

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1911: INVENTORY NO. 27; NOS. 30462 TO 31370.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

It is not generally realized by the public that the area of inhabited country on the globe which is visited by zero temperatures is limited to the Northern Hemisphere and to the tops of mountains. A temperature such as is prevalent on our Great Plains every winter would practically wipe off the vegetation from the continents lying below the equator and would so injure the agriculture even of central Europe that it would require many years in which to recover. The eucalypts are trees which we can not grow north of Florida or California, and yet there are varieties which grow well on the west coast of Scotland.

The limited area which can be explored with any hope of obtaining perennial plants hardy enough to thrive on our Great Plains should give any exploration of such areas special importance.

The present inventory contains descriptions of plant material obtained by Mr. Frank N. Meyer during an exploration trip across the great Tien Shan mountain range, which lies between Chinese and Russian territory, a region with passes 13,000 feet above the sea and possessing a climate approaching that of the upper Mississippi Valley. The winters are long and cold, and the thermometer goes down to -20° F. or more, while the summers are extremely hot, though possibly not so long as those in our Middle West.

Mr. Meyer left Kashgar in Chinese Turkestan on February 10, and on foot or by native cart he traveled across the alkali and sandy deserts for 13 days to Aksu, at the foot of the Tien Shan Range, picking up some desert poplars on the way. Here he changed his desert caravan for a mountain-climbing equipment and with a mounted guard climbed northward over the range by way of Awat, Yengi-Malah, Kailik, and Tanga-Tash over the Muzart Glacier to Ghilan, thence eastward along the Tekes River to a point on the Chong Djighilan River east of the hamlet of Chong Djighilan, and from there worked his way northwestward in the valley of the Ili to Kulja, spending 40 days on the road. The difficulties of travel in any poorly