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Our New Colony Fiji; Its History, Progress And Resources



Synopsis

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated.

1882 Excerpt: ...that the cocoa-nut has an outer covering, which is called the " pericarp," or husk. This husk is removed from the nut by the clever use of a sharp pointed stick stuck in the ground, on which, in a few seconds' skilful manipulation, the dusky labourer takes off this covering, thereby carrying out the first process of coir manufacture. SOAKING. The husks are then placed in large tanks filled with water; steam is then applied, and they are allowed to soak for twelve to twenty-four hours. CRUSHING. They are then passed through between very powerful fluted metal rollers, which flatten them out to some extent, and soften the woody matter they contain. DEVILS. From this the husks are passed to the " Devil," which is a machine having a large cylinder or drum filled with sharp steel teeth. The cylinder is then driven by steam power at a very high speed, and the teeth, operating on the husk, reduce it to coir fibre. There are different kinds of "devils," or coir machines. Some in use in Fiji have been made in Sydney, and do their work fairly. These machines, however, turn out only one quality of coir. On the other hand, there are a number of very superior English-made coir machines at work on the estate of the Rambai Plantation Company, of Rambai, which turn out coir of various qualities, and in very marketable condition. Two of these machines, recently imported, are very powerful, and manufacture a large quantity of excellent fibre. On this estate also are coir machines that turn out a quality of coir called "bristles," or brush fibre. It is used for making brush-ware. Other qualities of coir are used for upholstering purposes and rope manufacture. MARKET. The market hitherto for the coir fibre made in Fiji has been Australia an...

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: RareBooksClub.com (March 6, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1130212939

ISBN-13: 978-1130212938

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.1 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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