A COMPARISON OF SELECTIONS OF COAST BARLEY

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Coast is the name applied to the strongly-bearded, 6-rowed type of barley which has been the leading variety of this cereal in California and adjoining states for decades. It is believed to have originated in North Africa near the Atlas Mountains (2). Its early history in California dates back to the settlement of the region by the Spaniards under the leadership of the padres as is shown by Hendry and Kelly (3) in their researches on the plant content of adobe bricks from the old missions. The period of reconstruction of the missions was from 1769 to 1824 in Upper California. The Spanish fathers must have brought this variety with them directly from Spain or from Mexico. It is interesting to note that Coast is the only type of barley so far found among the plant remains in the adobe bricks.

This variety of barley was found to be well adapted to the coastal region by the early settlers of the state. It is particularly well adapted to semi-arid climates and probably was the principal variety grown in Spain at the time of the colonization of North America.

1Contribution from Office of Cereal Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., in cooperation with the California Agricultural Experiment Station from 1923 to 1926; previously in cooperation with the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Received for publication April 16, 1927.

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3Reference by number is to "Literature Cited," p. 674.