

plorations, - in place of covering a wide range of territory, devoting but little time to any given section and its crop plants, a permanent base will be established in some conveniently located place, and critical studies will be made of plants found there, not alone with a view to securing seeds or propagating material, but also to obtain information which may be used to strengthen our agricultural and horticultural industries generally.

Forage crops and cereals of value are likely to be found in Manchuria, and the soy bean, which has in recent years become an important crop in the United States, will be studied carefully, with a view to securing new varieties of promise. From northern China, several hardy, drought-resistant shade and windbreak trees have already been introduced into this country. These have shown themselves capable of growing in regions where few other shade trees prosper, and it is expected that the present expedition will result in the introduction of numerous similar trees of value for the Great Plains region. Wild fruit trees, or wild relatives of fruits cultivated in the United States, will be obtained for the use of breeders now at work on the problem of securing hardy fruits for regions of extremely cold, dry winters; while other species of the same general character may prove valuable as root-stocks on which to graft our cultivated fruits, just as *Amygdalus davidiana* from northern China has already done.

Special attention will be given to the study and collection of highly developed fruit and nut crops, such as the bush cherries, jujubes, persimmons, pears, peaches, plums, and chestnuts. The Department has made a number of introductions of the Chinese hairy chestnut, a promising species. It is blight resistant lends itself to orchard culture and furnishes a nut closely resembling that of our native species. Up to the present however, seeds only have been introduced, and seedlings do not come true. An effort will be made to secure grafting wood of numerous fine varieties known to exist to the north of Peking.

These are a few of the lines of work which the Northeastern China Expedition will undertake to carry out during the next year or two. The cooperation of the agricultural experts of Nanking University and other institutions in China will be secured to the fullest extent possible, and it is expected that American missionaries, who have always been helpful to this Department, will assist in making the work of the expedition a success. New and promising varieties of fruits, forage plants, cereals and other crops which are discovered by the expedition will be brought to the attention of local agriculturists and horticulturists, so that China may profit by the work as fully as the United States. It is planned in fact, to make this a mutually beneficial agricultural exploration of northeastern China, - one of the oldest agricultural regions in the world.

Wilson Popenoe.