M.R.O. 1—33,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 134 Press Mis.

Dated 25-1-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 272. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department, (Public,) dated Fort William, 11th January 1870, No. 145 ;—

NOTIFICATION.

THE Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the following Advertisement :—

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Government of India, after communication with various Agricultural and Horticultural Societies in India and with persons interested in the subject, have arrived at the conclusion that the only real obstacle to the development of an extensive trade in the fibre of Rheea or China Grass is the want of suitable machinery for separating the fibre and bark from the stem and the fibre from the bark, the cost of effecting such separation by manual labour being great.

2. The demand for the fibre is now large, and no doubt might be extended with reduced prices, and there is a practically unlimited extent of country in India where the plant could be grown.

3. The requirements of the case appear to be some machinery or process capable of producing, with the aid of animal, water, or steam-power, a ton of fibre of a quality which shall average in value not less than £50 per ton in the English market, at a total cost, all processes of manufacture and allowance for wear and tear included, of not more than £15 per ton. The said processes are to be understood to include all the operations performed, after the cutting and transport of the plant to the place of manufacture, to the completion of the manufacture of fibre of the quality above described. The machinery must be simple, strong, durable, and cheap ; and should be suited for erection at or near the plantations, as the refuse is very useful as manure for continued cultivation.

4. To stimulate the invention or adaptation of such machinery or process, the Government of India hereby offer a prize of £5,000 for the machine and process that best fulfils all the requirements named above.

5. Rewards of moderate amount will be given for really meritorious inventions, even though failing to meet entirely all the conditions named.

6. Arrangements will be made by the Government of India for the supply of carefully dried stems, and specimens of fibre separated from the bark, but subjected to no other process, to mechanical firms and others desirous of competing, on application to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department.

7. All machinery, etc., must be brought by the competitors at their own charge to a locality which will be notified hereafter, probably in the North-West Provinces or the Punjab, and there worked under the supervision of their own representatives for a sufficient time to enable the judges appointed by Government to determine whether all the conditions named have been complied with. The prize-machine is to be transferred, if required, to Government at five per cent. above cost-price ; the patent right in any such machine to be also transferred, if required, to Government, on the latter securing to the patentee a royalty of five per cent. on the cost-price of all machines manufactured under the patent during its currency.

8. One year from the date of this advertisement will be allowed for the preparation of the machines, and their transport to the locality named for the competition ; and the trials will then be made, and the decision of the judges announced. If no invention of sufficient merit is received in the above-named period to obtain the prize offered, the Government will continue to allow machines to be tendered for trial till the end of two years from the same date, after which, or on the award of the prize, the offers herein made will be withdrawn.

(By Order of the Governor-General in Council,)

(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY,

Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 146.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the above Notification be sent to each of the Local Governments and Administrations noted on the margin, with a request that full publicity may be given to it.

Government of Fort Saint George.
,, Bombay.
,, Bengal.
,, N.-W. Provinces.
,, Punjab.
Chief Commissioner of Oudh.
,, C. Provinces.
,, British Burmah.
,, Coorg.
Resident at Hyderabad.

(Signed) J. GEOGHEGAN,
for *Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

No. 273. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1870, No. 134.

Miscellaneous.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue with the request that they will cause the Notification to be published in the *District Gazettes.*

2. A copy of the Notification will also be sent to the Superintendent of the Government Press for publication in the *Fort Saint George Gazette.*

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Superintendent of the Government Press.

Frd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1870 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 25th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 25th January 1870, *No.* 134.

JANUARY.

Nos. 272-273.

Machine for separating the fibre of China Grass.—Board of Revenue to publish the Notification offering a reward for its invention in the Gazettes.

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to determine whether all the conditions na
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above cost price; the patent right in any su
required, to Government, on the latter securi
5 per cent. on the cost price of all machines m
its currency.

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