

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1909: INVENTORY NO. 18; NOS. 24430 TO 25191.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

The eighteenth inventory, including 761 numbers, comprises the period between January 1 and March 31, 1909, and contains the collections of only one agricultural explorer, Prof. N. E. Hansen, of South Dakota, whose eight months' trip into central Asia was made primarily to secure sufficiently large quantities of the seed of three wild *Medicagos* to enable extensive experiments to be carried out in the Northwest in testing their hardiness.

These three species, which Professor Hansen believes are going to prove valuable additions to the forage-crop resources of the Northwest, are as follows: No. 24451, *Medicago ruthenica*, from Charonte, Mongolia, an arm of the Gobi Desert, where the temperature drops to the freezing point of mercury at times when there is little snow on the ground and where in summer the temperature goes above 100° F. This species is a wild forage plant growing in the sandy region of eastern Siberia and may be of value either as a cultivated plant like alfalfa or, if allowed to run wild on the ranges, may become a valuable hardy forage legume. No. 24452, *Medicago falcata*, from Obb, in the Tomsk Province, a long-lived legume of the open steppes, is upright enough to be mown by a mowing machine; will withstand extremes of drought and cold, and is so promising in its own home as to have attracted the attention of the Russian agricultural experimenters as worthy of domestication and also as being of distinct value as a wild pasture plant in western Siberia. Professor Hansen emphasizes its value for all regions in this country where the common alfalfa is often winterkilled, but does not maintain that in regions where any of the true alfalfa strains can be grown successfully it is likely to prove superior. No. 24457, *Medicago platycarpa*, from Chylim, in the Tomsk Province, is a wild legume found in timber clearings and along the edges of forests of central Siberia. This is not a drought-resistant form, but perhaps rather a moist-region plant worthy of trial in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Owing to the immense value of any plant which may take the place of alfalfa in regions where this remarkable crop can not be grown, these new Siberian alfalfas are receiving the special attention of the forage-