

# INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT IN- TRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANU- ARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1917 (NO. 50; NOS. 43980 TO 44445).

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## INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

When the war broke out it was expected by many that interest in new plants would suffer a serious setback. That the contrary is true is the conviction forced upon the writer from watching the correspondence which passes over his desk. The hunt for substitutes has served to counterbalance in a measure the effect of the curtailment of the funds of amateur and official experimenters, and the spectacle of our dependence upon foreign raw plant materials has been in the nature of a revelation to millions of people. That the world has scattered over it enthusiastic pioneers who see possibilities in plants which are now obscure, this inventory is evidence, for it describes plants sent in by such pioneers during the third year of the war from 41 different foreign countries or separate islands. While the total number for the three months covered is not so great as that during the similar period in 1913, the fact must be taken into account that only two explorers of the office were in the field, viz., Frank N. Meyer, in central China, and Wilson Popenoe, in Guatemala.

Hosts of the plants have been sent in by correspondents, many of them foreigners, who recognize, as we do, that the area of plant culture can not be confined by national boundaries, but is limited only by the natural barriers of soil, climate, and human intelligence. In the world to-day there is no large plant monopoly which depends for its maintenance upon the prohibition of the export of the seeds of the plant on which it is founded. Where the plants can grow to perfection and the requisite human intelligence is present and other economic factors are favorable, there plant industries will be built up and maintained so long as the factors of quality and the cost of production and transportation remain favorable and fashion does not change.

Many of the plants herein recorded are in the nature of gifts to America by foreign countries, and it is with especial pleasure that we acknowledge officially the debt of gratitude, realizing fully that,