

Many of the forms and varieties are not, strictly speaking, new introductions. However, these are often desirable for special purposes; for example, for the use of plant breeders in creating new strains by crossing and selection, or for students of particular groups, who require a large number of species, varieties, and forms in their work on the improvement of cultivated plants. Wherever possible, the first choice will be extended to the coworkers in the various Divisions of the Department of Agriculture and in the State experiment stations. The quantities of seeds and plants secured are usually small and are entirely insufficient for indiscriminate distribution. In cases where an importation proves of value after trial, a larger quantity may be secured for more general distribution in the region in which the plant has shown marked improvement over existing varieties. But where a new crop is once established and has become so well known that it is amply handled by the trade, no further importations for free distribution, at least in that region, will be made.

The rice growers of Louisiana and Texas have made extensive importations, amounting to perhaps 250,000 pounds, of Kiushu or Japanese rice (No. 1962) for seed purposes during the past season, an apt illustration of the point in question. If a new crop imported by this Department turns out to be really better than forms previously cultivated it is bound to be adopted by the progressive seed merchants and farmers. The original Kiushu rice importation increased the value of the annual output of rice in Louisiana and Texas nearly a million dollars. It is no longer an experiment, and the Department of Agriculture will discontinue the distribution of this seed in the region in which it has become established. One pronounced commercial success of this character repays the cost of many unsuccessful ones.

On the other hand, the expenses of exploration in foreign countries in search of varieties of cultivated crops better than those already established in the United States properly devolves upon the Department. It may also sometimes prove profitable to reintroduce forms which have been tried without success in one portion of the land provided new facts as to the method of cultivation and adaptability to soils and climate are determined pointing to the possible success of the crop in special regions possessing the requisite natural environment. In such cases the endeavor to reestablish a decadent farming industry may best be undertaken with the assistance of the trained workers of the State experiment stations. If these experimenters report favorably in regard to new or little known vegetables, grains, and field crops, a larger distribution can be made to again bring the crop to the attention of the farmer.

Because of the increasing scope of the work of the Section, due to the numerous seeds and plants procured, it is especially important that correspondents retain the original number under which the seed