

# INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1914 (NO. 38; NOS. 36937 TO 37646).

## INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

While plants adapted to cultivation in the Southern States predominate in this inventory, it is probable that something of interest to nearly everyone who is experimenting with plants will be found described or listed in it, and this introductory statement is designed to point out certain interesting features regarding them which occur to the writer even before sufficient time has elapsed since their introduction to make anyone really familiar with their behavior in this country.

Whether the Kerguelen cabbage (*Pringlea antiscorbutica*, No. 37554), which is a low, sprawling plant with heads of leaves sometimes 18 inches across, that occurs close to the seashore on Kerguelen Island, will ever thrive in this country may be a question, but no doubt those interested in cabbages will be glad to test it. It has a dense white heart and a taste like mustard and cress, though coarser. The *Lü tou* (*Phaseolus aureus*, No. 37078), a bean from which in China a starch that is considered superior to corn or wheat starch is prepared for laundry purposes, deserves to be investigated in this country. A collection of 23 varieties of beans (Nos. 37036 to 37058) from Fusan, Chosen (Korea), may yield some valuable sorts for cultivation in our gardens after they become acclimated. And among the 98 varieties of soy beans secured through Consul General Scidmore, of Seoul (Nos. 37228 to 37325), and similar collections from Pyeng Yang (Nos. 37326 to 37356) and Kongju (Nos. 37396 to 37404), Chosen (Korea), there should be some valuable forms of this remarkable food plant. The eight named varieties (Nos. 37145 to 37152) of Japanese udo from Kanagawa Ken propagated by cuttings will doubtless make it possible to lengthen materially the season of this new spring vegetable.

Nut growers will be interested in testing the English walnut variety (No. 37225) which Dr. Trabut has sent in from the moun-