

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRO- DUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1916 (NO. 47; NOS. 42384 TO 43012).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory covers the spring months of the year preceding our entry into the Great War. During those months 40 countries sent freely through their official representatives, or allowed to pass freely, the plant material collected within their borders which this inventory describes. In the light of recent events this fact takes on a new significance. It shows the spirit of free exchange of material of the greatest value which existed before the war, material from which food crops of great importance could be developed. Upon no single species of plant had any nation placed an embargo. It was possible at any time through official requests to secure every courtesy desired and, often without cost, all plant material asked for. The policy, followed by this office for 10 years, of offering to secure free of cost small quantities of plant material of American species may have been in part responsible for the hearty assistance rendered by these representatives of 40 foreign countries. Even the Ameer of Afghanistan, who guarded jealously every avenue of communication with the outside world, sent a shipment of plants as a gift to this Government previous to the war.

This inventory describes collections made by only one representative of the office, Mr. H. M. Curran, who as a collaborator collected, in connection with other work upon which he was engaged in Colombia, seeds of some rare and interesting oil palms and of tropical forest and other economic trees of that country.

Of the material sent in by correspondents, the cerealists will be interested in a collection of South African endemic varieties of wheat (Nos. 42391 to 42426) which Mr. I. B. Pole Evans reports have been cultivated for many years on irrigated lands; and in the Papago sweet corn of Arizona (No. 42642), which may prove valuable for silage in Kansas and Nebraska.

Four good tropical bonavist beans (Nos. 42577 to 42580) from British Guiana, one of which lasts for two years, may interest Florida truck growers; and a relative of the udo from the Himalayas, *Aralia cachemirica* (No. 42607), which is hardy at the Arnold Arboretum,