

"Seeds brought in by Stafford Hamm, an American mining engineer, a gift from Sr. Badilla, who owns an estate in the high mountains. This grass is said to be extremely resistant to cold and to grow almost without moisture. It is a good soil binder on lands which are subject to high winds and occasional heavy rains." (*McQueen.*)

### 51058 to 51060.

From Chama, Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala. Seed presented by Harry Johnson. Received July 12, 1920. Quoted notes by Mr. Johnson.

**51058. BEGONIA** sp. *Begoniaceæ.* **Begonia.**

"(No. 190.) *Begonia scandens* of gardeners(?)."

**51059. PIPER TUBERCULATUM** Jacq. *Piperaceæ.* **Pepper.**

"(No. 188.) *Cordoncilla.* The dried flower spikes are used in the same manner as *Piper nigrum.* It is used here in the preparation of cha-alcacao, a very good drink made by coarsely grinding the cacao with cinnamon and pepper. The flavor is a little different from black or white pepper and may be appreciated as a new condiment."

**51060. HECKERIA** sp. *Piperaceæ.* **Pepper.**

"(No. 189.) *Obel* (Kekchi name). The young leaves have a rather pleasant taste and are used to flavor fish, soups, stews, meats, etc. The plant is pretty when small, but soon grows 'leggy.' The large roundish leaves are green."

### 51061. CASSIA ELEGANS Voigt. *Cæsalpiniaceæ.*

From Cuzco, Peru. Seeds presented by A. A. Giesecke. Received July 15, 1920.

A shrubby ornamental Cassia with feathery pinnate leaves composed of obtuse lanceolate leaflets having yellowish midribs. Its original habitat is unknown, since the plant is known only in cultivation. (Adapted from *Voigt*, in *Sylloge Plantarum Ratisbonensi*, vol. 2, p. 55.)

### 51062 to 51068.

From East Melbourne, Victoria. Seeds presented by M. Medson. Received July 17, 1920.

**51062. BACKHOUSIA CITRIODORA** F. Muell. *Myrtaceæ.*

An Australian tree 18 to 20 feet high, with lemon-scented foliage like that of the scented verbena (*Lippia citriodora*). The essential oil from the leaves has been found suitable for scenting soaps, and the dried leaves give a very pleasant odor to linen closets, etc. The pinkish wood is hard and fine grained. (Adapted from *Maiden, Useful Native Plants of Australia*, pp. 290, 381.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 33643.

**51063. DORYANTHES PALMERI** W. Hill. *Amoryllidaceæ.*

A beautiful member of the amaryllis family, native to Australia, where it grows to a height of 8 or 10 feet, with very numerous sword-shaped leaves up to 8 feet in length. The scarlet flowers are borne in a thyrsus about 3 feet long. (Adapted from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, pl. 6665.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 23433.