

The growing volume of the selections which are being made by foreign plant breeders indicates a greater appreciation on the part of governments of the value of plant varieties in the agriculture of their countries.

The special explorations made by Dr. H. V. Harlan through North Africa, extending into India, in search of certain useful plant characters, which through sporting or otherwise have made their appearance in the barley fields of these regions, mark, it is believed, a turning point in the development of plant introduction and plant breeding alike. They attract attention to the value of a character, such as that of silkiness instead of harshness of awns, as a desirable thing to introduce and incorporate into American barleys through crossing. In the beginning new varieties were introduced because they might themselves be better than those we had. Varieties are now being introduced which are known to be inferior to those already grown in all but perhaps one or two characters, for the purpose of incorporating these superior characters into new and superior strains. Doctor Harlan's collections, a few of which appear in this inventory, will be found described under Nos. 57042 to 57074 and 57612 to 57664 (which include what is reported to be the original Mariout barley that has been so successful in America).

Of the other introductions in this seventy-fifth inventory, the following appear unusually interesting to the writer:

Rock's wild apple from the Likiang Snow Range of Yunnan, *Malus yunnanensis* (No. 57225), which grows at altitudes of 10,000 feet among the rocks on the borderland of Tibet and bears large corymbs of yellow and red fruits about an inch in diameter, and his fragrant-scented rich-pink-flowered *Luculia* (No. 56825) which he found on the Shweli-Salwin Divide in Yunnan and that he declares is "one of the handsomest shrubs of which I know," with salver-shaped flowers 2 inches across; Matsuda's three wild varieties of the Japanese persimmon, or kaki, from the mountains of Kyusiu Island, Japan, one of which may prove to be the wished-for ideal stock for the fine cultivated varieties now assuming rapid commercial importance (*Diospyros kaki*; Nos. 56831 to 56833); Mundy's "perennial Sudan grass," a variety which volunteers readily from seed, especially on cultivated land, and is a form of *Sorghum arundinaceum* (No. 56801); Roberts's long, fleshy cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*; No. 56805) from the Malwa Plateau of Rajputana, India, which is grown there in the hot rainy season and may prove adapted to cultivation in our Southern States in the summer; the eight varieties of bor, or Indian jujube (*Ziziphus mauritiana*; Nos. 56812 to 56819), sent in by G. S. Cheema from Poona, India, a species that has already become naturalized in southern Florida through the efforts of this office and is being used as a stewed fruit by a number of people; Nilsson's mutation of the ordinary European aspen *Populus tremula* (Nos. 56871 and 56872), which was found in the woods of western Sweden (it is fastigate, resembling the Lombardy poplar, and may prove useful for dooryards); Cooper's seed of the beautiful yellow flowering shrub, *Prinsepia sinensis* (No. 57087), from the mountains back of Patung, Hupeh. The early-flowering hardy character of this Chinese shrub, as Professor Sargent has already pointed out, will make it popular throughout the North Atlantic States, where it is hardy. The handsome deep-blue flowering *Evacuum zeylanicum macranthum* (No. 57260), relative of our gentian, which Frank B. Noyes, of Washington, brought back from the mountains of Ceylon, may thrive in Florida and southern California. The supply of seeds of the grumichama of Brazil, *Eugenia dombeii* (No. 57270), which Willis T. Pope sent from Honolulu, is of interest because this highly ornamental new fruiting shrub has proved hardy in southern Florida, and its cherrylike fruits are sure to be appreciated by those who can grow it. Johansen's *Triplaris cumingiana* (No. 57092), a striking ornamental tree from the Isthmus of Panama, deserves a place in the parks of the tropical world. A remarkable collection of seeds of hardy trees and shrubs presented by A. D. Woeikoff, director of the experimental farm at Echo, Manchuria, and including such rare species as *Betula davurica* (No. 57278), *Acanthopanax senticosum* (No. 57274), *Euonymus hamiltonianus* (No. 57281), *Prunus maackii* (No. 57310), *Tilia amurensis* (No. 57345), *T. mandshurica* (No. 57346), *Viburnum burejaeticum* (No. 57366), and *Prinsepia sinensis* (No. 57309), can not fail to be valuable in the ornamental plantings of the parks and dooryards in the Northwest.

As during the years past, the work of determination of the names of the various species introduced has been done by H. C. Skeels. The descriptive notes have been prepared by Paul Russell, who has had general supervision of this inventory.

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