manufacture of the fibre of the quality prescribed.
The machinery must be simple, strong, durable, and cheap, and should be suited for erection at
or near the plantation, as the refuse material is
said to be valuable for use as a manure for con-
tinued cultivation.
The government of India will furnish, on ap-
lication through its Secretary of State, a supply
of carefully dried stems and specimens of the
fibre separated from the bark, to all mechanical
firms desirous of competing for the reward. One
year from the date of the advertisement, January
11, 1870, is allowed for the preparation of the
machinery and transportation to the locality where
the trial is to be made.
Both the cheena grass of India and the ramie
of China are derived from varieties of the Buch-
nera tenuissima. As "ramie," the plant has
been widely diffused in North America by the
National Botanic Garden and the United States
Agricultural Department, and much detail re-
specting its culture and character will be found
in the valuable publications of the latter estab-
lishment. As soon as all the problems respect-
ing its preparation are solved it will doubtless
become of great economic importance in the
United States; and the reward offered by the
India government might not inappropriately be
supplemented by another on the part of our own
authorities.

RHEEA, OR CHINA GRASS.

Much attention has been directed in India to-
ward the cultivation of the China grass, of the
variety called cheena; and a large quantity has
been raised in that country without its having
been taken hold of to any great extent by manu-
ufacturers. The principal difficulty is understood
to be the want of suitable machinery for separat-
ing the fibre and the bark from the stem, and
the fibre from the bark, the expense of doing
this by hand being too great for ordinary use.
In view of the fact that the climate of India is
especially adapted to the cultivation of this plant,
the Governor-General has just announced that he
has been authorized to offer a prize of $25,000
for a machine that shall be capable of producing
a ton of fibre, of a quality that shall average in
value not less than $230 per ton in the English
market, at a total cost of all the processes of
manufacture, and allowance for wear and tear in-
cluded, of not more than $75 per ton. This is
to include all the operations performed after the
cutting and transportation of the plant to the
place of manufacture, and the completion of the