

INVENTORY.¹

54677. STEVIA REBAUDIANA Bertoni. Asteraceæ.

From Buenos Aires, Argentina. Seeds presented by D. S. Bullock, Agricultural Commissioner, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Received January 12, 1922.

"*Ka-á he-é* (sweet herb) is native to Paraguay, growing on the high ground where the yerba maté flourishes. The plant is ordinarily about 20 inches in height with leaves about an inch long. In its wild state the plant is very rare, and no planting of the seeds has ever produced results. It is now believed that the seed is fertile but takes several years to germinate. Propagation is by cuttings. Analyses of the leaves made in Germany show the 'sugar' to be a glucosid in combination with soda and an aromatic resin. It has a sweetening power from 150 to 200 times greater than cane sugar and is soluble in water. It does not ferment and is nontoxic. It is claimed that there is nothing injurious in the leaves and that they can be used for sweetening directly in the natural state, drying and grinding only being required. The aromatic resin gives an additional slight pleasant taste. Since the 'sugar' is soluble, it can be extracted, and it can be used in the liquid form for preserves. It is also claimed that *ka-á he-é* is an ideal and safe sugar for diabetics.

"A German scientist now in Paraguay claims that the plant can be cultivated in fields in a manner similar to alfalfa and cuttings made each year. If the truth of this is demonstrated the plant *ka-á he-é* should be a profitable commercial sugar producer." (*George S. Brady.*)

"George S. Brady, American trade commissioner here, tells me that after being started, the plants can possibly be cut with machinery, as peppermint is cut in Michigan.

"The seeds, I understand, are very small and difficult to grow. It is possible, however, that by treating them as the natives in Paraguay do the maté seed, allowing it to soak in water and wood ashes for 36 or 48 hours, they might germinate." (*Bullock.*)

54678. ECHINOCHLOA COLONUM (L.) Link. Poaceæ. Grass.

From Khartum. Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Seeds presented by R. E. Massey, Government botanist, Department of Agriculture. Received December 27, 1921. Numbered January, 1922.

Received as *Brachiaria isachne* and sent in response to a request for *Difra* (*Panicum breviradiatum* Hochst.).

54679 and 54680.

From Lavras, Minas Geraes, Brazil. Seeds presented by B. H. Huunicutt. Received January 14, 1922.

54679. CYMBOPOGON RUFUS (Nees) Rendle. Poaceæ. Jaragua grass. (*Andropogon rufus* Kunth.)

A perennial grass native to Brazil and cultivated there and at various other places in the American Tropics. This leafy bunch-grass, the tussocks of which become a foot or so in diameter and the numerous leafy culms 6 to 10 feet high, is primarily a hay grass and yields the best

¹ It should be understood that the varietal names of fruits, vegetables, cereals, and other plants used in these inventories are those which the material bore when received by the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction and, further, that the printing of such names here does not constitute their official publication and adoption in this country. As the different varieties are studied, their identity fully established, their entrance into the American trade forecast, and the use of varietal names for them in American literature becomes necessary, the foreign varietal designations appearing in these inventories will in many cases undoubtedly be changed by the specialists interested in the various groups of plants and the forms of the names brought into harmony with recognized American codes of nomenclature.