

chowsky says is most strikingly beautiful, producing large bunches of pale-rose blooms, is worthy of emphasis.

With this inventory begins the description of the collections which were made by Dr. H. L. Shantz, agricultural explorer for this office, during the time in which he was attached to the Smithsonian expedition through South and East Africa. As described in the daily papers of the period, Dr. Shantz made, in company with Dr. Raven, of the Smithsonian Institution, a study of the native agriculture of the eastern part of the Belgian Kongo, German East Africa, Portuguese East Africa, and British East Africa, starting at Cape Town and coming out at Cairo. The trip took approximately a whole year and resulted in the collection of invaluable information, photographs, and living material bearing upon the customs of the remarkable agricultural people of these portions of Africa and also in the introduction of hundreds of samples of potentially valuable seeds which should make it possible to discover whether any of the crops grown by these remarkable races have value for the American farmer.

Dr. Shantz finds the m'tsama melon (*Citrullus vulgaris*, No. 48761) of the Kalahari Desert the chief water supply of travelers and dwellers in that region and recommends its further trial in Texas and California. He suggests the use of *Dimorphotheca spectabilis* (No. 48768) for our Great Plains and western desert regions. He found a large-fruited form of Mimosops (*M. zeyheri*, No. 48777), which was said to be delicious and would probably grow in southern Texas. He reports *Themeda triandra* (No. 48787) as the most dominant grass of the sweet veldt of Africa. He got a collection of cowpeas (*Vigna sinensis*, Nos. 48791 to 48793) from Cape Province; a new jujube, which is prolific and an attractive ornamental (*Ziziphus* sp., No. 48796); and a beautiful shade tree (*Combretum salicifolium*, No. 48809), which grows along all the watercourses of the arid region around Pretoria and the Orange River region and appears very promising for southern Texas and California.

Regarding the grass called teff (*Eragrostis abyssinica*, No. 48815), the staple hay crop of the high veldt, Dr. Shantz remarks, "It is the most important plant next to corn in the Transvaal. It should grow from Amarillo, Tex., to Judith Basin, Mont." It requires summer rain and therefore is not adapted for cultivation in the Southwest.

Of the kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*, No. 48818) the Union of South Africa Department of Agriculture reports that in wet weather it keeps green all the time, in spite of heavy frosts, and even makes some growth. For soiling dairy cows it is the grass par excellence; it grows almost as rapidly as lucern, yielding four or five cuttings in a season; in food value it is superior to any of our other grasses.