

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED
BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT
INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM OC-
TOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1913 (NO. 37; NOS.
36259 TO 36936).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory records, among other plant material imported, the collections made by three separate expeditions which were sent out by this office to foreign countries.

An expedition composed of Mr. P. H. Dorsett, of this office, Mr. A. D. Shamel, physiologist, of the Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations, and Mr. Wilson Popenoe, of this office, was, during the time covered by this inventory, exploring in southern Brazil. This expedition left Washington on October 4, 1913, and made a careful survey of the navel-orange region around Bahia and also a study of orange growing around Rio de Janeiro. Its object was to find, if possible, the origin of the Bahia navel orange and to discover strains of this remarkable orange which might prove more productive or better in other respects than varieties which have originated in California from the cuttings introduced into North America in 1870. In addition to securing bud wood of promising strains of this orange which have originated in Bahia through bud variation, the expedition secured the stocks (laranja da terra, S. P. I. No. 36636) upon which the navel orange is grown in its own home. Strong evidence was also found that the Bahia navel originated, probably in Bahia itself, as a bud sport from the Selecta orange, which has been grown there since the earliest days of orange culture in Brazil. Shipments of the fruit of the Bahia orange were successfully made, and orange specialists were given an opportunity to compare the Bahia fruit with the best California-grown navels. The former are characterized by their light greenish yellow color and milder acidity. They are sweeter and perhaps juicier, but lack sprightliness. They might meet with favor among those who prefer a sweet orange, but on account of their paler color would not attract favorable attention in our markets. Whether the new and vigorous Bahia strains of the navel orange introduced (such as S. P. I. Nos. 36689 and 36691) will fruit in California over a longer period of the

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 co-operators.