

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE
PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1908:
INVENTORY NO. 15; NOS. 22511 TO 23322.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This fifteenth inventory of seeds and plants imported by the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction between the dates of April 1 and June 30, 1908, inclusive, comprises 812 numbers, and among the more important are those which our agricultural explorer Mr. Frank N. Meyer secured personally in his exploration trips in northern and central China. While it is too soon to tell anything about the real value to the country of these new importations, it may be worth while to call especial attention to certain ones from which we expect more than others. Occasionally, it is the thing of which little is at first expected that turns out the most important, but as a rule the predictions of the explorer in the field have come true.

Among the plants from Mr. Meyer are some especially interesting shade and ornamental trees, which he secured at great personal discomfort and risk from the almost barren mountains of the Wutai, where the climatic conditions are similar to much of the territory of the Northwestern States. The unusual difficulties of collecting seeds in these mountains will be appreciated when it is mentioned that of some species only single trees are standing in absolutely barren wastes extending for scores of miles around. Although Mr. Meyer made two trips to this inhospitable region, it was quite impossible for him to be on hand when the seeds of single rare elms and spruces ripened and, as can well be believed, the wild rodents which were on the spot did not wait for him. Some of the things of which he obtained cuttings have been pronounced new by Professor Sargent, of the Arnold Arboretum, and it is to be regretted that more material from this region could not have been secured.

Of items of interest from other parts of China, Mr. Meyer forwarded four distinct varieties of the *Yang Mae*, or strawberry tree (*Myrica nagi*); the evergreen chestnut (*Castanopsis tibetana*); *Ulmus pumila*, a promising dry-land elm from Manchuria for the Northwest; the remarkable white-barked pine (*Pinus bungeana*), which can hardly fail to attract the attention of our landscape gardeners; four species of lilac as yet undetermined; five species of Chinese roses; a very unusual collection of twenty-nine forms of