering Plants of California," lists six species and two varieties of the genus *Vaccinium*, and it is interesting to note that the variety *saporousum* Jepson, set off from *V. ovatum* Pursh., is said to possess fruits of superior flavor. *V. ovatum*, the evergreen California huckleberry, is a valuable commercial ornamental green, and its fruit is collected and canned in at least one factory in northern California.

Division of Plant Pathology,
University of California,
November 15, 1927.

THE BOTANICAL EXPLORERS OF CALIFORNIA.—III.

WILLIS LINN JEPSON

George Hansen

The foothill region of the Sierra Nevada has always been, considering its importance in relation to plant distribution and to ecology, a neglected region from the botanical viewpoint. There have been on the whole few resident botanists in that area, and fewer still whose residence or interest lasted over a long period. For shorter periods, however, good work in exploration and in local studies has been done. In the early years of the nineties the settlers in the foothills of Calaveras County became familiar with the sight of a man who, on holidays and Sundays, went through the cañons and over the hillslopes, into the forests and river bottoms, gathering specimens of native flowers, trees and shrubs and bestowing them in a long tin box which he carried or frequently in a kind of wooden press bound by leather straps. This was George Hansen, a German. The foothill folk sometimes thought his interests in native things strange or eccentric, but he was well liked by all of them on account of his ever cheerful disposition and courteous demeanour.

George Hansen was born April 15, 1863 in Hildesheim in Hanover. He was the grandson of J. G. K. Oberdieck, sometimes called the Father of German Pomology. On account of his services to the state the Prussian Government granted to Herr Oberdieck a free college education to such of his grandsons as desired to work in horticulture. It fell out, in consequence, that the young Hansen, after completing the work of the gymnasium in his birthplace, was sent to Potsdam for the course in the Royal College of Pomology.

In 1885 he went to England and took employment with F. Sander & Company, working at first in the orchid house and later making

illustrations for "Reichenbachia". He left England in 1887 for San Francisco where he engaged in the nursery business with Hans Plath, one-time President of the California Floral Society.

In 1889 he was appointed foreman of the University of California Foothill Experiment Station at Jackson, Amador County, where he remained for about seven years. During this period he prepared



GEORGE HANSEN

the greater portion of his book on the Orchid Hybrids, an enumeration and classification of all hybrids of orchids published up to 1897 (334 pages, 1895-1897), and drew the figures used in illustration of the second part of Greene's West American Oaks. This illustration work developed his field interest in the genus *Quercus* and a little later he called attention to many of the interesting and remarkable variants of the native species of oak which he discovered in the region of the Foothill Station. During his summer vacations he collected the native plants in Amador, Calaveras and Alpine counties of the Sierra Nevada with zeal and enthusiasm, and distributed to various of the leading herbaria of the world numbered sets of 1500 specimens containing material of some thirty new species and varieties as published

by various botanists of his correspondence. Several novitiates in this collection were named for him, among them being *Sitanion Hanseni* J. G. Smith, *Poa Hanseni* Scribner, *Trifolium Hanseni* Greene, *Senecio Hanseni* Greene, *Solanum Hanseni* Greene, *Godetia Hanseni* Jepson, and *Cercospora Hanseni* Ellis & Everhardt.

A narrative of his botanical trips in the central Sierra region of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine counties was published by Mr. Hansen in a little pamphlet entitled *Flora of the Sequoia Region* (23 pp., 1895), being supplemented by a list of the plants collected and distributed in his *exsiccatae* (pp. 14). The more important stations at which he collected are as follows: Fisher's Cabin on the Mokelumne River; Clinton or Clinton Hills, 2000 feet in the foothills a little north of east of Jackson; Pine Grove, about five miles north of Clinton; Foothill Experiment Station near Jackson; New York Falls, 2000 feet; Antelope, near head of Tiger Creek, 4500 feet, on the road to Silver Lake from Jackson; Armstrong station, 5000 feet; Silver Lake, 8000 feet; Twin Lakes, 8500 feet; Carson Spur, 8500 feet.

Of his other writings there may be noted "Ceanothus in the Landscape of the Sierra Nevada" (Gard. & For. 10: 102,—1897); "Iris Hartwegii Baker" (Gard. & For. 10: 95,—1897); "The Lilies of the Sierra Nevada" (Erythea, 7:21-23,—1899); "The Reafforesting of the Sierra Nevada" (Sierra Club Bull. 3: 224-229,—1901); "The Hillside Farmer and the Forest" (Sierra Club Bull. 5: 33-43,—1904).

An injury to his spine compelled him to give up charge of the Foothill Station and he removed to Berkeley in 1896. Here he lived for twelve years, devoting himself mainly to his garden, beyond the limits of which in later years he was seldom able to go. He died March 31, 1908. A sympathetic appreciation of his character, written by his friend Charles Murdock, may be found in the Pacific Unitarian (16: 180). Gifted with a buoyant and courageous spirit he was enabled to bear suffering that would have crushed the average man, and he will be long remembered by his friends for his patience and cheerfulness under adversity.

Berkeley, March, 1919.

COLLECTING TRIPS OF EZRA BRAINERD IN CALIFORNIA

VIOLA BRAINERD BAIRD

Dr. Brainerd made two trips to California, the first in the summer of 1897, the second in the summer of 1915. Two of his daughters were then living in California and his first trip was made primarily to visit them and to join them at their summer camp at Strawberry on the Placerville road. While riding on the stage along the South Fork American River he caught sight of a sedge which looked strange and asked the driver to stop while he collected it. This sedge proved to be a new species and was named in his honor, *Carex Brainerdii*.¹

From Strawberry (Echo P. O.) tramps and excursions were made to many points of interest, such as Desolation Valley, Pyramid Peak and Echo Lake, Snowy Cascade and Snowy Falls (near Slippery Ford), Meisner's Ranch (a climb of about five miles from Strawberry), Meisner's Lake and Little Lake (both near Meisner's Ranch), Lovers Leap, Lake Audrain, "Mrs. Watson's" and "Watson's Meadow" at Strawberry. In this region he collected generally but was particularly interested in sedges. His collection of sedges proved to be one of great interest to Mr. K. K. Mackenzie, the *Carex* specialist, since his abundant material was chosen with his usual care and discrimination. Later in this summer he went to Sisson where he continued collecting in the Shasta region.

¹ By K. K. Mackenzie (Bull. Torr. Club. 40:534,—1923). Specimens of four other species of *Carex* collected in California by Dr. Brainerd were used as the types for new species by Mr. Mackenzie. See *Erythea* 8:6.—W. L. JEPSON.



Jepson, Willis Linn. 1928. "THE BOTANICAL EXPLORERS OF CALIFORNIA.—III." *Madroño; a West American journal of botany* 1, 183–185.

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