

25929 to 25931—Continued.

Seeds of the following:

25929. 1903 crop.

25931. 1909 crop.

25930. 1908 crop.

“Between 1825 and 1835 the Rev. Albert Holladay, of Virginia, was Presbyterian missionary to Persia. He brought to America seeds of a cantaloupe. My father raised this melon in Virginia, and in 1836 brought seed to St. Charles County, Mo., where he raised it until his death in 1853. Relatives and friends have since raised it. I have for thirty years, also my brother William, living at Clayton, St. Louis County. The melon raised in Virginia and in Missouri for ten or twenty years was smaller and sweeter than that raised since. It seems the first was not much over 4 inches in diameter and good to the outer rind. The melon now is as much as 6 inches in diameter and has at least a one-half of an inch of rind. When ripe it pulls off easily and generally has a red gum at stem where it breaks. A good melon of this kind is still better than most others and we call it the ‘Persian cantaloupe.’” (*Broadhead.*)

25932. MEDICAGO SATIVA L.**Alfalfa.**

From Aintab, Turkey. Presented by Mrs. F. A. Shepard. Received September 3, 1909.

“This seed was collected in the arid regions about Aintab, about 3,500 feet above the sea and 100 miles inland. There is scarcely any rain for five months in the year. The plant is not planted for pasturage, but grows upon wild lands, where sheep and goats browse.” (*Shepard.*)

25934. CITRULLUS VULGARIS Schrad.**Watermelon.**

From Robertson, Cape Colony, South Africa. Presented by Mr. Charles P. Lounsbury, government entomologist, Cape of Good Hope, Department of Agriculture, Cape Town, who procured the seeds from Mr. E. A. Visser, manager of the Experiment Station at Robertson. Received September 4, 1909.

Monketaan.

“Mr. Visser says this plant yielded melons at the rate of 75 tons an acre on the station grounds without any special care, and that the melons keep well and are excellent stock food. They weigh about 30 pounds each and have a firm, sweetish, somewhat tough pulp. The rind is mottled pale and dark green like common watermelons, as a rule, but is sometimes whitish in this strain. The seeds do not separate readily and no one seems to be trying to save more than he needs for himself, so there is little chance of buying a supply unless it is ordered a year ahead. Mr. Jack, who was director in the department here and is now farming, is trying in vain to get seed for 100 acres, which at least indicates that the merits of the crop appeal to him. Mr. Thornton, our agriculturist, tells me the plant has long grown to the west of Kuruman on the east side of the Kalihari desert. (The small Tsama melon sent to the United States grows on the west side.) He thinks it was probably cultivated there by natives in bygone days, but now it grows wild. Some years ago he got down seeds and had them planted near Graaff Reinet. Farmers of the district soon appreciated the value of the melon and took to its cultivation as a stock food. It is said on good authority to have yielded as high as 150 tons an acre around there, the ground becoming almost obscured by the fruits. The strain introduced to the Robertson station is from Graaff Reinet way, not direct from the desert, and Thornton thinks there is a possibility that it is not quite true to type; but if it is not, it is an improvement on the original he thinks.