BULLETIN NO. 148; SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED, DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1908: INVENTORY NO. 16; NOS. 23323 TO 23744

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY—BULLETIN NO. 148.

B. T. GALLOWAY, Chief of Bureau.

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED

DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1.
TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1908:

INVENTORY No. 18; Nos. 23323 to 23744.

ISSUED APRIL 10, 1909.



WASHINGTON: SOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

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SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1908: INVENTORY NO. 16; NOS. 23323 TO 23744.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory of seeds and plants imported is the sixteenth in a series which was begun in 1898. It contains the introductions of only three months, and as the three months happened to fall at a time when our agricultural explorer Mr. Frank N. Meyer was in this country preparing for further explorations and Prof. N. E. Hansen was on his way to Central Asia or preparing there to collect the seeds of wild alfalfas on the steppes, the number of plants imported is small. It represents, therefore, only those things which have been secured by correspondence with our agents and friends in different parts of the world.

Through a correspondent in Chile, Mr. José D. Husbands, an unusual collection of seventy-two potato varieties was secured, among which are wild types from the archipelago of Chiloé and the adjoining mainland of Chile. These, it is hoped, will prove of considerable value for the breeders of this important crop. The unusual interest in the Peruvian strains of alfalfa induced us to get, through Mr. T. F. Sedgwick, of Lima, a collection of ten reputed different strains, while Mr. M. Fraile, of this Bureau, brought from near his home in Villares de la Reina, Spain, plants of a wild form of alfalfa which is of especial interest to the experts on this crop. The unusual activity of the office in the introduction of the timber bamboos of the world has brought in the rare and especially frost and drought resistant form Dendrocalamus strictus from India, and another, a tropical species, Chusquea bambusaeoides, which is said to seed regularly, from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Mr. W. S. Lyon, of Manila, has sent a remarkable ornamental squash that looks promising for greenhouse culture; Mrs. L. E. M. Kelly has sent five varieties of the Chinese leitchee from the island of Hainan, the home of this new fruit, and through the kindness of Dr. John M. Swan, of Canton, a Wardian-case shipment of grafted leitchees was sent from Canton to the Hawaiian Islands. The seeds of a number of named varieties of Japanese chrysanthemums will interest the crysanthemum growers; the seed of a honeyscented collarette dahlia will attract the growers of this flower; the introduction of Viola calcarata may lead to an improvement in the ordinary pansy, and plants of *Rosa moyesi*, a distinct Chinese form, may be of value for the rose breeders. Our unusual collection of bananas has been enriched by twelve varieties from Ceylon, and a new mango of some promise from Brazil has been added to the mango collection.

It may be well to repeat what has been explained in previous inventories, that the appearance of a name and description in this bulletin does not indicate surely that the seeds or plants are available at once for the use of experimenters. The majority of this plant material has to be sent out as soon as possible after it arrives, much of it to experts at the State agricultural experiment stations who are waiting for it, and the rest to our propagating gardens, where it will be taken care of until the young plants are large enough to send out by mail to those particularly interested. An eligible list is kept and applications from private or official experimenters who feel that they are in a position to give any of the introductions a careful trial are welcomed. The more specific the application the more attention it will receive from this office, for the main object of the work is to encourage careful trials with the purpose of building up new plant industries. Whenever an experimenter thinks he sees a definite use for any one of the thousands of plants which are being imported it is the aim of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction to put the living seeds or plants desired in his hands. As far as the limited facilities of the office permit, we will therefore agree to hunt up and get plant material of an experimental character, provided it is not listed in the seed or nursery catalogues of this country, and will place it in the hands of experimenters who can satisfy us of their. ability to use it intelligently.

As it is of great importance that a historical record be kept of the success or failure of the many introductions, it is especially requested that whenever an experimenter makes a success of the plants sent him, and particularly if he publishes anything about them, he will notify the office and publish the office number, which is invariably sent out with every plant or package of seed, or, if the number is lost, he will at least give the date when the seed was sent him, so that through the accurate records which are kept the source of the seeds can be traced. It should also be remembered that a report of failure, while negative evidence, is often of very considerable value.

David Fairchild, Agricultural Explorer in Charge.

Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, Washington, D. C., January 15, 1909.

INVENTORY.

23323. Phragmites vulgaris (Lam.) Hitchcock (Arundo vulgaris Lam.).

From Gothenburg, Sweden. Procured by Hon. W. Henry Robertson, American consul. Received July 6, 1908.

"These roots were procured for comparison with American-grown :eeds in the study of the reed-lath matting industry proposed by Mr. Ivar Tidestrom." (Fairchild.)

23324. CARICA PAPAYA L.

Papaw.

From Miami, Fla. Received through Mr. P. J. Wester, Subtropical Laboratory and Garden, July 6, 1908.

"A variety of papaw with cucumber-shaped fruits peculiarly well suited for packing. Grown at the Subtropical Laboratory under No. 516 from seed presented by Mr. Cephas Pinder, Upper Matecumbie Key. Pulp is rather thin, but the flavor is excellent. The flower is perfect and the variety appears worth testing and, if possibe, improving on the thickness of the pulp." (Webster.)

23325 to 23332.

From Canton, Kwangtung, China. Presented by Dr. W. H. Dobson. Received July 6, 1908.

The following seeds. Varietal descriptions by Mr. H. T. Nielsen.

23325 to 23327. GLYCINE HISPIDA (Moench) Maxim. Soy bean.

23325. Black,

23326. Yellowish green.

23327. Yellowish green, smaller seeded than No. 23326.

23328. VIGNA SESQUIPEDALIS (L.) W. F. Wight.

23329 and 23380. Dolighos Lablas L. Hyacinth or Bonavist bean.
23329. White.

23330. Red.

23331. PISUM ARVENSE L.

Field pea.

23332. CAJAN INDICUM Spreng.

23333. Andropogon sorghum (L.) Brot.

From northwestern Rhodesia. Presented by Mr. C. E. F. Allen, Conservator of Forests, Livingstone, Victoria Falls, northwestern Rhodesia. Received July 8, 1908.

Martwa. "The seeds are small, broadly obovate, somewhat flattened, flinty, pearly white with pale hulls, closely resembling some forms of Ampemby from Madagascar." (Carleton R. Ball.)

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