

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.



FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

Washington, D. C., April 3, 1913.

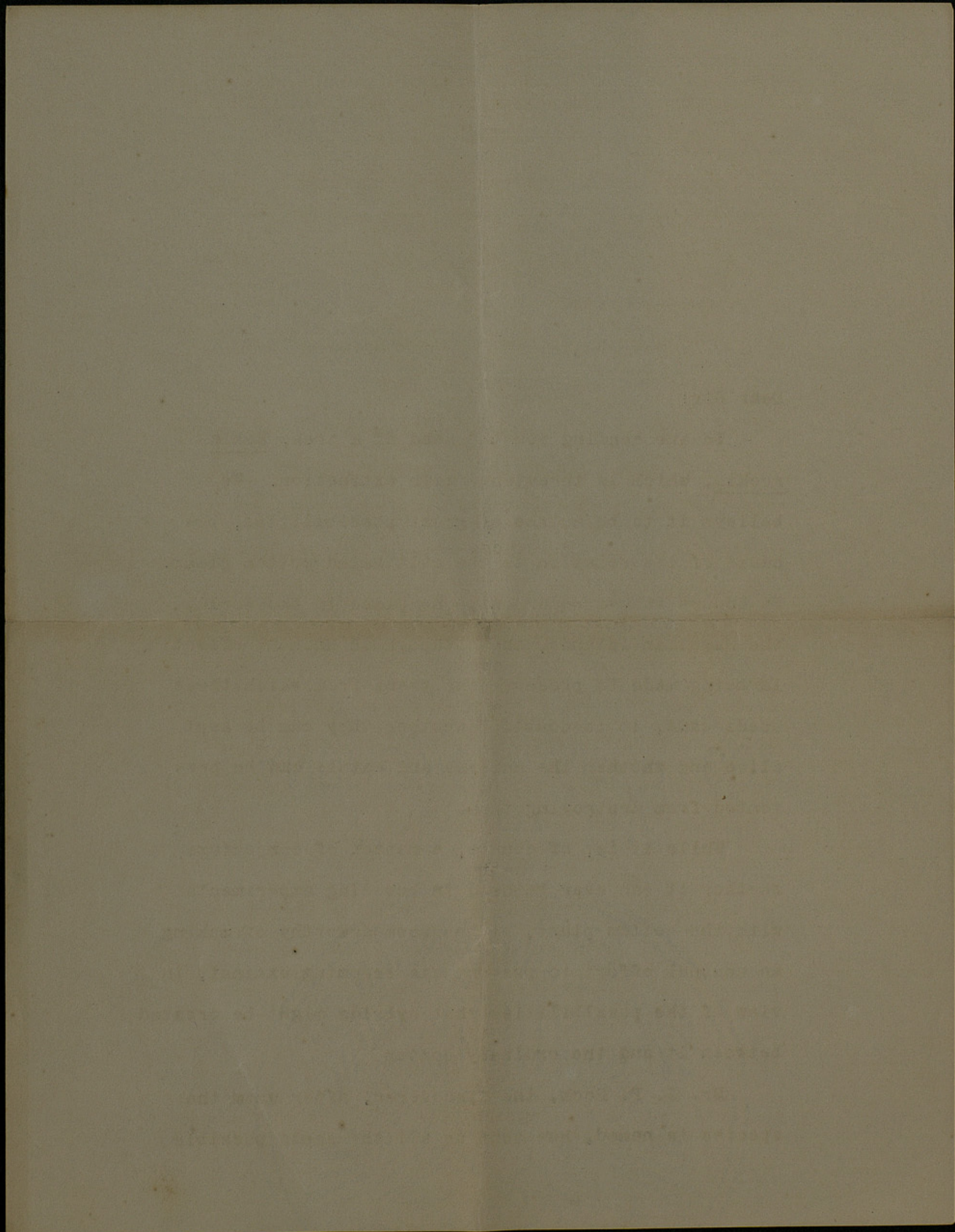
Director, Botanic Gardens,
Coimbra,
Portugal.

Dear Sir:

We are sending you the seed of a tree, Kokia rockii, which is threatened with extinction. We believe it to be a tree of great possibilities, because of its relation to the cultivated cotton plant. It occurs in nature in only one place in the world, the Hawaiian Islands, and although an unusual effort is being made to preserve the trees from which these seeds came, it is doubtful whether they can be kept alive and whether the natives and cattle can be prevented from destroying them.

While it is, of course, a matter of conjecture whether it can ever be used in breeding experiments with the cotton plant, it has seemed worthy of making an unusual effort to prevent its becoming extinct, in view of the possibilities that hybrids might be created between it and the ordinary cotton.

Mr. J. F. Rock, the discoverer, after whom the species is named, has sent us all the seeds possible



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to secure from this tree, and we are making a wide distribution of it to such persons and institutions as are likely to take a keen interest in preserving it from extinction.

I trust you will give the tree every possible chance and let us know whether it succeeds with you or not. If it should, and produces seeds, we should like very much to have all you can spare of them, until we are confident that the plant has been established in various places and is not likely to become extinct.

In the enclosed paper of the Smithsonian Institution, by Fredrick L. Lewton, you will find half-tone illustrations of the flower and the tree, together with a technical botanical description of this species. The tree is apparently sufficiently ornamental to deserve a place in any private collection, or that of any institution.

Trusting to interest you in the preservation of this unusual plant, a close relative of the greatest fiber plant in the world, I remain,

Very truly yours,

David Fairchild

Agricultural Explorer in Charge.

