

tains of Algeria, where it has been grown for centuries by the natives and appears to have become fixed in character.

The possibility of greater or less resistance of the Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*) to the chestnut bark disease will make Frank N. Meyer's discovery of two superior fruiting varieties (Nos. 37547 and 37548) in the region south of Sianfu of peculiar interest.

Varieties of Abyssinian flax from Addis Abeba (Nos. 37085 to 37089), secured through the courtesy of Capt. Sandford, of the British Legation, may be valuable to the students of the flax industry if the peculiar adaptability of Abyssinian barleys to California conditions is an indication of similarity of climate.

Egyptian-cotton growing has become an industry in California, but experimenters are still at work testing different strains, and they may find something of value in a reported nearly wild form from Angola, Africa (No. 37125), which there develops a very strong fiber. Although it is perhaps a question whether American paper manufacturers are yet ready to put on their program the investigation of any grass for paper-pulp purposes, the preliminary trial of *Ischaemum binatum* (No. 37014), which has been experimented with for this purpose in British India, can hardly fail to interest them.

There are now a number of bamboo groves in the Southern States, and the fact has been abundantly demonstrated that there are thousands of square miles of territory which might be covered with species of this remarkable plant. Whether the Takuara bamboo of Paraguay (*Bambos guadua*, No. 37009), which grows on low, sandy lands along the rivers and attains a height of 60 feet, will prove hardy remains to be determined.

The expedition from this office sent to Bahia and Rio de Janeiro to investigate the culture of the navel orange found in occasional use there as a cover crop a species of *Crotalaria* (No. 36969) which may prove valuable for dry or semiarid orchard lands in this country. Information has come through the same source regarding the use in that region of the fruits of the Macaúba palm (*Acrocomia sclerocarpa*, No. 37382) for hog feed. The thick layer of white, starchy material surrounding the hard kernel is said to be preferred to corn and to be very fattening. The fruit clusters of these palms weigh as much as 65 or 75 pounds.

Of grain crops for trial perhaps the most interesting are the sorghum varieties (Nos. 36960 to 36963), which are grown by the Matabele, Setchuana, Mambucuschu, and Serotse tribes of southwestern Africa, the pearl millet (No. 36959), from German Southwest Africa, and a collection of wheat, rye, barley, and buckwheat (Nos. 37154 to 37167) from the Tulun Experiment Field of Russia.

This inventory contains a number of interesting new fruits as a result of the work of the Brazilian expedition composed of Messrs.