

Manchuria, and grasses, legumes, vegetables, cereals, hardy stone fruits, apples, pears, grapes, and ornamentals from northern Korea, eastern Siberia, and Manchuria.

These explorations in China by Mr. Meyer have been the most extensive that have been undertaken by this office and at the same time the most economically conducted. Mr. Meyer has at two different times come very near losing his life, and during a large part of his journeyings he has been subjected to extreme hardships such as few of our previous explorers have had to contend with. His work is deserving of the highest praise.

This inventory also includes the collections of Prof. N. E. Hansen, of the South Dakota Agricultural College, who made, as agricultural explorer of this office, an extensive trip through northern Europe and across Siberia by rail. The results of his collections are recorded in 309 inventory numbers, and these include high-latitude grains and leguminous plants from above the Arctic Circle in Norway and Sweden; interesting forage grasses, clovers, and alcohol potatoes from Russia; vegetables, stone fruits, sorghums, and millets from Turkestan, and new cereals, grasses, alfalfas, and vetches from Siberia. Of these the most remarkable are the wild alfalfas, which form a part of the excellent wild hay of the steppes and which are subjected to most unusual cold and drought, and it is hoped that they will prove of value in the northern area of the Mississippi Valley.

The large importations of matting plants from the Orient which were made by our agricultural explorer Mr. John Tull in 1906 appear in this inventory and represent a difficult piece of introduction work which is likely to be of great value to the Southern States. Several acre plantings from these importations are now growing in the South.

Through a cooperative arrangement with the Arnold Arboretum, Mr. E. H. Wilson, the well-known botanical explorer of China, who is now on the Upper Yangtse River collecting seeds and plants for the arboretum, has secured some wheats, sorghums, raspberries, bamboos, and wild rhubarb of unusual interest, which are listed in this inventory.

Some collections, received through correspondence, of unusual interest are seeds of 28 varieties of dates for the seedling date orchards in the Southwest; 125 varieties of rice from Hawaii; new varieties of mangos, taros, and bananas from various parts of the world, and the Huasco seedless raisin grape from Chile.

DAVID FAIRCHILD,  
*Agricultural Explorer in Charge.*

OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION,  
*Washington, D. C., May 26, 1908.*