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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	3276.	Press. / Mis.
Dated	20. 11. 1877	197 .

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Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

20th November 1877, No. 3,276.

Read the following paper :—

No. 200. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th October 1877, No. 4,853.

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent of Government Farms, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 3rd October 1877, No. 846.

WITH reference to the notification published by the Government of India at page 630 in yesterday's issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, I have the honor to point out that, since the trial of the Rheea Fibre Machines at Saharanpur in 1872, a new Rheea Machine has been invented in America, which seems competent to meet the wants of the Government of India. This machine is referred to by the Commissioner of Agriculture in the United States in his monthly report for December 1875 as follows :—

"At the late Mechanics' Institute Fair in San Francisco, Mr. C. C. Coleman, of Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, exhibited a machine of his invention for the preparation of the fibre of the ramie* or China grass. From the description given the process appears to be very simple. The plant, freshly cut at its full-ripe stage, is passed through a series of rollers, being carried along by moving wire screens. It dips into tanks filled with steam, hot water, and bleaching chemicals.

"The rollers crush the plant and squeeze out the glutinous matter which is absorbed by the water and steam. The mass is passed through the machine as often as may be necessary to dissolve and remove all the extraneous gum and other elements and to bleach the fibre itself. After each submersion it is passed through rollers which squeeze out the water with the matter it has absorbed from the plant. It is not even necessary to remove the leaves as these are separated by the machinery. The fibre is not broken nor even weakened by the process. This is an immense reduction of labor from the manual process of India and China, where a workman does well if he secures a pound and a half of clean fibre per day, making its cost about †$150 per ton.

"If this machine should realize the expectations of its inventor, it will solve at once the problem of ramie‡ production in this country. It is claimed that large tracts of land in California will average 1,250 pounds of pure fibre per acre, calculating it at 10 per cent. of the entire bulk of the plant. Others estimate the yield of fibre at only 5 per cent., and the truth lies probably between the two estimates. The prepared fibre formerly exported from California to England passed through the custom-house at a declared value of £9 to £80, or $45 to $400 per ton. It is claimed that Coleman's machine will clean the fibre at a cost of $20 to $30 per ton."

* Rheea.

† Dollars.

‡ Rheea.

2. It is probable that the machine may have been further improved since the date of this report; but, as I have for nearly two years been without American agricultural newspapers (those indented for on the 18th of November 1875 not yet having reached me), I have not been able to keep myself as well acquainted with American agricultural affairs as is desirable.

3. It is very probable that the machine was exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition at Washington, though I have not seen any references to it in any notices of the mechanical section of the exhibition, but the notices that have come under my observation referred chiefly to the implements and machines of ordinary agriculture.

Revenue Department, 20*th November* 1877, *No.* 3,276.

Submitted to Government.

2. With reference to paragraph 2, it is observed that the list of newspapers was forwarded to the Secretary of State in June 1876 and the supply sanctioned in January last (*vide* G.O., dated 7th April 1877, No. 1,967).

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GARTON,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 201.

Order thereon, 20th November 1877, No. 3,276.

Miscellaneous.

* G.O., 13th September 1877, No. 2,714.

Ordered to be forwarded to the Government of India with reference to the letter from that Government, 4th September 1877,* No. 1-46.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

3276/2

Govt. of (1877) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Board of Revenue.

Dated November 26th,

Recd.

Encl.

G.G., 20th November 1877, No. 3276.

Rheea Fibre Machine.—Resolving to forward to the Government of India Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting letter from Superintendent of Government Farms relating to the invention in America of a new—

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 200-201.

No. 4,853.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th October 1877.

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent of Government Farms, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 3rd October 1877, No. 846 :—

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"At the late Mechanics' Institute Fair in San Francisco, Mr. C. C. Coleman, of Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, exhibited a machine of his invention for the preparation of the fibre of the ramie* or China grass. From the description given the process appears to be very simple. The plant, freshly cut at its full-ripe stage, is passed through a series of rollers, being carried along by moving wire screens. It dips into tanks filled with steam, hot water, and bleaching chemicals.

"The rollers crush the plant and squeeze out the glutinous matter which is absorbed by the water and steam. The mass is passed through the machine as often as may be necessary to dissolve and remove all the extraneous gum and other elements and to bleach the fibre itself. After each submersion it is passed through rollers which squeeze out the water with the matter it has absorbed from the plant. It is not even necessary to remove the leaves as these are separated by the machinery. The fibre is not broken nor even weakened by the process. This is an immense reduction of labor from the manual process of India and China, where a workman does well if he secures a pound and a half of clean fibre per day, making its cost about †$150 per ton.

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3. It is very probable that the machine was exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition at Washington, though I have not seen any references to it in any notices of the mechanical section of the exhibition, but the notices that have come under my observation referred chiefly to the implements and machines of ordinary agriculture.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. With reference to paragraph 2, it is observed that the list of newspapers was forwarded to the Secretary of State in June 1876 and the supply sanctioned in January last (*vide* G.O., dated 7th April 1877, No. 1,967).

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Departt
No 4710

1877.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 26TH OCT. 1877, No. 4,853.

Encl.

Desp: 7 Nov'77.

Received 8 November

OCTOBER.

No. 4,853.

Rhea Fibre Machines.—Submitting to Government letter from Superintendent of Government Farms pointing out that, since the trial of the — at Saharanpur in 1872, a new Rhea Machine has been invented in America which seems competent to meet the wants of the Government of India.

With Order