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OFFICE OF

R. Douglas & Sons,
WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill July 9th 1878

Rec July 11
Ans Sam Sy

Dr Geo. Engelmann

Dear Sir

Mr Andrew L. Siler of Ranch, P.O. Utah, sent us seeds of a Fir from the Wasatch Mountains which he calls A. Subalpina, var. Falax, or Fallax he spells it both ways The seeds resemble, but are a trifle larger than A. Balsamea, I sent a sample of the seeds to Prof. C. S. Sargent, and also saw Mr Sargent at Brookline last week. Mr Sargent told me that Falax was rare, and that the seeds sent by Mr Siler were probably the Western form of A. Balsamea and not of much value as an Ornamental tree.

In the summer of 1849. I crossed the Wasatch Range, going to Salt Lake on my way to California, and on this side of the Mountain and very near the summit, or where the road crossed the Range, I saw a few very beautiful trees, which I took to be very good specimens of Balsam Fir, and as I recollect now, held the lower branches much better than our Balsam Fir.

When I rec'd the seeds from Mr Siler, about the middle of last month, I immediately wrote him, asking how he came by the Name, and to-day have rec'd his answer, he says he sent branches and Cones to you, and that you read a paper before the Academy of Sciences of St Louis, in which you give it the above name, he says the paper was published in Pamphlet form and

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Entitled "A synopsis of the American Firs"
I will esteem it a great favor if you will send me a pamphlet or give me information as to where they can be had.
It may interest you to know that we are growing a very large quantity of A. Douglasii A. Engelmanni A Menziesii A. Concolor and P. Ponderosa all from Colorado seeds, collected by Mr Brandijee through the kindness of Prof. C. S. Sargent, and we hope that the conifers of Colorado may be able to endure the Climate of Kansas, in which climate it is said the Red Cedar is the only Evergreen that can be relied on.
I have great hopes that these trees may be able to endure our dry atmosphere better than the kinds indigenous to the Eastern States and Europe, for on returning home from the East July 4th last, I found that there had been no rain here in my absence, the ground dry and sun very hot, and that Norway spruces 6 inches high were burnt off and had to be shaded from the Sun, while A. Menziesii of the same size (seed from C. C. Parry) stood near by quite as much exposed to the Sun, and although not shaded at all were not in the least injured.
~~when last, I t... imported from England under the name of A. Engelmanni~~
but they were undoubtedly, A. Menziesii, and of the Colorado type.

Very Respectfully Yours

Robert Douglas.

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill July 13th 1878

Rec'd July 16 '78

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

I thank you for your interesting letter and Pamphlet, in reply to your letter, I would say that the A. Subalpina seeds I had from Mr Siler were clean and remarkably free from leaves, still there would have been enough to identify them if we had not sown all the seed. Mr C. S. Sargent to whom I sent a sample of the seeds, has a poor opinion of Mr Silers judgement, or perhaps of his integrity, and told me that he thought it was the A. Subalpina and not of much or any value as an Ornamental tree, I am however of the opinion (judging from the very satisfactory manner in which these Colorado Conifers adapt themselves to our Western States) that it may be valuable as an Ornamental tree, and I judge from specimens I saw of a tree resembling the Balsam Fir, growing on the Wasatch Mountains, referred to in my last letter that it will hold its lower limbs better than the Balsam Fir, and from a tree I saw near Boston a week or two ago, but from the Rocky Mountains by J. T. Allen of Omaha several years ago. I am inclined to think it will form a more compact tree, foliage more dense, and a slower grower than the Balsam Fir, but of course this is only a single straw as it were, and not much to base an opinion upon, yet it is worth trying, for there is much need of new introductions to fill the wants of the West, both for Ornament and forest timber in Kansas & Nebraska

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especially, and no foreign tree has, so far, shown itself well adapted to the climate of those States, while the very few trees of the Colorado Conifers are indeed very promising.

I sent home by mail a small Pinus Flexilis, which I dug about 1000 feet above the Concolor's we saw growing on the mountain side on our way up to Pikes Peak (we supposed them to be ~~Picea~~ A. Grandis, till Dr Parry pronounced them Concolor), this P. Flexilis barely lived for 2 or 3 years. Three years ago I transferred it to the borders, but unfortunately a careless man cut it ½ off with the hoe, and after all these mishaps, it is going to make a nice tree, quite as fast a grower apparently, and closely resembling in appearance Pinus Cembra, it is perfectly hardy. Mr Whitney of Franklin Grove Lee Co, Ill, has a tree of A. Menziesii and a tree of A. Douglasii, but from Colorado when small, they are now each 15 feet high, perfect specimens, making 2 & 2½ feet growth annually, - so he writes me, and these trees have never been injured in winter since planted, Mr Barnes of ~~Lawn~~ Vinland Kansas has Douglas Spruces, from Col, growing finely as the above named.

On the other hand, A. Douglasii & A Menziesii have been introduced from Eastern Nurseries of the California trees of these species but in every case that has come within my knowledge they have entirely failed to endure our winters.

I have purchased seeds from California and grown thousands on thousands of Conifers, A Menziesii, A Douglasii P Grandis, A Williamsonii, Pines Spruces Silvis Cypress &c &c, none of which have endured over 5 years, and very few over two years, and to sum up, there is not a single tree of all the kinds we have had from the Pacific Slope that will stand our winters, while, on the other hand there is not a single kind we have had from Colorado that has not so far stood as well as our Common Evergreens.

I had seeds from Dr Parry 3 yrs last winter, and I sowed his A Douglasii seed alongside of A Douglasii seeds from Wash, Ter, the Wash, Ter, seeds made ~~the~~ ~~the~~ largest growth, but they winter killed the second winter while the Colorado seedlings, stood as well as any trees we had, of course they would have killed out the first winter had they not been well protected, the above is only a solitary instance all my experience has been similar to this with the California and Colorado seeds, the one all tender, the other all hardy, Even Pinus Contorta, the hardiest of all the California Conifers we have tried, turned red even last winter and this incoming winter will probably finish it.

The difference between the California and Colorado Menzies is easily distinguished in the appearance of the trees, and this may help to account for the English Nurserymen sending out the Colorado Menzies for Engelmannii, as they certainly have in some instances I noticed when East, Maxwells of Geneva had it so.

I will send you by mail in a day or two (it is too hot now) a few seedlings of Concolor, Menzies, Engelmann, Subalpina and Balsam Fir, all from this spring seeding, as the Concolor and Balsam Fir, compared with Silers seedlings may be a means of identifying it,

Very Respectfully Yours

Robt Douglas

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OFFICE OF
R. DOUGLAS & SONS,
WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill July 23rd 1878

Rec'd July 25th

Dr Geo. Engelmann

Dear Sir

Your favor of 21st with Mr Silers letter returned, came duly to hand. I am glad to hear you were interested in the seedlings we sent, and it will give me pleasure to send them at any time, indeed, I am the party under obligation, and have already learned from you what I could not have learned from any other man, i.e. How to identify Rocky mountain Menziesii from Engelmanii by its Cotyledons.

You say there was no need of sending so many seedlings of each kind, we have thousands of them, so it made no difference with us, while with you it might, for I notice there is not always the same number of Cotyledons, and thought they might vary in other respects, and as "one swallow does not always make a summer". I thought one small seedling might not alway make a true test,

We would send more seedlings now, only you say you are going away. It will be no trouble, but a pleasure to send some at any time when you have leisure to examine them, both in the Cotyledon state and when they have made first and second growth.

The seeds I sent you were all collected by Mr Brandijee except the Subalpina, which was collected by Mr Siler, and I am confident that Mr Brandijees seeds are true, for I know them very well, having often seen them, except Engelmanii, and I have some Engelmanii twice before, once

I had a very few seeds from Mr Meehan, a pkge collected by Parry, I think it was time of the war, they grew, with a few P. Aristata from same source till 3 yrs old, when through the carelessness of a workman they were mixed up with others and lost, I had Dr Parrys seeds 4 years ago, the Menziesii grew very well, we have a stock of them now in the 4th year, but the Engelmanii did not grow, cold weather set in early in Col, that year, and I think the seeds of Engelmanii had not matured, at all events we did not succeed in making them grow.

Sorry I cannot send you seedlings of Menziesii from Pacific Slope, he we discontinued its propagation, as the plants are tender and can not be grown here, this I have proved after frequent trials, and this is true of all coniferous seeds from the Pacific slope, even A. Williamsonii, seed, said to be from Alaska, could only be made barely to live till the 4th year, and the only trees I have now living of all my sowings from the western slope is P. Contorta, they are now 4 yrs old, but not at home, as I judge by their appearance now.

When you return home and have leisure I must trouble you to tell me many things about these Colorado trees, as I firmly believe they will be the ornamental, if not the timber trees for both East and West, I dug a small P. Flexilis on Pikes Peak and sent it home by mail, It resembles, but is prettier than, P. Cembroides, and I think it is at least as rapid in growth, P. Aristata, Balfouriana, I fear is too slow in growth, and Contorta lacks in appearance, but is probably hardy, from Col, seeds, indeed I am in hopes that they are all hardy, even Fremontiana, or whatever that little Pinon is that grows near Colorado Springs, I would like to introduce all these Colorado Evergreens that have merit, and make a specialty of growing them, and your opinion and advice will be of inestimable value in this direction.

Very Truly Yours

Robt Douglas

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OFFICE OF

R. Douglas & Sons,
WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Rec Aug 22
an ans by Sept 8

Waukegan, Ill Aug 20th 1878

Dr Geo Engelmann
x Oct 17

Dear Sir.

About the middle of July, and just after you had written me saying you would be absent from home for a few weeks, an old Horticultural friend, and former Secretary of the Ill. Hort. Soc'y called on me, It being a very hot day, we hurried through the nurseries and spent the greater part of the day in Conversation at the house, Before leaving in the Evening he asked me to write down the names of the Colorado Conifers, and he would call attention to them in the Chicago Tribune, and I wrote them on a slip of paper.

In the conversation about these trees during the day, your name had been mentioned in Connexion with the trees and the Mountains. and I had told him that we were fortunate in securing a reliable Botanist through the Kindness of Eastern parties, (meaning Prof. C. S Sargent &c. When I read his article in Chicago Tribune (a copy herewith enclosed) I can assure you I was very much annoyed to see that he has stated that you collected the seeds for us, and that he has stated that they were collected from an Altitude of 12 to 15,000 feet.

I have always had a disliking to Newspaper Correspondents, and "Puffs" and all that sort of thing.

Mr Barber who wrote this Article is a man that would not meanigly make a Misstatement, or exaggerate, but talking all day about

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almost everything, and a great deal about the mountains he has got this all wrong, and I did not ~~thinks~~ know what to do about it, I wrote Mr C S Sargent and sent him the article thinking you might possibly be in that locality, but I got no answer from him. The way I got the seeds collected was through Mr Sargent, he found that Mr Parry could not attend to it, so he contracted with Mr Brandijee or rather through him. I made the contract with Mr Brandijee to collect the seeds.

You expressed a wish to have samples of several of our seedlings when you returned, they are still holding the Cotyledons, and some kinds have made quite a growth, we can send them anytime on a days notice and will be glad to do so.

Yours Truly

Robert Douglas

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I enclose Mr Silers letter, it looks well enough, and yet, one thing looks to me rather odd, and that is that he should charge about 3 times as high for his Sub Alpina as Douglasii, even if he finds it near by.
He says, "the Cones are easily Collected but they are very difficult to clean". Now as far as my experience goes, the Firs are the easiest of all to clean, as they are deciduous, and all that is needed is simply to seperate the seeds from the scales.
Mr Brandiger thought he could collect 10 lbs of any of the others easier than 1 pound of Douglasii

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R. Douglas & Sons,
WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill Sep 28th 1878

Rec Oct 6 2
ans same day

Dr Geo. Engelmann

Dear Sir

We send you 20 samples Conifer seedlings by mail, which I hope you will recieve in good order and all with Cotyledons.

After putting up the sample of A. Excelsa it occurred to me that they were sown very late in the season, so I sent you another sample sown at the same time as Engelman & Menzies Parryana, so that you could judge fairly of their growth the first season.

In comparing A. Balsamea with Concolor and Subalpina you will please to bear in mind that A. Subalpina was sown in June while the other two were sown early in April.

The Fir marked Fraseri is grown from seeds furnished us by Wm Brown Cote des Neiges near Montreal, He collects for the English Market, he has furnished us our Native Coniferous seeds for many years. The Fraseri seeds are much smaller than the Balsamea, the Fraseri sample sent you was sown in June. I call your attention to this, as Prof C. S. Sargent tells me Fraseri is only to be found in So. Carolina, and if this is not the true Fraseri of course we do not wish to grow it under that name.

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Sciadopitys verticillata

I send you a sample of Umbrella Pine (of which we are growing a very large quantity,) thinking you may not have seen it in that state. It was sown early in Spring, and is just now germinating. It evidently does not understand our seasons, all of our native seeds will either come up early in the summer or lie over till the next Spring.

Yours Truly
Robert Douglas

P.S. I have just rec'd a package from Dr J. A. Warder in which I find a plant of A. Engelmannii & one of P. Contorta (your straight pine) The Doctor collected them up in the Bunny Range in Colorado.

R. D.

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Rec Oct 22

OFFICE OF

R. Douglas & Sons,

WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill. Oct 19 1878

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

Your letter to hand, we send you by mail Cones of Abies Rubra (if you allow it to be a species,) which you requested me to send a few weeks ago. I neglected it at the time as I had been from home, and both my Sons are on a hunting and fishing trip up near Lake Superior, and shooting the Rapids on the head waters of the Menomonie and its tributaries, so that I have been busier than usual.

If this is only a variety of the Black, would it invariably reproduce itself from seeds? You must excuse me, I am asking in all candor, I am deplorably ignorant in the rules of Botany, but perhaps partly excusable for the reason that I have had to work steadily in a branch where I have had to grope my way along almost alone, and really have had no time to spare till quite recently, but am now too old to learn.

I will send you all the Sciadopitys in leaf you may want next year as we have a very large stock.

I send with the Red Spruce Cones a Cone of Pinus pungens taken from a tree in the Nurseries. This pine may be interesting to to Botanists, but will never be a favorite with planters. We have had to burn nearly all we ever raised

Yours Truly
Robt Douglas

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Ans Nov 29

OFFICE OF

R. Douglas & Sons,

WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill Nov 25th 1878

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dr Sir

The red Spruces you enquire after were sent to me from the Forests of New York, shipped by steamer from Ogdensburg to me here 25 years ago. I took the 3 kinds (the red, the black, and white, with cones on) to Dr J. A. Kennicott in 1859, insisting that there were 3 kinds but the Dr insisted that as Dr Asa Gray only acknowledged two, there was but two, I next year sent them to Mr Meehan, he said there was but 2, The Black, the glaucous leaved Black, & the White, which would make the one under consideration the Black, in which he seems to agree with several of the old Botanists who call it a variety of the Black.

Mr Hoopes in his Book of Evergreens says they grow intermixed together in the forest and the timber is the same, it may be so, but I think not generally so, for I never found a red Spruce that had come mixed with Black & White in Western Nurseries, while the Black & White are nearly always more or less mixed. To my knowledge there never has been a red Spruce found in the west.

There was neither a black nor a white mixed with the several 1000 I got 25 years ago as above.

Although there is a belt 15 or 20 rods long within 25 rods of the nursery I have never saved any of the Seed, for it is not to my fancy so desirable

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either for a belt or a Lawn tree as the white and Norway
I liked it better this afternoon than ever before, when I went to examine it as to the persistent Cones, for it is a fine glossy green and really looked fresh and rich, but its lower limbs are not so well clothed as the Norway belt alongside. I think it holds foliage at the base better than the glaucous leaved black but not so well as the White.
In this row of over 100 large trees there is not an old Cone, except what lie under the trees, with very many of the new ones. The cones on this tree are not so persistent as the Norway Spruce, and as far as I have noticed never remain over year like the Black.
I fear it will be hard work to get Nurserymen to call the Colorado blue Spruce Pungens, for I notice they already call it Parryana in Europe, some of them have already learned that we are growing it in large quantity. The Manager of the Peter Lawsons Nursery in Edinburg wrote me that it is one of the very best conifers ever introduced into Britain, he calls it Parryana.
I fear it will be impossible to seperate the green from the blue, in Colorado, in the gardens in Omaha, Nebraska City Neb, in Kansas, in Lee County in Surrey and my own grounds in Ill. At Sargents, the Cambridge Gardens and the Busey Institute and several other places I have seen them, the green and the blue are mixed together, both the large trees and seedlings in Mass. both the large trees and seedlings here, are blue and green. I have grown them from Parry's seeds, from Brandijee's and others and they are all the same very blue and every shade between, to very green, and I might say from dark blue to pale green, and I am inclined to think the Engelmannii will shew the same variations in Color, it shews it in the seedbed very much like the other. On the whole - except for hedges - I think this is an advantage for we get variety.
I might give you a case, to shew how this will confuse some dealers. A party in this State got some trees from Colorado, 3 or 4 years ago, and offered them last spring at 5¢ per pair. I sent for a pair of Col. Menzies and a pair of Douglas Spruces. I got 2 blue, and two green ones. I wrote them that they had made a mistake, they then sent me two very feeble ones, which were really different looking from the other 2 kinds and wrote me that these 3 kinds were all they had, and if none of these were Douglasii they had not got it, and these men I have no doubt were perfectly honest.

Yours Truly

1 package Red Spruce branch and cones by mail

Robert Douglas

P. S. When you write again please give me your views as to the value of A. Engelmannii as an ornamental tree. Is it ever as blue as the blue Parryana or Pungens?

R D

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Rec Dec 3d

OFFICE OF

R. Douglas & Sons,
WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill Nov 30th 1878

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

Dr Jas A Warder sent me some cuttings of Juniperus Communis from the Snowy Range Col, that were variegated golden in blotches, and very pretty. I noticed when we were cutting them up for propagation that the foliage is much stronger and larger than the same species growing both on our Sandy Lake shore and also in the strong soil on the upland. It occurred to me that this may be an Alpine species and different from the Common, and that you would be at least as likely to know as any other Botanist.

If you have not examined and compared them I could send you a cutting of each, and I think probably a seed or two of the Col, and seeds of the Common, which I will be glad to do if you wish it

Yours Truly
Robt Douglas

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Ans' Dec 14th

OFFICE OF

R. Douglas & Sons,
WAUKEGAN NURSERIES.

Waukegan, Ill Dec 13th 1878

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

I send you the Colorado, and the Common form of Juniperus Communis. The short bushy cutting is the Col. kind brot me by Dr Jno. A. Warder. The slender one is found on our Lake Shore, and is the Common kind found on Lake Superior as well as Lake Michigan and commonly found in Canada and on the barrens almost everywhere in the North.

These small cuttings without seeds I will admit are a poor foundation on which to build up a scientific opinion, but they may be the means of calling your attention to this matter so that better specimens and seeds can be secured next year for your inspection. If you think there is anything in this, please to let us know and we will get you specimens next season from Colorado and our Lake Shore, all we have now is a few cuttings in the cutting boxes.

I think I will send our own Collector to Colorado next season and either go myself or have one of my sons go with him

Three large seed firms in Europe have requested us to secure seeds of A. Douglasii & A. Parryana if we can secure them at reasonable rates. California seeds men disappoint them every year

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A. Douglasii seems to be a favorite with them as a forest tree
The A Douglasii Mr Brandegee collected for us cost us 10. ¢ per lb and it
did not pay him at that, I sent to the San Francisco Seedsmen for Samples
and prices for a large quantity for Europe, Only a few pounds could be secured
at any price, and that was not very good seed, at 7 ¢ per lb,
I have offered to collect it in quantity at a much lower price, but if I can
contract it at the price we have offered we will be able to secure our
own seeds at the same time, If we conclude to do so, we may trouble you
to give us the names of some good localities for Collecting A Douglasii
and also Engelmann & Parryana & Concolor, which we will consider
a very great favor indeed,

Very Truly Yours

Robert Douglas

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec March 27
Ans

OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

EUROPEAN LARCH,

Evergreen Seedlings

SPECIOSA, or WESTERN CATALPA.

Largest Stock in America.

ALL NURSERY GROWN.

Importers of and Dealers in

LARCH AND EVERGREEN

TREE SEEDS, ETC.

Waukegan, Mar 25th 1879

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dr Sir

I agree in every particular in your opinion about changing the name of our Western Catalpa, and I am sure the Doctor will be of the same opinion, but some of our Western men have been teazing me about it. I will not mention who they are, nor give them your opinion, as I had already written them what I supposed the opinion of Scientists would be on this point.

It was first described in 1853 in an Ohio Journal of which Warder was Editor. I send you by mail today E. E. Barneys pamphlet, which gives a history of the tree, and a full description of the two kinds.

Yes, we would like a few seeds of Juniperus Californica. We are having seeds of Juniperus Occidentalis sent us from Colorado. I saw them growing near Pikes Peak examined the wood and found it is not red hearted like Red Cedar, but as an Ornamental tree I fancy it very much, yet I do not think it will be hardy

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here, as I did not see it North of the divide between Denver & Colorado Springs.

By Umbrella Pine, I meant the Umbrella Pine of Japan, Sciadopitys verticillata, I thought I had sent you some of the seedlings last fall. They only germinated in Sept., yet we succeeded in carrying them through the winter out of doors, which I think speaks well for its hardiness, even though covered many trees would not have stood it.

I think this western Catalpa will prove a great blessing to the Prairie region, I have examined into its merits very thoroughly, I went on a long trip with Dr Warder last Sept. examining all the groves and most of the individual trees in the Northwest ~~last Sept.~~ and from this we concluded it must be a western species or var, after that each of us went and examined it in the forests, I in Nov, and Warder in Dec, and found it as we had anticipated we would, but found none of the Species, only the Speciosa in the forests, and traced the Species in almost every instance as coming from the Nurseries.

You will see by enclosures that we are not charging a high price for a new thing, as we send 100 by mail and pay postage for $1.00 which leaves a very small profit, and when I was South we gathered in this State a very large quantity of seed, Indeed I ran a large gang of Jithmen, Germans & Negroes collecting the seeds and we mean to furnish planters next fall with the trees at a small profit.

About this Sciadopitys verticillata, I think Prof. C. S. Sargent told me that when you were there you and he had examined the seeds, well as Prof Clark could not dispose of them to Eastern Nurserymen we bought them.

What do you think of Juniperus Occidentalis as a tree for Cultivation?

Very Respectfully
Robert Douglas

P.S. Don't let me bore you with questions, you need not answer the last one.

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec Oct. 23
Ans " "

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Evergreen Seedlings
SPECIOSA, or WESTERN CATALPA.

Largest Stock in America.

ALL NURSERY GROWN.

Importers of and Dealers in

LARCH AND EVERGREEN
TREE SEEDS, ETC.

OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, Oct 21st 1878

Dr Engelmann

Dr Sir

I enclose you a sample of seeds and a few stray leaves of Abies Sub-Alpina from Utah, thinking they might interest you.

You said last year that you would like to see some one of our seedlings this year but I forget now which it was.

Anything we have is at your service at any time

Very Respectfully Yours
R Douglas & Sons

P.S. The enclosed seeds are a sample of a lot from George Johnson, Ranch Utah and billed A. Sub Alpina, var, Fals.

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Ans Oct 28
Ans Nov
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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, Oct 24th 1879

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

Your favor of yesterday is to hand I send you by mail Mr Barneys pamphlet and Dr Warders letter on Catalpa. I have also written the Doctor to write to you. I am sure he will cheerfully do so. He was called away to a distant City last winter to attend the Deathbed of a near and dear relative and this will account for his not answering your letter. We would have availed ourselves of the pleasure of calling on you, had we been sure you were at Cambridge.

I will send you by mail a sample of A. Subalpina of last years sowing, and sciadopitys of last year and this year, they are very slow growers.

All the seeds from Colorado seem to be almost worthless this year, and most wonderfully infested with worms. I do not know as we

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can depend on getting seeds except once in several years. I noticed the seedlings very closely when in Colorado in 71. and was of the opinion, judging from their age, that a crop was only produced once in several years. I called Mr Meehans attention to this fact and when he was there afterwards and examined them he came to the same conclusion. of course such opinions have little weight, as a person cannot examine but a small amount to territory. and then again in such a dry climate, one can see how a bountiful crop of seeds might be scattered some seasons and not find moisture enough to germinate and continue to grow.

We will gladly send you samples of anything we are growing this year, but we have none except the same kinds we sent you last year.

Yours truly
Robert Douglas

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ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec Nov 26

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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

Farlington Kansas

~~Waukegan~~, Nov 24th 1879

Dr Geo Engelmann

My Dear Sir

Just at the time I rec'd your last letter (Nov 1st) we had a snow storm that lasted till after I left home (Nov 3) I have not been home since but am now on the way and hope to be there this week yet, I have just this ~~partes~~ rec'd your letter of Nov 13th enclosed with a letter from home.

I thank you for the interesting information regarding the vitality of Pinus Contorta seeds, which I can well believe; and I think I have found seeds of both this and P. Banksiana in Cones that have remained on the trees at least 10 years, judging from the annual growths out and beyond the Cones.

We have still left a part of a sack of Pinus Ponderosa seeds that have been in our possession 5 years, last spring I sowed a quantity with my own hands, and they germinated as well as

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Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, ... 187

the first year to all appearance, at least as well as new seeds of other pines sown alongside. (White Pine seeds do not germinate well the second year)

Experience very often contradicts preconceived notions. London says European Larch seeds only preserve their vitality a few months after being taken from the cones, but we find them to do very well the second year.

I have little doubt that they, Dr C Balle of Berlin and others across the water got all their information about Speciosa from the Barney pamphlets for they have been sent there both by Mr Barney and myself, Mr Barney sent me a letter and order for seed from the Board of Agriculture and the Ex. Premier of Australia for C. Speciosa seeds, also one with order, from the Conservator of forest in the Panjab District of Lahore East Indies, also one from a party in Natal

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Transons, Nurserymen in France offer speciosa in their Catalogue, but do not offer Bignionoides, so I think it is quite time this matter should be settled.

I will write Dr Warder now,

I almost forgot to say that we are planting 220 000 Speciosa Catalpa trees for the K. C, Ft Scott & Gulf R, Rd, at this place, and if tomorrow is fair and warm the last of them will be planted.

Very truly Yours

Robt Douglas.

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Rec Dec 22
Ans rec'd by PC

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OFFICE OF
R. DOUGLAS & SONS,
Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, Dec 20th 1879

Dr Geo Engelmann
Dear Sir

I send you today a little paper box with a new cone of Picea Alba, Engelm. and two old cones which have just reached me from J. H. Masters, Nebraska City Neb. In his letter he says they are the Spruce of the Black Hills, and the same he shewed me when visiting his grounds 15 months ago. He says they stand both heat and cold remarkably well.

The trees I saw on his grounds, had a stunted appearance, as all spruces have for several years after being transplanted direct from the Colorado or Wyoming forests.

I confess that it annoyed me when I found that I could not tell him and Dr. Warder whether they were the Colorado Menzies, or Engelmann, (I had not then even dreamed that the white Spruce grew there,)

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From the very distinct recollections I have of his trees, I am inclined to think that if they are the white spruce, they differ from the Eastern type, just as C. D. Douglasii, and other Colorado Conifers, differ from the same species growing on the Pacific slope; unfortunately for me, I am neither Botanist, Scientist, nor Evolutionists, therefor I cannot be expected to account for this great difference in the same species when grown in different localities.

Had I suspected that they were the white Spruce I would have tested their odor, but it is possible, and even probable that they might not retain the odor of the white Spruce, after growing for dear knows how long in other Climates.

very truly Yours
Robert Douglas

P. S. Dr Warder wrote me that he has sent you information in regard to Catalpa Speciosa. I hope your description of it as a species may soon appear in the London Gardeners Chronicle, and then the European writers will have no excuse for converting Bignonoides into this species, and what is of more importance, our Eastern Editors, will cease fighting this tree, by insisting that it is the same as the Eastern kind, not one of them has yet taken the trouble to investigate its merits or say a word in its favor, which seems strange when we have recieved large orders for seeds from the Board of Agriculture of Australia, and also the Ex Premier, also from Natal South Africa, also from the Conservator of Forests, "in her Magestys service," at Lahore in the Punjab, who says in his letter accompanying his 2nd Order, "This tree promises better than any exotic tree ever introduced, not excepting the blue gum," "trees made 10 feet of good sturdy growth in 6 months — seed sown March 30." "From your description of its habits it is probable that in the bottom lands along the river banks it will succeed even better than in the dry plains

R. D.

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec'd Dec 26
Ans same day

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Evergreen Seedlings.

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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

WAUKEGAN NURSERIES,

Waukegan, Ill., Dec 23 1879

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

Your letter and card both rec'd, and as far as Dr Bolle is concerned, Prof Sargent got seeds from me last winter after I had been down in the forests, and proved together with Warder that it Catalpa Speciosa was the only indigenous Catalpa that we could find, and just at this time Nov 1878. I called Warders attention also Barneys and Sargents attention to the marked difference in the pods & seeds, but long before this and before Barneys pamphlet was published, I have heard Warder say over and over again that when he named it Speciosa, it was on account of its flowers, and at that time (1853) he called attention to it in a work of which he was then Editor,

Mr Sargent disclaims all pretensions to naming it, in his article in the Gardeners Chronicle pp 728, in Dec 6, number, and the only trouble about the whole matter is, that Dr Bolle, went off at "half cock", to use a frontier phrase, which might be pardonable in a frontiers-man, but hardly tolerable in an European Botanist, who could fill nine mortal pages on a subject he knew very little about,

Dr. Warder is in poor health I know from his letters otherwise he would explain this matter to you

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As it is possible the Dec 6th number of the Gardeners Chronicle may not have reached you I will quote here part of what Sargent says, now on reading it over again I see that you have read it, and that Sargent is ambiguous, but it can only be an oversight.

You may recollect that I wrote you about a year ago as to the propriety of changing the name from Speciosa to Wardii, well at that time Dr Bolle had not rec'd the seeds and knew nothing about the tree.

I will write to Mr Masters to send you a branch of his Spruce, but I think it has little or no odor, for I certainly would have tested it in this respect as this is my habit in distinguishing some of the Spruces.

Engelmanns Spruce has no odor, I am sure, or at least not enough to make it a distinguishing feature, and indeed I am inclined to think that Mr Masters tree might be a White Spruce, and yet after growing in that dry Climate for many generations it might not have retained its original odor, but this may only be a fancy.

You may not have noticed that Meehan & Sargent have another Catalpa Muddle on hand, Meehan says the tree described by Sargent in Barneys pamphlet as Kaempferi is Bungei. I am no botanist, and only judge from seed received from different localities under that name, that Sargent is probably right

If this tree of Masters should prove to be a White Spruce I think even then it will be an acquisition, and that it will endure our dry climate west of the Missouri River better than the Eastern kind, as the A. Douglasii, and P ponderosa endure better than the same tree from a moister climate

Yours truly
Robert Douglas

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Rec Dec 30
Ans Jan 3 by

OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

WAUKEGAN NURSERIES,

Waukegan, Ill., Dec 27th 1879

My Dear Sir

I note the questions in your postal of Dec 26th

I found the Catalpa Speciosa in the Woods, ~~south of, and~~ along the banks of the Ohio River, north of and near Mound City Ill, in large quantity, and employed a number of men, and had a large amount of seeds gathered, 400 to both on the Ill, & Kentucky side of the River. This was in ~~Nov & Dec~~ November and December of last year, and I took this trip, partly to satisfy myself and partly to convince Mr Barney that he was mistaken in stating to me by letter 6 months previous that both kinds grew in the Woods in Southern Illinois. Dr Warder & I had travelled over the Country in Sept and examined the trees over several hundred miles of Country and wherever we could trace the pedigrees of the Groves and single trees or rows of trees, we in every such case traced the Speciosa to our Western forests, and the Common to the Nurseries. and when we seperated after two weeks investigation we agreed to follow this hypothesis. Since then both Warder and John C Teas have been through the forests, Teas, without any intimation from Warder and I, soon came to the same Conclusion. I have written within the past 15 months to a great number of parties, in Tenn, Mo, So. Ind, & Ill, & Ky for samples of seeds and in every case when they came from Indigenous trees they were Speciosa. I also went and saw the man Mr Barney referred to who had written him about both kinds growing in So. Ill, and found that Mr Barney

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had misunderstood his letter, and that one kind grew in the woods and the other (the common) was got from an Eastern Nursery.

Now about the name. Joel Foster had written me in the summer of 1878 saying that Barney called it Early Blooming, Teas & Warder called it Speciosa but he thought it ought to be called "Hardy" Teas, that is to say, John C Teas Carthage Ind, who had propagated this tree for a great many years at Richmond Ind, claimed that it should be grown as Speciosa as Dr Warder had given it that name in 1853, and as I wrote you before I have repeatedly heard Warder say the same thing.

I think it was about the time that Mr Sargent sent to me for seeds of this tree to send to Europe that I wrote him that there was a confusion of names, and he replied that Speciosa was as good as any, and that as this name had been adopted it should be continued or words to that effect, or it might have been at the time I sent samples of the two kinds and called his attention to the dissimilarity of the seeds and pods.

I write now to J. C. Teas and will send you his answer.

Yours truly
Robt Douglas

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Rec Jan 6
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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, Jan 3 1890

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dr Sir

I enclose Mr Martens letter and send the twigs by mail which are undoubtedly Engelmann. I am still inclined to think that he may have the White Spruce, and may not have got the twig from the right tree. He is like all the rest of them he wants something new, he cannot see that the White Spruce might grow up there just as the Red Cedar does, and even if he sends us a tree from Dakota it may be Engelmann, even if the White Spruce grows there for it is every way likely that both are growing there, and yet I should think that Engelmann would only be found at a higher altitude, although Hughey says Engelmann grows in N. W. Nebraska. However when he sends another Cone and a branch from the same tree that will decide the matter.

In this same mail Dr Wunder sends me a twig sent to him by J J Allen of Omaha

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Collected near Denver, he sends it to Warder as a new juniper, but to me it seems like a common specimen of Juniperus Virginiana, as it grows in the Mountains. Every man who get into the woods for a week thinks he must have found something new when if he would look closely he might find the same tree in his own town, and there they have gone on till almost every tree has as many names, as are given at the christening of a scion of the Royal Family.
Every tree Culturist in Christendom is under obligations to you for correcting this everlasting muddle in the Conifers of Col. and the Pacific

Yours truly
Robert Douglas

Parsons in can hardly grow so far north as he says, and the only fir I have seen from as far north as Sherman is Abies balsamea

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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, Jan 15 1880

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dr Sir

With Mr Masters letter and samples I enclose a strong 2 yrs Old A. Concolor for comparison. If Mr Masters specimen is a subalpina and not a Concolor, then the A. subalpina should hardly be called a western form of A. Balsamea as it has very little resemblance and none of the resinous appearence or Odor of Balsamea. The color of the wood and appearance of the buds makes it appear to me as more nearly resembling the A. concolor than Balsamea. If it is concolor then you can ~~make~~ its habitat Wyoming as well as So. Colorado, I hope this is so as in that case I can judge from analogy that it will be hardy on our Western prairies

I shall be glad to hear what you think of it.

very truly

R Douglas

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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, Jan 20 1880

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

I thank you for Copy of Botanical Gazette and for kindly mention'g my name in connexion with Catalpa Speciosa. I had a letter from Dr Warder yesterday in which he expresses delight and feels under great obligations to you. and says it is the best new years gift he could have had. You did by inference give the year the Doctor published it as speciosa, for you say "13 years later", "1866" in referring to Tees Catalogue,

I have just rec'd your letter with Mr Masters returned. So the twig is Sub alpina, I am not sorry, for it proves that there is another fir tree in the Rats of Colorado worthy of cultivation, for his tree is quite distinct from the Balsam fir in appearance however nearly it may be related Botanically, and there cannot be a doubt that a tree from that locality will endure our climate

I am to meet Prof C. S. Sargent by appointment at the Lindel Hotel in St Louis, next

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Thursday night or Friday morning, where he will be for 2 or 3 days.

Yours very truly
Robt Douglas

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Ans'd Febr 5th
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OFFICE OF

R. DOUGLAS & SONS,

Waukegan Nurseries.

Waukegan, Feb 4th 1890

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir

Ere this time you will no doubt have rec'd the Catalpa log sent you from the neighborhood of Charleston Mo. Prof. Sargent stop'd on one day, we examined the trees in the swamp, and the Catalpa ties that have been in the road bed since the road was built, D Attell Chf. Eng, was with us, he says they are wonderfully durable and a success every way. They are perfectly sound yet to all appearance although they have worn out 2 sets of White Oak ties and the 3rd set is on the road now.

We found Red Maples in bloom in the swamp Jan'y 26th Mr Sargent requested me to inform you of it.

Yours truly

Robt Douglas

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