

# INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1916 (NO. 49; NOS. 43391 TO 43979).

## INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory is the third to be issued since the declaration of war in April, 1917, and although it covers only 588 numbers it includes a very considerable range of new plants, some of which are not only new to this country as crop plants, but appear to be new to science.

It is my sad task to record in this inventory the death of our agricultural explorer, Frank N. Meyer, whose unique and interesting descriptions of plants, particularly from China, Siberia, and Turkestan, have formed for the past 10 years so important a part of the reading matter of these inventories.

The particulars regarding Mr. Meyer's death will probably never be known. The cabled advices show that he fell overboard into the Yangtze River on the evening of June 1, 1919, from the steamer *Feng Yang Maru* while en route from Hankow to Shanghai and that his body was discovered 30 miles above the town of Wuhu, near Nanking. The facts that his wanderings in search of plants are over and his contributions to these inventories at an end are chronicled with great regret. It is perhaps a significant coincidence that his only contribution to this number is a weeping variety (No. 43791) of the dry-land elm, which was one of his substantial additions to our list of useful trees.

In this inventory are included accounts of some of Wilson Popeo's interesting discoveries in Guatemala, where, as an agricultural explorer for the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the Bureau of Plant Industry, he spent over 16 months, traveling more than 2,000 miles on horseback over the Guatemalan highlands, in search, primarily, of promising seedlings of the thick-skinned Guatemalan race of avocado.

Perhaps nothing that has occurred in recent years could more strongly emphasize the fact that the horticulturists of southern California and southern Florida are pioneering in the field of tropical horticulture than this search for seedling avocados in Guatemala; and it is a striking spectacle that one country in the very beginning of a plant industry is hunting for promising seedlings in another where that industry, still on a seedling basis, is one of the main sources of food. In Guatemala there does not appear to be a single