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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2714	Press. / Mis.
Dated	13.9.1897	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

13th September 1877, No. 2,714.

Read the following paper:—

No. 226. From G. H. M. BATTEN, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Fibres and Silk), to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 4th September 1877, No. 1-46.

I AM directed to forward the accompanying Notification published in the *Gazette of India*, renewing the offer of prizes for the invention of a machine or process for the preparation of the fibre of the *Böhmeria nivea* (popularly known under the name of Rheea, Ramie, and China grass); and to request that under the orders of His Grace the Governor in Council you will cause it to be republished in the local Gazette, or otherwise widely circulated in Madras.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

No. 45.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

FIBRES AND SILK.

Dated Simla, the 31st August 1877.

NOTIFICATION.

IN 1871 the Government of India offered a prize of £5,000 to the inventor of the best machine or process for the preparation of the fibre of the *Böhmeria nivea* (popularly known under the names of Rheea, Ramie, and China grass), and the terms on which machines would be admitted to competition were widely notified in India, in Europe, and in America. Many persons declared their intention to compete, but ultimately only one machine was actually brought to the place of trial. The machine having been carefully tested at Saháranpur in the autumn of 1872, was found imperfect in some important respects, and the inventor was adjudged not entitled to the full reward. He was, however, presented with £1,000 in consideration of the partial measure of success he had attained after great perseverance.

2. This machine has not since been adapted by the inventor to practical use, and no improved process of preparing the fibre of the Rheea has been yet discovered by other persons. Meanwhile, the demand for Rheea continues, and the conditions which induced the Government of India in 1871 to offer a prize remain substantially unchanged.

3. His Honor the President in Council, therefore, considers that it is desirable to renew the offer, and it is accordingly hereby notified that a reward of fifty thousand rupees will be paid to the inventor of the best machine or process which will separate the bark and fibre from the stem, and the fibre from the bark, of the *Böhmeria nivea*.

4. A smaller reward not exceeding ten thousand rupees will be given to the inventor of the next best machine or process, provided it is adjudged to possess merit and to be capable without difficulty of adaptation to practical use.

5. What is required is a machine or process capable of producing by animal, water, or steam-power, a ton of dressed fibre of a quality which shall average in value not less than £45 per ton in the English market, at a total cost, including all processes of preparation and all needful allowance for wear and tear, of not more than £15 per ton, laid down at any port of shipment in India and £30 in England, after payment of all the charges usual in trade before goods reach the hands of the manufacturer. The processes of preparation are to be understood to include all the operations required subsequent to the cutting of the stems from the plants in the field, until the fibre is in a condition fit to be packed for conveyance to the market.

6. The machinery employed must be simple, strong, durable, and inexpensive, and should be suited for erection in the plantations where the Rheea is grown. It must be adapted for treatment of the fresh stems, as cut from the plant. The treatment of dried stems offers certain difficulties and the fibre prepared from them must, moreover, always be much more costly than the fibre produced from green stems. Except during the hot, dry weather preceding the rains in Upper India (where Rheea grows best), it is very difficult so to dry the stems that no fermentation or mildew shall occur. But during this season the stems are comparatively short and the crop poor and stunted, unless it is artificially irrigated, and such irrigation greatly increases the cost of cultivation. In the rainy season the plant is in fine condition, but at this season it is almost impossible to dry the stems in quantity without injuring the fibre, unless recourse is had to artificial means of desiccation, which greatly increase the cost of the material. It is, therefore, obvious that the attention of inventors should be given to the discovery of a process for the treatment of the green stems.

7. The trials will be held at Saháranpur in the North-Western Provinces in the months of August and September 1879. Machines entered for competition should be placed *in situ* and be ready for work not later than the 15th August, the competition commencing on the next day. The judges will be appointed by the Government, and they will watch the whole of the trials. But the machines shall be worked and adjusted by the competitors themselves, and no person shall touch a machine without the consent of the inventor.

8. The Government of India will provide proper shelter and accommodation at Saháranpur for all the competing machines as well as the motive power required. It will also pay for the transport from the sea-coast to Saháranpur of all machines up to the limit of one ton each, the freight on any excess weight to be defrayed by the owners. The present rate of freight by rail from Calcutta to Saháranpur is Rs. 3-10-0 per maund, or Rupees 98-11-0 per ton, and from Bombay to Saháranpur Rupees 4-1-0 per maund or Rs. 110-9-0 per ton. A free second class ticket to Saháranpur will also be given to any person in charge of a machine.

9. The owner or owners of the successful machine or machines shall not be entitled to receive the reward offered except on the following conditions, viz.—

(1) that a complete technical description of the machine, illustrated by plans drawn to scale, shall be prepared and published (Government paying the cost) for the information of the public;

(2) that after the expiry of three years from the date on which the award is made, the public shall have the right of manufacturing similar machines, on payment to the owner of a royalty of 10 per cent. on the cost of each machine so manufactured.

10. All persons desiring to compete under the terms and on the conditions specified above are requested to make known their intention not later than the 31st December 1878, giving the following particulars:—

1. Name in full and residence.
2. Profession or occupation.
3. Number of different kinds of machines entered for competition.
4. Brief description of each machine.

Intending competitors will, at the same time, declare themselves bound (under penalty of disqualification of the competing machines and forfeiture of all claim to the Government reward) to conform to all rules which may be prescribed by Government or by the judges appointed by Government in connection with the conduct of the trials.

All notices of intention to compete and applications for information should be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, Calcutta.

11. A limited quantity of Rheea will be grown in the Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, and persons desirous of testing their machines before entering them for public competition may obtain green stems in small quantities from the Superintendent of the gardens, through this department.

G. H. M. BATTEN,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

No. 227. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1877, No. 2,714.

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) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

2214/2

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Enclosure No 1

No. 45.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

FIBRES AND SILK.

Dated Simla, the 31st August 1877.

NOTIFICATION.

In 1871 the Government of India offered a prize of £5,000 to the inventor of the best machine or process for the preparation of the fibre of the *Böhmeria nivea* (popularly known under the names of Rhœa, Ramie, and China grass), and the terms on which machines would be admitted to competition were widely notified in India, in Europe, and in America. Many persons declared their intention to compete, but ultimately only one machine was actually brought to the place of trial. The machine having been carefully tested at Saháranpur in the autumn of 1872, was found imperfect in some important respects, and the inventor was adjudged not entitled to the full reward. He was, however, presented with £ 1,500 in consideration of the partial measure of success he had attained after great perseverance.

2. This machine has not since been adapted by the inventor to practical use, and no improved process of preparing the fibre of the rhœa has been yet discovered by other persons. Meanwhile the demand for rhœa continues and the conditions which induced the Government of India in 1871 to offer a prize remain substantially unchanged.

3. His Honour the President in Council therefore considers that it is desirable to renew the offer, and it is accordingly hereby notified that a reward of fifty thousand Rupees will be paid to the inventor of the best machine or process which will separate the bark and fibre from the stem, and the fibre from the bark, of the *Böhmeria nivea*.

4. A smaller reward not exceeding ten thousand Rupees will be given to the inventor of the next best machine or process, provided it is adjudged to possess merit and to be capable without difficulty of adaptation to practical use.

5. What is required is a machine or process capable of producing, by animal, water, or steam power, a ton of dressed fibre of a quality which shall average in value not less than £ 45 per ton in the English market, at a total cost including all processes of preparation and all needful allowance for wear and tear, of not more than £ 15 per ton, laid down at any port of shipment in India and £ 30 in England, after payment of all the charges usual in trade before goods reach the hands of the manufacturer. The processes of preparation are to be understood to include all the operations required subsequent to the cutting of the stems from the plants in the field, until the fibre is in a condition fit to be packed for conveyance to the market.

6. The machinery employed must be simple, strong, durable, and inexpensive, and should be suited for erection in the plantations where the rhœa is grown. It must be adapted for treatment of the fresh stems, as cut from the plant. The treatment of dried stems offers certain difficulties and the fibre prepared from them must moreover always be much more costly than the fibre produced from green stems. Except during the hot dry weather preceding the rains in Upper India (where rhœa grows best), it is very difficult so to dry the stems that no fermentation or mildew shall occur. But during this season the stems are comparatively short and the crop poor and stunted, unless it is artificially irrigated, and such irrigation greatly increases the cost of cultivation. In the rainy season the plant is in fine condition, but at

this season it is almost impossible to dry the stems in quantity without injuring the fibre unless recourse is had to artificial means of desiccation, which greatly increase the cost of the material. It is therefore obvious that the attention of inventors should be given to the discovery of a process for the treatment of the green stems.

7. The trials will be held at Saháranpur in the North-Western Provinces, in the months of August and September 1879. Machines entered for competition should be placed *in situ* and be ready for work not later than the 15th August, the competition commencing on the next day. The judges will be appointed by the Government, and they will watch the whole of the trials. But the machines shall be worked and adjusted by the competitors themselves, and no person shall touch a machine without the consent of the inventor.

8. The Government of India will provide proper shelter and accommodation at Saháranpur for all the competing machines as well as the motive power required. It will also pay for the transport from the sea-coast to Saháranpur of all machines up to the limit of one ton each, the freight on any excess weight to be defrayed by the owners. The present rate of freight by rail from Calcutta to Saháranpur is Rs. 3-10 per maund or Rs. 98-11 per ton, and from Bombay to Saháranpur Rs. 4-1 per maund or Rs. 110-9 per ton. A free second class ticket to Saháranpur will also be given to any person in charge of a machine.

9. The owner or owners of the successful machine or machines shall not be entitled to receive the reward offered except on the following conditions, *viz.*—

(1)—That a complete technical description of the machine, illustrated by plans drawn to scale, shall be prepared and published (Government paying the cost) for the information of the public.

(2)—That after the expiry of three years from the date on which the award is made, the public shall have the right of manufacturing similar machines, on payment to the owner of a royalty of 10 per cent. on the cost of each machine so manufactured.

10. All persons desiring to compete under the terms and on the conditions specified above are requested to make known their intention not later than the 31st December 1878, giving the following particulars ;—

1. Name in full and residence,
2. Profession or occupation,
3. Number of different kinds of machines entered for competition,
4. Brief description of each machine.

Intending competitors will at the same time declare themselves bound (under penalty of disqualification of the competing machines and forfeiture of all claim to the Government reward) to conform to all rules which may be prescribed by Government or by the judges appointed by Government in connection with the conduct of the trials.

All notices of intention to compete and applications for information should be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, Calcutta.

11. A limited quantity of rheea will be grown in the Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, and persons desirous of testing their machines before entering them for public competition may obtain green stems in small quantities from the Superintendent of the gardens, through this Department.

G. H. M. BATTEN,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

2714/11

1877

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

FIBRES AND SILK.

To

NOTIFICATION.

No. 45.

Dated Simla, the 31*st August* 1877.

8.0 13-9-77 nr. 2714.

Ken 5983/77

SUBJECT.

NOTIFIES the offer of rewards for the best machines or processes which will separate the bark and fibres from the stem, and the fibre from the bark of the *Böhmeria nivea*.

Govt. Central Branch Press, Simla.—No. 807 R., A. & C.—31-8-77—2000.

No. 1/46.

FROM

G. H. M. BATTEN, ESQ.,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

2714/5

Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce.
Fibres and Silk.

SIMLA, *the* 4th *September* 1877.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the accompanying Notification published in the *Gazette of India*, renewing the offer of prizes for the invention of a machine or process for the preparation of the fibre of the *Böhmeria nivea* (popularly known under the name of Rheea, Ramie and China grass), and to request that under the orders of His Grace the Governor in Council you will cause it to be republished in the Local Gazette, or otherwise widely circulated in Madras.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. H. M. Batten.

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

75 Copies
+100 — 1. — of Notification sent separately by Packet Post

Revenue Departt

No 3983

1877

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

FIBRES AND SILK.

To

No.

Dated Simla the 4th September 1877.

Rec'd 12th do do

SUBJECT.

TRIALS for testing Rheea machinery.

Govt. Central Branch Press, Simla—No. 810 R., A. & C.—3-9-77.

With Order

Rec'n

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue with the Report called for in their No 2714 dated 7th ult. requesting that they will cause the Notification to be published in the District Gazettes.

13-9-77

2572 dated 27th Aug 1877