

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1913 (NO. 35; NOS. 35136 TO 35666).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

It has been customary ever since these inventories were first begun in 1898 to review briefly the field work accomplished by explorers of the office during the period covered by the inventory and to point out some of the more interesting new plants which are described in it.

Any system, even a bad one, comes to have a certain historical value if it is maintained through a period of years. This one, which has as its object the recording of all department introductions of foreign plants, has now been in operation for 17 years, and to-day it will be an easy matter to trace any one of the new plants brought in either to its early death or to its success in some part of the country. The discovery of one of the department introductions as a large tree, for example, in some out-of-the-way part of the country can easily be traced back to the card record, which will show when it was sent out for trial and to what experimenter, and the printed note about it in one of these inventories will give the clue to its foreign origin. The constant use of these inventories by field experimenters has fully justified the expenditure necessary in order to bring about their publication, and while in the multigraphed advance sheets, called "Plant Immigrants," there appears from time to time mention of the apparently most important plant collections received, the presence of these printed inventories in the libraries of the country makes it possible to look up and find out the origin of any new plant introduced by the Government from any part of the world.

With the growing vigilance to prevent the introduction of new plant parasites, this system has appeared to be distinctly advantageous and can be safely recommended as a continuing policy. Should a parasite slip in through quarantine and be later discovered, practically every plant of that introduction could be located. Previous to its adoption many interesting new plants were brought in whose

NOTE.—This bulletin is a record of new or little-known seeds or plants procured mostly from abroad. It is intended for distribution to agricultural experiment stations and the more important private cooperators.