

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1911: INVENTORY NO. 29; NOS. 31939 TO 32368.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This number of the inventories contains some of Mr. Frank N. Meyer's collections made in central Asia. They should attract the attention of experimenters whose work lies in the creation of hardier or more drought-resistant fruits, forage crops, or grains for the North and West. The difficulties of travel outside the railroad zone in Siberia and the still greater difficulty of getting the living plants he found there through to America alive give to these collections a special value. They represent only a small fraction of the interesting plants which Mr. Meyer found during his two and one-half years' absence. Some of his most interesting material will be described in later issues of the inventories.

Mr. Meyer is now in America and will spend the season studying the hundreds of plants which he secured both in China and central Asia, many of which are far enough advanced to show their adaptability to the American climate.

Mr. Meyer's new durum wheat, the Teiskaia (No. 32157), which was originated at the Bezenshook Agricultural Experiment Station in Russia, can not fail to attract the attention of the cerealists, in as much as it has proved extremely hardy at Samara, not being injured at all, while other varieties tested at the same time were killed out or at least severely injured.

The problem of studying *Medicago falcata*, the Siberian alfalfa, on the steppes of Siberia was given to Mr. Meyer with the result that he has found at least two distinct wild forms which are worthy of special attention. One is a bunchy upright form (No. 32178) from Ust Kamenogorsk, southwestern Siberia, and the other a very vigorous prostrate form (No. 32179), found on sandy, level stretches of land along the River Tom. This is suited, he thinks, for cultivation in meadows where grass is grown for hay production.

For introduction on the western ranges Mr. Meyer has secured a species of *Astragalus* (No. 32184) which is of bunchy erect habit, is eaten by cattle and horses, and which he believes may have value as a forage plant for cool semiarid climates.