

(1) Number of pages 20

(2) Date of repair 21-7-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer CP

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	949	Press Mis.
Dated	6-8-	1883.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Despatch from the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 29th March 1833, No. 27 (Revenue):—

I enclose a copy of a letter from Sir Joseph Hooker, together with a copy of a "Report from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Hakodate on the Lacquer industry of Japan," on which Sir Joseph Hooker's letter is based.

2. In the latter, Sir Joseph Hooker points out that the Japanese lacquer tree is not identical as was once supposed with the common Himalayan species of *Rhus*, but that seeds of the Japanese tree could easily be obtained, and that there are many parts of India in which it would grow. Its introduction in India, where lacquered goods are widely manufactured, would be of the highest utility, and Sir Joseph Hooker has therefore requested that both Mr. Acting Consul Quin's report and his own letter on it, may be transmitted to you in order that public attention should be drawn to the subject in that country.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. T. THISELTON DYER, Esq., to Sir LOUIS MALLET, C.B., India Office, dated Royal Gardens, Kew, 16th February 1833.

I am desired by Sir Joseph Hooker to draw your attention to the steps which have been taken by this establishment to obtain information as to the lacquer industry of Japan. As you are aware, its products are highly esteemed by all lovers of art, but up till the present time practically nothing has been known as to the methods by which such beautiful objects are obtained.

From the statement of Kämpfer (1712), it has been accepted by botanists that the varnish, which is the basis of all lacquer work, was obtained from incisions in the three-year old stems of a tree indigenous to Japan, known as *Rhus vernicifera*. Beyond the fact that the tree is cultivated as coppice wood, the information of Kämpfer does not go, and up to the present time our knowledge of the subject has been a complete blank. Thus Balfour in his Cyclo-pædia of India (1873) states that "the manner of preparing it (the varnish), and the mode of applying it, is and is likely to remain a secret." It had been supposed that the Japanese lacquer tree was identical with a common Himalayan species of *Rhus*. Dr. Brandis points out, however, (Forest Flora, page 121) that the Himalayan tree is not "known to yield any varnish," and Sir Joseph Hooker in elaborating the *Anacardiaceæ* for the Flora of British India (ii, page 11) has, in describing it under the name of *Rhus Wallichii*, decided that it is not identical with the Japanese species. The lacquer varnish tree of that country is apparently unknown in India. It seems worth while, therefore, to draw the attention of the Government of India to the fact, as seed could doubtless be easily obtained from Japan, and there are many parts of India in which the tree could be cultivated.

In its lac industry India possesses an art which is closely allied to that of lacquering. It can scarcely be doubted that the latter is equally adapted to the methods and habits of the natives. Its results are, in an economic point of view, infinitely superior to those in which lac is used.

At the instance of Sir Joseph Hooker, the Foreign Office caused an elaborate inquiry to be made by its officers in Japan into the whole subject. The result will be found in a report by the Acting Consul at Hakodate, dated Tokio, January 13, 1882, which has been printed and laid before Parliament. I am now to suggest that copies of this report, together with this communication, should be printed and transmitted to the Government of India, in order that some attention should be attracted to the subject in that country.

The very complete collection illustrating the report has been transmitted to Kew and exhibited in the Museum of Economic Botany (No. 1). It has been pronounced by experts in Japanese art to be of exceptional interest and quite unique of its kind. A portion of the expense incurred by the Foreign Office in getting it together has been defrayed from the grant made to this establishment by the India Office for the sustentation of the economico-botanical collections relating to India.

READ—the following Despatch from the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 17th May 1883 No. 36 (Revenue):—

In reference to my Despatch of the 29th ultimo, enclosing a report from Her Majesty's Consul at Hakodate on the lacquer industry of Japan, I herewith forward the copy of a letter from Sir Joseph Hooker, of the 1st ultimo, which he wishes to be communicated to you, informing me of his having transmitted to Saharunpore and Madras, for experimental cultivation, portions of a small quantity of seed of the Japanese lacquer tree, *Rhus vernicifera*, which he has received from Mr. Quin at Hakodate.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. T. THISELTON DYER, Esq., to Sir LOUIS MALLET, c.n., India Office, dated Royal Gardens, Kew, 1st March 1883, No. 536, R.S. & C.

In reference to my letter of February 14th last, I am desired, by Sir J. D. Hooker, to inform you that he has received from Mr. Quin, Acting Consul at Hakodate, a small quantity of seed of the Japanese lacquer tree, *Rhus vernicifera*. Portions have been transmitted to Saharunpore and Madras for experimental cultivation. Mr. Quin states that these particular seeds were obtained "from trees which undergo a very severe winter, being almost buried in snow for several months."

The tree, however, will doubtless do equally well in a less rigorous climate. Mr. Quin further states that the wax used in the north of Japan is all made from the berries of *Rhus vernicifera*.

Sir Joseph Hooker wishes me to express the hope that you will think it proper to transmit this further information to India in continuation of my former communication.

No. 576—96-5 (Agriculture.)

Copy, with copy of Despatch referred to, forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, with the remark that copies of the report on the "Lacquer industry of Japan" will be supplied when copies are received from the Consul.

(By Order.)

REV. AND AGRIC. DEPT.,
SIMLA,
21st June 1883.

(Signed) T. W. HOLDERNESS,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—dated 6th August 1883, No. 949, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Superintendent, Government Plantations, Parks and Gardens, Nilgiris.

2. The two packets of seed in question have already been separately sent to him.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Government Plantations, Parks and Gardens, Nilgiris.
„ the Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras.
„ Brigade Surgeon Bidie, c.i.e.
„ the Director of Agriculture.
„ the Editors' Table.

Exd. J. Henriens.

Gobt. of (1883) Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 6th August 1883, No. 949.

AUGUST.

Japanese Lacquer Tree.

Communicating to the Superintendent, Government Plantations, Parks and Gardens, Nilgiris, correspondence regarding the proposed introduction of the — into India; and stating that two packets of seed have already been separately sent to him.

TH JULY 1883, No. , REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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From the statement of Kämpfer (1712), it has been accepted by botanists that the varnish, which is the basis of all lacquer work, was obtained from incisions in the three-year old stems of a tree indigenous to Japan, known as *Rhus vernicifera*. Beyond the fact that the tree is cultivated as coppice wood, the information of Kämpfer does not go, and up to the present time our knowledge of the subject has been a complete blank. Thus Balfour in his Cyclopædia of India (1873) states that "the manner of preparing it (the varnish), and the mode of applying it, is and is likely to remain a secret." It had been supposed that the Japanese lacquer tree was identical with a common Himalayan species of *Rhus*. Dr. Brandis points out, however, (Forest Flora, page 121) that the Himalayan tree is not "known to yield any varnish;" and Sir Joseph Hooker in elaborating the *Anacardiaceæ* for the Flora of British India (ii, page 11) has, in describing it under the name of *Rhus Wallichii*, decided that it is not identical with the Japanese species. The lacquer varnish tree of that country is apparently unknown in India. It seems worth while, therefore, to draw the attention of the Government of India to the fact, as seed could doubtless be easily obtained from Japan, and there are many parts of India in which the tree could be cultivated.

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At the instance of Sir Joseph Hooker, the Foreign Office caused an elaborate inquiry to be made by its officers in Japan into the whole subject. The result will be found in a report by the Acting Consul at Hakodate, dated Tokio, January 13, 1882, which has been printed and laid before Parliament. I am now to suggest that copies of this report, together with this communication, should be printed and transmitted to the Government of India, in order that some attention should be attracted to the subject in that country.

The very complete collection illustrating the report has been transmitted to Kew and exhibited in the Museum of Economic Botany (No. 1). It has been pronounced by experts in Japanese art to be of exceptional interest and quite unique of its kind. A portion of the expense incurred by the Foreign Office in getting it together has been defrayed from the grant made to this establishment by the India Office for the sustentation of the economico-botanical collections relating to India.

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No. 576—98-5 (Agriculture.)

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(By Order.)

REV. AND AGRICL. DEPT.,
SIMLA,
21st June 1883.

(Signed) T. W. HOLDERNESS,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

India Office,

London 29th March 1883.

To.

Revenue

No. 27.

His Excellency the Most Honorable
The Governor General of India
in Council.

My Lord Marquis

1. I enclose a copy of a letter from Sir Joseph Hooker together with a copy of a "Report from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Hakodate on the Lacquer industry of Japan" on which Sir Joseph Hooker's letter is based.

2. In the latter Sir Joseph Hooker points out that the Japanese Lacquer tree is not identical as was once supposed with the common Himalayan species of *Rhus* but that seeds of the Japanese tree could easily be obtained, and that there are many parts of India in which it would grow. Its introduction in India where lacquered goods are widely manufactured would be of the highest utility and Sir Joseph Hooker has therefore requested that both Mr. Acting Consul Quin's Report and his own Letter on it may be transmitted to you in order that Public attention should be drawn to the subject in that country.

I have &c.

(sd) Kimberley.

Royal Gardens, Kew,
16th February 1883

To,

Sir Louis Mallet, C.B.

India Office

Sir,

I am desired by Sir Joseph Hooker to draw your attention to the steps which have been taken by this Establishment to obtain information as to the Lacquer Industry of Japan. As you are aware its products are highly esteemed by all lovers of art but up till the present time practically nothing has been known as to the methods by which such beautiful objects are obtained.

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supposed that the Japanese Lacquer-tree was identical with a common Himalayan species of Rhus. Dr. Brandis points out, however, (Forest Flora page 121) that the Himalayan tree is not known to yield any varnish and Sir Joseph Hooker in elaborating the Anacardiaceae for the Flora of British India (ii page 11) has in describing it under the name of Rhus Wallichii decided that it is not identical with the Japanese species. The Lacquer varnish tree of that country is apparently unknown in India. It seems worth while therefore to draw the attention of the Government of India to the fact as seed could doubtless be easily obtained from Japan and there are many parts of India in which the tree could be cultivated.

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will be found in a report by the acting Consul at Hakodate dated Tokyo January 13, 1882 which has been printed and laid before Parliament. I am now to suggest that copies of this report together with this communication should be printed and transmitted to the Government of India in order that some attention should be attracted to the subject in that country.

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I am &c

(sd) W. J. Threlton Dyer.

(True Copies)

G. A. Dyer.
Registrar.
Revenue & Agricultural Dept.

Recd
29/5/82
21/6/82

Revenue
N^o 36.

India Office.
London, 17th May, 1883.

To
His Excellency
The Most Honourable
The Governor General of India,
in Council.

My Lord Marquis,

In reference to my Despatch of the 29th ultimo enclosing a Report from Her Majesty's Consul at Hakodate on the Lacquer industry of Japan, I herewith forward, the copy of a letter from Sir Joseph Hooker of the 1st ultimo, which he wishes to be communicated to you, informing me of his having transmitted to Calcutta and Madras, for experimental cultivation, portions of a small quantity of seed of the Japanese Lacquer tree, Rhus vernicifera, which he has received from Mr. Quin at Hakodate.

I have, &c,
(Signed) Kimberley.
R. S. & C.

R. S. & C.

536
1883.

Royal Gardens, Kew.
March 1, 1883.

Sir,

In reference to my letter of February 14th last, I am desired by Sir J. D. Hooker to inform you that he has received from Mr. Quin, acting Consul at Hakodate, a small quantity of seed of the Japanese Lacquer tree *Rhus vernicifera*. Portions have been transmitted to Saharunpore and Madras for experimental cultivation. Mr. Quin states that these particular seeds were obtained "from trees which undergo a very severe winter being almost buried in snow for several months."

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vernicefera.

Sir Joseph Hooker wishes me
to express the hope that you will
think it proper to transmit this
further information to India in
continuation of my former Commu-
-nication.

I am, &c,

(Signed) W. T. Threlton Dyer.

To
Sir Louis Mallet, C.B.,
India Office.

N^o 576
45-5. (Agriculture)

Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Simla, the 21st June 1883.

Copy with copy of despatch referred
to forwarded to the Government of
Madras for information, with the
remark that copies of the Report on
the "Lacquer Industry of Japan"
will be supplied when copies are
received

received from the Consul.

By Order,

J. Holderness
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

REVENUE (1885) DEPARTMENT.

No.

1139

From

The Govt. of India
Rev. Secy. to Govt.

Dated

21

Recd.

27

June 1883

No.

576 (Agre.)
98-5

SUBJECT.

Forwarding, with
remark, for information
copies of certain correspondence
regarding the Japanese
"Laquer tree".

The copy of the letter, Govt. Press
The copy of the letter, Govt. Press
being the for the original.

HC 2/7/83

Recd. 27 Recd. 5-5

Govt. Secy. to Govt.
Osta Camm
6. VIII. 1883

Dear Mr. Stokes
The second packet

of Rhus vernicifera was
sent to me, and has
been seen. The first
packet was sent direct
to the head gardener
and is now coming up.

Yrs. sincerely
M. A. Lawson

cur: No. 4139

From the Govt. of India, Rev: & Agri: Dept.

Dated 21st Dec^r 29th Dec^r 1883.

draft ~~FOR~~ ORDER

Communicated to the Superintendent
Govt Plantations, Parks & Gardens
Nilgiris, to Brigade Surgeon
Bides, to the Honorary Secretary
Agricultural Society, Madras
& to the Director of Agriculture.

The seed referred to in
the Secretary of State's despatch
of the 17th May no: 36, which has
not as yet been received in the
Govt Office, will on arrival be
made over to Mr. Dawson for
experiments at Botacamund, Madras
such other places as may be recommended
by the addresses of his order to
each of whom a copy of the
Report on the Lacquer industry
of Japan will be furnished on
receipt. 23/7/83.

I have received two
packages of this seed
I have forwarded one
to the Government
to the place for Rice
which will be kindly
forwarded to the
Cantonment

Copy to Editor's Table.
Dr. Trimmer.
Rev.
A. W. P.
and to India with reference
to non-receipt of seed

Introduction of the Japanese
daguer Type into India.
with draft orders

Sept 9.

The Right Honble

The Governor.

Communicated to the Capt.

Govt. Plantations, Poona &

Sandew, Nilgiris.

two packets of seeds

2. The seed in question

has already been separately

sent to India. The seeds

M.

6. 8. 83.

To

4. Supd. Govt. Plantations, Poona & Nilgiris

2. Hon. Secy. Agri. Dept. Gov. Madras

3. Brigade Surgeon India C.E.

4. Director of Agriculture

5. Editors Table.