

In Great Britain, according to Veitch's Manual, it is usually a smaller tree than *P. laricio* proper and of denser habit, with stout and long horizontal branches and shorter but stouter and more rigid leaves of a darker green. It is said to be a fast growing tree of great accommodative power on the poorer classes of soils for bearing shade; it is one of the best kinds for forming shelter screens. The wood is coarser in grain than that of *P. laricio* and is apt to be knotty when the trees have been grown in poor soils." (Beissner, *Nadelholzkunde*.) For distribution later.

*PISTACIA VERA*. (Anacardiaceae.) 33441. Cuttings of the pistache from Bronte, Italy. Presented by Mr. Charles Beek, gardener to the Duke of Bronte. An interesting shipment because of the various forms of packing used. Some cuttings were packed with their ends wrapped in clay and then in cloth, others with the ends waxed, others with moss and oiled paper, and a lot in a tin tube with both ends packed in clay. Of these the propagator says; "There is such a slight difference in the condition of the 3 bundles of these scions that it is hard to say which is best, as all are in good condition except the tin tube lot. I really think the ones that had their ends covered with stiff clay are the best, the ones with the ends waxed came next, then the moss and oiled paper lot. The tin tube lot is in poor condition, all cuttings being mouldy and decayed on both ends." For distribution later.

*RICINUS COMMUNIS*. (Euphorbiaceae.) 33408-417. Seeds of castor bean from British India. Presented by Mr. John D. Shanahan, late of this Bureau, who procured them at the Allahabad exhibition. "There is one feature about the castor bean which all the evidence the writer could collect seems to bear out, and that is that the smaller bean is very much more desirable for commercial use than the larger one, as it is generally given credit for producing a larger yield and better quality oil: This of course is only in a general way. In India where the greater part of the commercial bean is obtained, the product grown in the territory surrounding Cawnpore is usually very large and in commercial contracts this bean is barred on account of its large size and insignificant yield of oil. The castor plant grows very large in some sections, reaching a height of from 25 to 30 feet, and in India it is mostly grown as a hedge plant, surrounding fields and dooryards. The manufacture of castor oil is growing in this country and it seems to the writer that the production of beans in this country should be encouraged." (Shanahan.) For distribution later.