

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT IN- TRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1922 (NO. 72; NOS. 55569 TO 55813).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

The Chinese Province of Yunnan has in the past yielded many interesting ornamental plants to European collectors, but this inventory records the first time that an agricultural explorer from the Department of Agriculture has penetrated its mountain slopes and vast plains, where a climate similar to that of our Atlantic seaboard prevails.

While no such severe weather as that of the Dakotas ever visits this back country of China, it is a land of heavy frosts, and plants from its plains may be expected to do well in many parts of our Eastern States, while those from its wetter mountain slopes will doubtless find a congenial home in the Puget Sound region.

The plants which appear in this inventory represent a small fraction only of the great collections which the department's explorer, J. F. Rock, has gathered under conditions of living and travel which would daunt any but the real enthusiast. His travels have taken him over hundreds of miles of almost impassable mountain trails and roads through regions where Chinese bandits abound and have necessitated a constant association month after month with people who neither understand what he is doing nor care regarding his fate.

From the Likiang Snow Range, at an altitude of 11,000 feet, Mr. Rock sent six rare lilies, one of them *Lilium sutchuenense* (No. 55609), and five others as yet undetermined (Nos. 55610, 55730, and 55778 to 55780). From Likiang he forwarded seeds of a white-flowered ornamental bush (*Prinsepia utilis*; No. 55719), a fine climbing rose (No. 55721), and a wild species of cherry (No. 55720) that grows to 50 feet in height which he suggests may be used as a stock for the cultivated cherries. At Nguluke, in the Likiang Valley, 8,000 feet above sea level, Mr. Rock found a small, sour, red-fruited apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*; No. 55729) of deliciously fragrant aroma, which is used there for stewing and jam making, and in the foothills of Talifu he obtained seeds of the rare cherry (*P. majesticca*; No. 55732) which grows into large trees and has a vigor suggesting its use as a stock or as an ornamental flowering tree. Seeds from large freestone peaches (*Amygdalus persica*; Nos. 55775 and 55776) borne by trees growing wild near Puerhfu and seeds of a large-fruited plum (*Prunus* sp.; No. 55783) from the same region are part of his shipments which have recently arrived.