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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1871.*

No. 177. Read the following letter from the Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India, (Home Department—Public,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, 26th January 1871, No. 493:—

In continuation of Resolution, No. 480, dated 26th instant, I am directed to forward herewith an amended Notification,* published in the *Gazette of India*,

offering prizes for the invention of a machinery or process for separating the fibre and bark from the stem and the fibre from the bark of the Rhea plant; and to request that, under the orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will cause it to be re-published in the local Gazette of the Presidency.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

FORT WILLIAM, HOME DEPARTMENT, (PUBLIC,) the 26th January 1871, No. 478.

NOTIFICATION.

The Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the following Advertisement in substitution of the one published under Notification, No. 145, dated the 11th January 1870:

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Government of India, after communication with various Agricultural and Horticultural Societies in India, and with persons interested in the subject, has arrived at the conclusion that the only real obstacle to the development of an extensive trade in the fibre of Rhea 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 offers 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. Owing to the delay that has taken place in maturing the preliminary arrangements, the Government of India has decided that the competition will not be held until the 1st April 1872,

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thus affording a much longer time than was originally intended for the preparation of machines and their transport to the locality appointed for the competition. The Government Rhea Plantation at Saharunpore in the North-Western Provinces has been fixed as the place where the public competition will be held, and the Government of India will provide one or more small steam-engines to work the machines during the public competition.

7. All machinery, etc., intended for trial must be brought by the competitors at their own charge to the Saharunpore Rhea Plantation, and kept ready before the 1st April 1872, to be there worked under their own supervision, or under that of their representatives, for a sufficient length of 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. Arrangements have now been completed for the supply of dried Rhea stems to intending competitors, both in this country and in Europe, to enable them to form a correct idea of the nature of the plant which their machinery will be required to deal with. Persons in Europe desirous to obtain small supplies of dried Rhea stems for the above purpose should apply to the Secretary of State for India. Intending competitors in this country desirous of obtaining supplies of the article must submit applications to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, in the Form A. hereto annexed, prior to the 1st of March, 1871; and those who are desirous of testing their machinery on the fresh Rhea at the Government Rhea Plantation at Saharunpore during the year 1871 must submit their applications to the same authority, in the Form B. hereto annexed, prior to the 1st April 1871. The former will have to pay the expenses that may be incurred in packing and despatching the stems. The latter will have to provide all labour and motive power necessary for, and to pay all expenses connected with, their experiments: the fibre turned out by their machines during such experiments to become the property of Government.

9. In order to enable the Government to arrange for the provision of a sufficient stock of fresh Rhea stems for the purposes of the formal competition in April 1872, it is necessary to ascertain beforehand the number of machines that are likely to take part in it; and intending competitors are therefore requested to submit, prior to the 1st May 1871, and in the Form C. also hereto annexed, notices of intention to compete.

FORM A.

Application for dried stems of the Rhea.

To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

Name of applicant.	Profession or occupation.	Address in full.	Quantity of dried stems applied for.	Locality to which it is desired that the stems be transmitted.	Name of nearest Railway Station to locality entered in preceding column.

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On hearing from the Superintendent of the Government Rhea Plantation, Saharunpore, the amount of the expenses to be incurred in packing and despatching the quantity of stems above applied for, or such lesser quantity as may be allotted to me, as also the cost of carriage of such quantity to *(here insert the locality to which it is desired that the stems be forwarded)*, or to the nearest Railway Station, I promise to remit the total amount so required to the said officer, and I acknowledge that the packing and transmission of such stems will be entirely at my risk.

(Name in full.)

(Date)

(Place)

FORM B.

Application for permission to make preliminary experiments for testing machinery at the Government Rhea Plantation, Saharunpore.

To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

Name of applicant.	Profession or occupation.	Address in full.	Brief description of machinery proposed to be tested.	Date on which applicant, if permitted, proposes to commence testing his machinery.	Approximate amount of green stem which applicant expects will be necessary for testing the machinery.

I acknowledge that, if permission be granted to me to test the above-described machinery at the Government Plantation, such permission will be subject to the following conditions:—

1st.—I am to provide all labour and motive power necessary for, and to pay all expenses connected with, testing my machinery.

2nd.—I am bound to conform to such rules in regard to time and place of conducting my experiments, hours of working, and the like, as the Superintendent of the Plantation may lay down for my guidance.

3rd.—I shall receive only such quantities of green stem, and at such time or times as, with reference to the other claims upon him, the Superintendent may find convenient to allot me.

4th.—All fibre, etc., turned out by my machines during these experiments, with stems furnished by Government, will be the property of Government.

(Name in full.)

(Date)

(Place)

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FORM C.

Notice of machinery intended to compete for the Government Rhea Machinery Prizes, at the trials to be held at Saharunpore in April 1872, and subsequent months.

PARTIES INTENDING TO COMPLETE.			Number of different kinds of machines which competitor desires to take part in the trials.	Brief description of each kind of machine.	Motive power required to work the machine.	Date by which the machines will be ready at Saharunpore for trial.
Name in full.	Profession or occupation.	Residence in full.				

In proposing to enter the above-noted machinery for the Saharunpore competitive trials, I do so under the full understanding that—

1st.—I shall be bound to conform to all rules and regulations in regard to all matters in any way connected with these trials that may be laid down by Government, or by the judges appointed by Government to preside over these, and that, failing to do so, I shall forfeit my machinery for the competition.

2nd.—All fibre, etc., turned out by my machinery during the trials, with stems furnished by Government, will be the property of Government.

(Name in full.)

(Date)

(Place)

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 178.

ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1871, No. 292.

Miscellaneous.

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

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd F. B. Bantleman.

No. 479

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department,
under date the 20 January 1871.

READ again Resolution recorded in this Department, No. 5555-57,
dated 17th December 1870.

RESOLUTION.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for transmitting to the Secretary of State, for the use of would-be competitors in Europe, five tons of dried stems of the Rhea and two tons of semi-prepared fibre in that state to which it is readily reduced by existing machinery.

2. Dr. Jamieson reports that Rhea cultivation is being vigorously pushed forward at Saharunpore, and it seems probable that by the 1st of April a few tons of dried stems will be available for distribution to parties in India desirous of making experiments with the same. These stems will be distributed gratis, but applicants must pay for the carriage of the same from Saharunpore to the locality at which they wish to receive them, as well as for all packing expenses.

3. Regard being had to the delay which has unavoidably occurred, and must still occur, in furnishing would-be competitors in Europe and India with specimens of the plant for experimental purposes, His Excellency the Governor General in Council has resolved to postpone the commencement of the regular trials until April 1872. During the whole hot weather and rains of 1871, however, considerable quantities of the fresh stem will be available at Saharunpore, and during this period intending competitors whose machinery is in a sufficiently forward state, and who may be desirous of testing the same on the green plant, will be afforded all practicable facilities for doing this at the Government Plantation, so far as the material available will permit. During these preliminary experiments the owners of machinery must provide such motive power as may be necessary to test their machines to their own satisfaction, but during the regular trials the Government propose to place one or more small steam engines at the plantation to work the machines which may be allowed to compete.

4. Persons desirous of obtaining supplies of the dried stem for experimental purposes in this country must submit applications in the Form A prior to the 1st of March 1871, and persons desirous

of testing their machinery at the Government Plantation at Saharunpore during the hot weather and rains of 1871 must submit their applications in the Form B prior to the 1st of April 1871. Applications in either Form are to be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

5. It being essential, in view to the provision of a sufficient supply of the fresh Rhea stem for the trial of the machinery, to ascertain beforehand the number of machines that are likely to take part in the competition, it has been decided to fix the 1st May 1871 as the date prior to which notices of intention to compete for the Government prizes should be submitted. Machines, in regard to which notice has not been given prior to that date, will only be admitted to the competition after a sufficient supply of stems has been allotted for the trial of those machines, in regard to which the requisite notice has been duly filed prior to the 1st May 1871. Notices of intention to compete should be in the form C, and should be addressed as in the case of Applications A. and B.

Form A.

APPLICATION FOR DRIED STEMS OF THE RHEA.

To the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Department.

Name of applicant.	Profession or occupation.	Address in full.	Quantity of dried stems applied for.	Locality to which it is desired that the stems be transmitted.	Name of nearest Railway Station to locality entered in preceding column.

On hearing from the Superintendent of the Government Rhea Plantation, Saharunpore, the amount of the expenses to be incurred in packing and despatching the quantity of stems above applied for, or such lesser quantity as may be allotted to me, as also the cost of carriage of such quantity to *(here insert the locality to which it is desired that the stems be forwarded)* or to the nearest Railway Station, I promise to remit the total amount so required to the said Officer, and I acknowledge that the packing and transmission of such stems will be entirely at my risk.

(Name in full.)

(Date)

(Place)

Form B.

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO MAKE PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENTS FOR TESTING MACHINERY AT THE GOVERNMENT RHEA PLANTATION, SAHARUNPORE.

To the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Department.

Name of applicant.	Profession or occupation.	Address in full.	Brief description of machinery proposed to be tested.	Date on which applicant, if permitted, proposes to commence testing his machinery.	Approximate amount of green stem which applicant expects will be necessary for testing the machinery.

I acknowledge that, if permission be granted to me to test the above-described machinery at the Government Plantation, such permission will be subject to the following conditions:—

- 1st.—I am to provide all labor and motive power necessary for, and to pay all expenses connected with, testing my machinery.
- 2nd.—I am bound to conform to such rules in regard to time and place of conducting my experiments, hours of working, and the like, as the Superintendent of the Plantation may lay down for my guidance.
- 3rd.—I shall receive only such quantities of green stem and at such time or times as, with reference to the other claims upon him, the Superintendent may find convenient to allot me.
- 4th.—All fibre, &c., turned out by my machines during these experiments with stems furnished by Government will be the property of Government.

(Name in full.)

(Date)

(Place)

Form C.

NOTICE OF MACHINERY INTENDED TO COMPETE FOR THE GOVERNMENT RHEA MACHINERY PRIZES AT THE TRIALS TO BE HELD AT SAHARUNPORE IN APRIL 1872 AND SUBSEQUENT MONTHS.

PARTIES INTENDING TO COMPETE.			Number of different kinds of machines which competitor desires to take part in the trials.	Brief description of each kind of machine.	Motive power required to work the machine.	Date by which the machines will be ready at Saharunpore for trial.
Name in full.	Profession or occupation.	Residence in full.				

In proposing to enter the above noted machinery for the Saharunpore competitive trials, I do so under the full understanding that—

1st.—I shall be bound to conform to all rules and regulations in regard to all matters in any way connected with these trials that may be laid down by Government, or by the Judges appointed by Government to preside over these; and that, failing to do so, I shall forfeit all claim to any prize, reward or recompense from Government, and entirely disqualify my machinery for the competition.

2nd.—All fibre, &c., turned out by my machinery during the trials with stems furnished by Government will be the property of Government.

(Date)
(Place)

(Name in full.)

No. 480

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the above Resolution and Forms be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations for information, and to the Superintendent, Botanical Gardens, Saharunpore, for information.

Ordered also, that the above Resolution and Forms be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*, and that a notification embodying present orders be published for general information.

(True Extract.)

C. R. S. Kumar

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

78.292.

Forwarded to the
Board of Revenue with
the request that they will
cause the Notification to be
published in the District
Gazettee. *MA*

17th July/70

14th Feb. Board of Revenue

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February 17th.

Reed.



G. O., 17th February 1871, No. 292.

Letter # 13-9-77 No 2714

20-11-77 № 3276.

front of J. letter 15-9-91 A^o 1929

FEBRUARY 6 1970

Nos. 177-178.

Machinery for separating the fibre of the Rhea Plant.—Amended Notification offering prizes for its invention, forwarded to Board of Revenue for publication in the District Gazettes.

No. 179. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George :—

No. 170. Read the following letter from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Madras.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman,