

ALYSICARPUS SPP. (Fabaceae.) 34931-933. Seeds from Poona, India. Presented by Mr. W. Burns, Economic Botanist, through Mr. C. V. Piper, of this Bureau. Three species of legumes, related species of which are considered among the best Indian grazing plants. For distribution later.

AMYGDALUS PERSICA NECTARINA. (Amygdalaceae.) 34997. Seeds of a nectarine from Santiago, Chile. Procured by Mr. W. F. Wight, of this Bureau. "Yellow-fleshed nectarines which are very common in the Santiago markets." (Wight.) For distribution later.

BOMAREA SP. (Amaryllidaceae.) 34979. Seeds from San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by Mr. Ad. Tonduz, Botanist, National Museum. "Fruits found in the vicinity of San Jose. An ornamental with edible tubers." (Tonduz.) For distribution later.

BORASSUS FLABELLIFER. (Phoenicaceae.) 35040. Seeds of the Palmyra palm from Madras, India. Presented by Mr. H. E. Houghton, Superintendent, Agri-Horticultural Society through Mr. Jose de Olivares, American Consul. "An erect palm, 60 to 70 feet high, with a stout trunk and fan-shaped leaves, indigenous to the dry region of Ceylon, India and Africa. It is naturally suited to a rather dry climate; is extensively cultivated for the fruit and leaves. The large black fruits are borne in a cluster at the base of the leaves; the nut contains a refreshing sap, much relished as a cooling drink; the kernels or young seeds are much used as an article of food, being sold in large quantities in the bazaars during the months of April and May; the sap obtained from the flower spathes is collected in large quantities and either fermented and made into 'toddy' or 'arrack' (an intoxicating drink), or boiled down for making sugar or jaggery. The leaf blades are used for making fans, baskets, buckets, etc.; while the leaf-stalks and mid-ribs furnish an excellent brush-fibre, which forms an article of export. To obtain the latter the trees are stripped of all but three leaves once in two years. The trunk yields a hard and most durable timber and the husks are in demand for fuel. Among palms in the East the Palmyra ranks next in importance to the coconut, and the acreage under its cultivation in Ceylon is estimated at approximately 40,000 acres, while that in Tinnevely is said to be about 60,000 acres. It is propagated from seed, which is sown in situ in holes made in sandy soil. In about ten years from sowing, the palms should be in flower, when they may be used for drawing toddy and making sugar.