

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1909: INVENTORY NO. 20; NOS. 25718 TO 26047.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory, covering the first quarter of the fiscal year from July 1 to September 30, 1909, contains 329 introductions. The first quarter has always been light, so far as the number of introductions is concerned. This quarter's introductions have been unusually so, owing to the fact that no explorers were in the field and changes in the office force interfered with regular correspondence; further, to the fact that only those introductions deemed of special interest are being included, those considered of minor importance being recorded in the office files only.

Of unusual interest in this inventory might be mentioned the following introductions:

Numbers 25858 and 25859 cover the seeds of the rattan palms which supply the valuable material for the manufacture of cane-seated chairs, street-car seats, baskets, etc., and whose cultivation as a tropical crop seems to have been given very little attention. The ability of these climbing palms to thrive in dense jungles is believed to be worthy the attention of tropical planters in the Western Hemisphere.

An importation of seeds of the "Queensland nut," *Macadamia ternifolia* (No. 25845), calls attention to the possibilities of cultivating this plant in parts of California and southern Florida. Trees are now growing in southern California which have borne nuts for the past two seasons. The *Macadamia* is being cultivated in Queensland and New South Wales, and, according to our information, the nuts are very well liked in Sydney, where they retail for as much as a shilling a pound.

In order to aid in the experiments with the horse bean, *Vicia faba*, which are being carried on by the Office of Forage-Crop Investigations, a collection of this important winter legume, adapted to the mild winters of the Southwestern States, has been gathered together from India, Egypt, Holland, Hungary, China, Kashmir, and Spain, and it is hoped that more definite information can be secured regarding the adaptability of this crop to our southwestern country.

The "Monketaan" stock melon (No. 25934) comes to us recommended by Mr. Lounsbury and Mr. Thornton, of the Department of