

34290 and 34291.

From Hankow, China. Presented by Mr. Roger S. Greene, American consul general. Received August 21, 1912.

Seeds of the following; quoted notes by Mr. Greene:

34290. SESAMUM ORIENTALE L. **Sesame.**
(*S. indicum* L.)

"*Tzu ma.* A good culinary oil is expressed from these seeds."

For an illustration of sesame plants growing at the Yarrow Field Station, Rockville, Md., see Plate V.

34291. CANNABIS SATIVA L. **Hemp.**

"*Ta ma.* Said to be the hemp which grows higher than all other kinds. I am told that there are two principal varieties of *ta ma* hemp in this neighborhood, one of which yields three crops a year, while the other yields only one crop. This tall hemp of which I am sending you seed gives only one crop."

34292. BOMBAX sp.

From Shek Lung, China. Presented by Mr. A. J. Fisher. Received August 10, 1912.

"This tree at first has a great many sharp thorns on its trunk, but after four or five years these thorns disappear. It grows into a big, high tree. I should think that it would not stand frost. It sheds its leaves in the winter here. In the spring before the leaves come it shows a red flower, followed by pods in which the cotton and seed are borne. It seems to be native to this soil and grows very easily and quickly. It is not cultivated, but usually grows up wild. It is called *min fa shue* (cotton tree). It is used by the Chinese for making pillows and is dearer than the imported cotton. It seems very good, for it does not gather in lumps like the ordinary cotton." (*Fisher.*)

34293 and 34294. HOLCUS SORGHUM L. **Sorghum.**
(*Sorghum vulgare* Pers.)

From Cedar Hill, Tex. Presented by Mr. D. C. Nance, through Mr. C. V. Piper. Received August 26, 1912.

"This is a small, sweet-stemmed, kafirlike sorghum, but with a looser head than ordinary kafir. Mr. Nance writes that he has grown Red kafir continuously since 1908. The seed of it was obtained from the David Hardie Seed Co., of Dallas, Tex. 'I saw nothing peculiar growing among my Red kafir until 1911, when I discovered a few plants of kafirita. My attention was directed to them by reason of their diminutive size and early maturity. I noticed further that some plants bore red seeds and others white, and from this fact I gathered that kafirita was not merely a dwarf Red kafir, so I searched out the fields—6 acres—for other similar plants and obtained perhaps 2 ounces of seed in all. This I planted carefully in 1912, and the plants bred perfectly true. I suppose that we may as well assume that the plant originated here on my farm. It is evidently not just a dwarf Red kafir, for that view does not account for the white seeds. However, excepting this feature, together with a constantly yellow tinge of the whole plant except the seed, it is a perfect dwarf Red kafir.' (D. C. Nance, letter, August 7, 1912.)" (*C. V. Piper.*)

34293. White.

34294. Red.