

only as a side industry. Other beginnings were made which were but short-lived. One cwt. of leaves is said to yield about 3 ounces of oil. The pure oil is thin, colorless and strong with a citron-like flavor. The average exportation of citronella from Colombo is about 40,000 pounds valued at 8,000 pounds sterling or about 4 shillings and 1 penny per pound. It is largely used to give the peculiar odor to what is known as 'honey soap' and in the making of perfumes. In Travancore propagation of this grass is left to nature, no care of any kind whatever being given. It is treated purely as a natural product of the jungle. It is even looked down upon as a glutton upon soil-food, deserving if possible extermination and cremation. In Ceylon the citronella grass is raised from seed and planted like Guinea grass, and will give two or three crops a year. When fit to cut the grass is carried to a large boiler and the oil is distilled. It is estimated to give about 3 dozen bottles to the acre, but the demand is limited and the price fluctuates from 2 shillings and 6 pence a bottle to 4 shillings and 6 pence a bottle. At the latter price it pays handsomely while at the former it little more than covers expenditure. A still capable of turning out a dozen bottles a day costs 300 pounds. A decoction of the leaves is used it is said to purify blood. It is also given in cases of cough and used in steam baths for colds. Externally it is applied to remove rheumatic pains in which case it is said to equal the *Samadera indica* of the sandy regions of northern Travancore. The oil is said to be good for cholera. For children it is a good tonic. It is also a stimulant and diaphoretic." (Pillai.) For distribution later.

*HIBISCUS ESCULENTUS*. (Malvaceae.) 33749. Seeds of okra from Avery Island, La. Presented by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny. "These seed are a variety of okra a friend of ours sent us from Egypt six or seven years ago. By careful selection we have produced a variety of okra which is unexcelled for table purposes. It is an early bearer, and has a thicker flesh and is more tender than any of the commercial okra which we have tried." (McIlhenny.) For distribution later.

*MALPIGHIA COSTARICENSIS*. (Malpighiaceae.) 33740. Cuttings from San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by Mr. Carlos Werckle, National Museum, San Jose. "A small tree with large pubescent leaves; prolific, bearing very good fruit. Grows from cuttings, but root cuttings are said to be best." (Werckle.) For distribution later.

*OLEA FOVEOLATA*. (Oleaceae.) 33783. Seeds of bastard ironwood from East London, Cape Colony. Presented by Mr.