

INVENTORY OF FOREIGN SEEDS AND PLANTS.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

The present inventory or catalogue of seeds and plants includes the collections of the agricultural explorers of the Section of Seed and Plant Introduction, as well as a large number of donations from miscellaneous sources. There are a series of new and interesting vegetables, field crops, ornamentals, and forage plants secured by Mr. Walter T. Swingle in France, Algeria, and Asia Minor. Another important exploration was that conducted by Mr. Mark A. Carleton, an assistant in the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology. The wheats and other cereals were published in Inventory No. 4, but notices of many of Mr. Carleton's miscellaneous importations are printed here for the first time. The fruits and ornamentals collected by Dr. Seaton A. Knapp in Japan are here listed, together with a number of Chinese seeds from the Yangtze Valley, presented by Mr. G. D. Brill, of Wuchang. Perhaps the most important items are the series of tropical and subtropical seeds and plants secured through the indefatigable efforts of Hon. Barbour Lathrop, of Chicago. Mr. Lathrop, accompanied by Mr. David G. Fairchild, formerly in charge of the Section of Seed and Plant Introduction, conducted at his own expense an extended exploration through the West Indies, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Brazil, and Argentina, and procured many extremely valuable seeds and plants, some of which had never been previously introduced into this country.

The publication of this list has been considerably belated, and many of the numbers are now entirely exhausted. Nevertheless the notes in regard to such will undoubtedly prove an assistance to agricultural experimenters in many lines. Records are kept of the source and origin of each item listed. It will therefore be possible, in most instances, to obtain an additional quantity, at least for the use of workers at the agricultural experiment stations, provided there is sufficient and justifiable demand for another importation.