

SALIX RORIDA (Salicaceae), 58485. **Willow.** From Echo, Kirin Province, Manchuria. Budwood presented by A. D. Woeikoff, director, Experimental Farm. Mr. Woeikoff, who has sent also two interesting poplars described in this issue of Plant Immigrants, forwards cuttings of this remarkable willow, accompanied by the following note:

"This is a giant among willows. In the river valleys of Manchuria it reaches a height of 150 feet, with an enormous circumference." It will be propagated for trial in the colder parts of this country.

A New Agricultural Exploration of Northeastern China.

For a number of years the Department of Agriculture has been exploring the agricultural resources of China. The late Frank N. Meyer, dean of agricultural explorers, was first sent to that country in 1905. During the succeeding years he traveled widely, not alone in China, but also in Turkestan, Russia, Siberia and other parts of eastern Asia. The agricultural reconnaissance which he made, and the plants collected by him, are proving of great value. In 1922, C. A. Reed of the Bureau of Plant Industry traveled in the walnut-growing regions of China, and brought back much information concerning nut crops, as well as plant material. Joseph F. Rock, originally sent out as an Agricultural Explorer of this Department, and later transferred to the National Geographic Society, explored the remote and little-known southwestern portion of the country, securing a vast amount of information concerning the native flora, and seeds of many plants likely to find a congenial home in certain parts of the United States.

A new agricultural exploring expedition, distinct in character from those which have preceded it, left San Francisco on July 22. This is headed by P. H. Dorsett, Agricultural Explorer, a man connected with this Office for nearly a quarter of a century, and well known to most of our experimenters and correspondents. The work of the expedition, which will confine its activities to the northeastern part of China, in particular the provinces of Chihli, Shansi, and Manchuria, is designed to benefit principally the northern portions of the United States, and especially the Great Plains region. The Department has long desired to undertake an intensive search for hardy crop plants, fruits and shade trees, but disturbed political conditions in eastern Asia, the most promising field for such an exploration, have necessitated considerable delay in carrying out the project.

For many centuries the Chinese have been cultivating and improving fruits, vegetables, and crop plants of many sorts. Their highly developed plant types may prove of great value to us, fitting into climatic, soil, and economic needs we have hitherto been unable to meet. The expedition, therefore, will work upon the plan which the Department has been following for several years in its Latin American ex-