

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 chrysanthemum growers; the seed of a honey-scented collarette dahlia will attract the growers of this flower; the introduction of *Viola calcarata* may lead to an improvement in the