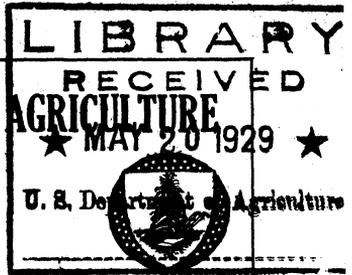


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF



INVENTORY No. 89



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PLANT MATERIAL INTRODUCED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1926 (NOS. 68956 TO 70867)

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

During the period covered by this inventory P. H. Dorsett concluded his explorations in Manchuria. The great number of introductions of soy beans, mung beans, barley, and wheat recorded here is due to the cooperation afforded Mr. Dorsett toward the close of his work in that country. Through the courtesy of D. McLorn, Postal Commissioner at Harbin, about 500 rural postmasters, several of them in sections of the country never yet visited by white men, were instructed to send in small seed samples of wheat, barley, soy beans, and mung beans, and the majority of the postmasters were able to supply seed. The nature of the country where these grew makes them of unusual promise for the northern and northwestern United States.

While continuing his work in southeastern China, F. A. McClure collected, among other things, tubers of 6 cultivated varieties of yams from Kwangtung (*Dioscorea* spp., Nos. 69072 to 69077), 55 local strains of rice, also from Kwangtung (*Oryza sativa*, Nos. 69172 to 69226), and scions of 20 locally grown varieties of kaki from Anhwei (*Diospyros kaki*, Nos. 70256 to 70275).

During his visit to the Stockholm Botanic Gardens, at Stockholm, Sweden, David Fairchild obtained seeds of three species of rhubarb (*Rheum* spp., Nos. 69105 to 69107). These are not only of possible use to rhubarb growers for breeding experiments but are also of ornamental value and are not now known in this country.

Five species of *Cassia* are recorded in this inventory (Nos. 69147 to 69151). The showy flowers of this genus make them valuable as ornamentals, and they should be a very interesting group for local collections in sections of the United States where they are adapted.

Agronomists engaged in wheat investigations will be interested in 51 locally developed varieties (*Triticum* spp., Nos. 70689 to 70739) presented by the inspector general of agriculture of Iraq. Since Iraq is essentially a subtropical country, these varieties should be of most promise in the southern portions of the wheat-growing areas of the United States.

Mimosa invisa (No. 69122) deserves mention from the fact that it has been used successfully in the East Indies as a cover and green-manure plant. Its spiny nature is objectionable from this standpoint and may make it less desirable than other good legumes that we are now using. However, it is a worthy plant for experimentation in this connection and may also have value as an ornamental.