

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## INVENTORY No. 76



Washington, D. C.

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### SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1923 (S. P. I. NOS. 57680 TO 58023)

#### CONTENTS

	Page
Introductory statement.....	1
Inventory.....	5
Index of common and scientific names.....	21

#### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

AS WITH the preceding inventory (No. 75), the present number contains numerous locally developed strains of cereals and other crop plants. These have been obtained either directly by representatives of the department traveling abroad or through the ever-widening avenues of exchange with foreign agricultural and botanical institutions. The explorations of H. V. Harlan in the Mediterranean region and India were discussed at some length by David Fairchild in the introductory statement to Inventory No. 75. In May, 1923, Doctor Harlan was in Egypt. From that country he sent a number of varieties of barley (*Hordeum vulgare pallidum*; Nos. 57750 to 57755) and also an Abyssinian emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*; No. 57756). By the end of the month he had reached India, where he sent from Poona a collection of seeds, including several legumes for trial as cover crops, and eight local varieties of sorghum (*Holcus sorghum*; Nos. 57835 to 57842). Early June found him in northern India and Kashmir, where several barleys (*Hordeum vulgare pallidum*, Nos. 57892 to 57898) were collected, in addition to a number of varieties of wheat (*Triticum* spp.; Nos. 57901 to 57911) and several leguminous plants.

In addition to the cereals and forage crops which have been obtained through this channel, the present inventory describes a collection of 14 varieties of rice (*Oryza sativa*; Nos. 57868 to 57881) from the Philippines, sent through the courtesy of Adrian Hernandez, Director of the Bureau of Agriculture; a species of clover from high altitudes in Africa (*Trifolium johnstoni*; No. 57698), presented by our valued correspondent, Dr. J. Burt Davy; 25 varieties of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*; Nos. 57705 to 57729) developed by plant breeders at the Bathurst Experiment Station in South Africa; a wild red clover (*Trifolium pratense*; No. 57939) from Scotland; and seeds of several hardy crop plants from Ekaterinoslav, Russia.

The urgent desirability of breeding disease-resistant varieties of sugar cane (*Saccharum officinarum*) has led to the introduction of many strains of this plant from the Orient, the West Indies, and other regions; Nos. 57757 to 57769 represent a series of crosses which have been obtained from the Sugar Experiment Station at Paseroean, Java; and Nos. 57781 to 57794 a number of standard Javanese varieties, as well as crosses, from the same place.

The tropical world, far from being explored horticulturally, still continues to yield new species of fruits for cultivation in regions such as Florida, southern California, Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. From the temperate re-