

48103 to 48144—Continued.

- 48140.** *No. 49.* "Introduced from New South Wales to Victoria in 1917; a selection of seed barley imported into that State." (*Richardson.*)
- 48141.** *Odessa.* "Introduced from Odessa, Russia, and thought to be the most promising barley for South Dakota conditions." (*H. V. Harlan.*)
- 48142.** **Roseworthy Oregon.* "Six-rowed field barley, with dark-colored grain, produced by Prof. Perkins, Roseworthy College, South Australia." (*Richardson.*)
- 48143.** *Sea of Azov.* "This was introduced by a local produce merchant from seed imported from Russia." (*Richardson.*)
- 48144.** *Short head.* "Six-rowed field barley, with dark grain, produced by Prof. Perkins, Roseworthy College, South Australia." (*Richardson.*)

48145. SOLANUM MAMMOSUM L. Solanaceæ.

From Ecuador. Collected in 1918 by Dr. J. N. Rose, associate curator, United States National Museum. Numbered in October, 1919, for convenience in recording distribution.

"This *Solanum* has large thorny leaves, and bears a large deep-yellow fruit, about 3 inches long and 2 inches through, with five small fingerlike protuberances projecting from the side, at the base. The fruit lasts for a long time, both on the plant and after being picked, and is quite a curiosity." (*Peter Bisset.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 46374.

48146. RAPHIA VINIFERA Beauv. Phœnicaceæ. Palm.

From Aburi, Gold Coast, West Africa. Purchased from Mr. W. D. Tudhope, Director of Agriculture, Agricultural Department of the Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti, and Northern Territories. Received October 3, 1919.

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, the commonest tree in the swamps and lowlands which line the waterways. Dense thickets of these graceful palms, traversed only by the wine gatherer or the bamboo cutter, push their way into the lagoons and extend over the flood grounds, and even for a distance of 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 bast fiber, contained in the lower portions of the leafstalk, is very easily extracted by a simple process of soaking and beating, and is then made into excellent 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, cloth, 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 *Raphia vinifera* for paper making: Moisture, 9.8 per cent; ash, 2.7 per cent; cellulose, 60.8 per cent. Ultimate fibers (length), 1.5 to 2.5 mm. (Adapted from *Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information*, 1891, No. 49, p. 38, and *Jackson, Journal of the African Society*, vol. 1, p. 299.)