

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE
PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1908:
INVENTORY NO. 14; NOS. 21732 TO 22510.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

With this fourteenth inventory of seeds and plants imported from abroad is inaugurated a new departure. The volume of interesting matter pertaining to these new introductions has become so great and the desirability of getting out printed descriptions for the use of those handling them is so apparent that it has been decided to issue the inventory as soon as possible after each period of three months of introduction work.

This plan, it is believed, will interest the friends of these new immigrants and insure them better attention in the homes which are being created for them in America.

Since January 1, 778 introductions have come in, i. e., at the rate of more than 8 a day, and among these it is worth while to call attention to certain ones which are of unusual interest.

Mr. Frank N. Meyer has continued his explorations in northern China and this inventory contains 179 of his introductions. Among them are some remarkable wild chestnuts, wild walnuts, oaks, crab apples, and pears from the Chihli Province; seeds of the original chrysanthemum from which most of the cultivated forms are supposed to have originated; a collection of apples and pears from Pangshan; several elms of some promise; *Pyrus betulaeifolia*, the species on which in China the native pears are grafted and which distinguishes itself as easily grown from cuttings; and the Fei-tao peach of Feitcheng, which is known all over North China as the finest peach in the Empire. It is a clingstone, and individual fruits in the dry region of the Shantung Province attain a weight of 1 pound. Possibly this is the Chinese Cling already known in America, although such extraordinary fruits are not produced in this country, and this may be an entirely new and most valuable addition to the peaches of the United States.