

41478 to 41480.

Plants from Indian Head, Saskatchewan, Canada. Presented by Mr. Norman M. Ross, Forest Branch, Department of the Interior. Received November 15, 1915.

41478. BETULA PENDULA Roth. Betulaceæ. **Birch.**

"Plants grown from seed picked from our plantation, the original seed of which was obtained from Russia. Two-year-old seedlings were planted 4 feet apart each way in 1908 and show a height of 12 to 16 feet and have borne seed for the past two or three years." (Ross.)

See S. P. I. Nos. 39489 and 39990 for previous introductions and description.

41479. CARAGANA PYGMAEA (L.) DC. Fabaceæ.

See S. P. I. No. 33756 for previous introduction.

For an illustration of this hedge plant, see Plate VII.

41480. CARAGANA ARBORESCENS Lam. Fabaceæ. **Siberian pea tree.**

"Cuttings of the prostrate form; grown from seed picked in our ordinary hedges. We find that probably 1 per cent of the seedlings show these characteristics. This plant 5 years old shows a spread of 4 feet. We think this form can be used effectively for landscape planting." (Ross.)

41481. DUMORIA HECKELI A. Chevalier. Sapotaceæ. **Bako.**

Seeds from Coomassie, Gold Coast Colony. Presented by Mr. A. E. Evans, traveling inspector, Agricultural Department. Received November 13, 1915.

"A gigantic sapotaceous tree attaining a height of 110 to 160 feet, with a cylindrical trunk $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter near the base [circumference approximately 10 to 20 feet]; and rising 90 feet or more before bearing branches. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, papery, $2\frac{3}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. Flowers solitary or in clusters of 2 to 3 in the axils of the leaves. Calyx campanulate, corolla rotate, greenish white, three-fourths inch in diameter, slightly fragrant. Fruit at maturity greenish yellow, spheroidal, like a russet apple, with mellow, sickening pulp, bitter and nonedible. Geographic distribution, Ivory Coast, Gold Coast, Liberia, in the vast virgin forests. Flowers in May. The timber, reddish with beautiful markings, is one of the best African substitutes for mahogany." (Translation from the original description, *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences, Paris, vol. 145, p. 226, 1907.*)

41482. RICINUS COMMUNIS L. Euphorbiaceæ. **Castor bean.**

Seeds from Chungking, China. Presented by Mr. E. Widler. Received November 15, 1915.

"*Ping ma tzü*. A plant 6 to 9 feet in height, bearing white flowers; it takes about six months to grow. The seeds ripen throughout the season from early summer to frost. The seed is used principally for castor oil, which is prepared by pressing. The seeds are brown and black; they sell in the market for 1,000 cash for $2\frac{1}{2}$ cattiees." (Widler.)