Protea lepidocarpodendron (Proteaceae), 48184. From St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands. Seeds collected by Dr. H. L. Shantz, agricultural explorer. "No. 27. This is one of the most striking plants of the genus. The unusually beautiful flowers are grouped into large heads 3 inches long, and when open are 4 to 6 inches across. The black-tipped, light purple bracts, which appear like velvety petals fringed with long black silky hairs, produce a very pleasing effect; I doubt if a more attractive ornamental could be grown. This plant grows well from seed. It should grow in the leached soils of Southern California; there is, however, little lime in the soil where it grows naturally, and it should be tried in acid soil." (Shantz.)

Raphia vinifera (Phoenicaceae), 48146. **Wine palm.** From Aburi, Gold Coast, West Africa. Purchased from the Agricultural Department of the Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti, and Northern Territories. The bamboo or wine palm, so called because the natives make wine from the sap of the trunk, is native to west and central tropical Africa, and is the commonest tree in the swamps and low lands which line the waterways. Dense thickets of these graceful palms, traversed only by the palm-wine gatherer or the bamboo cutter, push their way into the lagoons and extend over the flood grounds and even for a distance of from 15 to 20 miles up the river valleys into the interior. African bass, a valuable brush fiber, and raffia are both obtained from this palm. The strong whalebonelike bass fiber contained in the lower portions of the leafstalks, is very easily extracted by a simple process of soaking and beating. The fiber so obtained is excellent for the manufacture of brooms and brushes. Raffia is prepared by peeling off the cuticle, with some of the underlying fibrovascular bundles, on one or both sides of the leaf. It is used locally for woven fabrics, hats, and matting. The loose strips of raffia are in demand as tie-bands by gardeners. In length of fiber, but more especially in yield of cellulose, it is superior to Esparto grass, *Stipa tenacissima*, which is valuable for making rope, brooms, baskets, paper, etc. The following analysis proves the worth of *R. vinifera* for paper-making:

Moisture	9.8 per cent.
Ash	2.7 " "
Cellulose	60.8 " "
Ultimate fibers (length)	1.5 to 2.5 mm.

(Adapted from Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Informa-