

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1913 (NO. 36; NOS. 35667 TO 36258).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory covers the summer months only, but anyone looking through it will get a very fair idea of the stream of new plants which the department is bringing into the country and, after propagating, is sending out to experimenters scattered from Alaska to southern Florida. The limitation of funds allotted for this work prevents the making of a thorough governmental investigation of more than a very few of these newly introduced plants, but private experimenters in increasing numbers are placing their facilities for testing plants at our disposal, and the aggregate observations made by this corps of volunteer experimenters furnish the proof in large measure of the adaptability of these various plants to American conditions of climate and to the economic conditions of American life.

Although it is often the case that some unheralded, obscure plant in this process of selection turns out to have great value, it may not be out of place, as has been the custom for a number of years past, to emphasize particular introductions which, on their face, so to speak, appear to be particularly promising.

There appear to be localities in America where a short-season corn which will ripen with comparatively little sunlight may be of distinct value, and Mr. Wight's introduction of a variety (No. 35998) from Castro, a cool, rainy region in Chile, may help solve this problem.

The success of several of the foreign cover crops previously introduced will create an interest in the East African legume, *Meibomia hirta* (No. 36060), and its trial is recommended in the orchards of Florida. The Australian Rhodes grass, *Chloris paraguayensis* (No. 36255), which is pronounced by certain Australian experimenters distinctly more productive than the South African form, growing to 5 feet in height and yielding hay of a finer quality and twice as much, can not fail to be of interest to stockmen in the Gulf States, where the South African variety has already been so successful.

NOTE.—This bulletin is intended for distribution to the agricultural experiment stations and the more important private cooperators of the Department of Agriculture.