



PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES

Welwitschia mirabilis

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L.—WELWITSCHIA MIRABILIS.

We have received from Professor H. H. W. Pearson, Director of the National Botanic Garden, Kirstenbosch, South Africa, a few weeks before his death, a copy of the S.W. African Protectorate Government Gazette of September 15th, 1916, containing the proclamation making provision for the preservation of *Welwitschia mirabilis*. It is a matter of the greatest satisfaction that it has been found possible under the stress of military occupation to make what we trust will prove adequate provision for the preservation of these unique specimens.

The following is the text of the Proclamation:—

Proclamation.

BY HIS HONOUR EDMOND HOWARD LACAM GORGES,
A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER,
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PROTECTORATE OF
SOUTH-WEST AFRICA IN MILITARY OCCUPATION
OF THE UNION FORCES.

No. 10, 1916.]

WHEREAS it is desirable to make provision for the preservation of the *Welwitschia* plant (*Welwitschia mirabilis*) (Native name "Garob") which has a known habitat in the locality of Pforte and Welwitsch situated between the Swakop and Khan Rivers in the district of Swakopmund, and in the Namib Desert and in the Kaokofeld, and may occur elsewhere in the Protectorate of South-West Africa;

NOW THEREFORE, under and by virtue of the powers in me vested, I do hereby declare, proclaim and make known as follows:

1. Any person, who, without authority from the Administrator (the burden of proof whereof shall be upon such person), injures, uproots or destroys any *Welwitschia* plant or removes from any such plant any portion thereof, shall be guilty of an offence.

2. Any person, who, without authority from the Administrator (the burden of proof whereof shall be upon such person) is in possession of any portion of any *Welwitschia* plant, shall be guilty of an offence, unless he shall have obtained such portion before the date of promulgation hereof.

3. Any person who sells or attempts to sell, or purchases or offers to purchase any *Welwitschia* plant or any portion thereof shall be guilty of an offence.

4. Any person who causes or procures any other person to do any act prohibited by the preceding provisions of this Proclamation shall be guilty of an offence.

5. Any person found guilty of an offence under the Provisions of this Proclamation shall be liable to a fine of £500 (Five

Hundred pounds) or in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding two years.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Given under my hand at Windhuk this 12th day of September, 1916.

E. H. L. GORGES,
Administrator.

LI.—MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

MR. F. A. STOCKDALE, M.A., F.L.S., Director of Agriculture, Mauritius (*K.B.*, 1912, 392), has been appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the recommendation of Kew, Director of Agriculture, Ceylon, in succession to Mr. R. N. Lyne, resigned.

MR. H. A. TEMPANY, D.Sc., Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands, has been appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the recommendation of Kew, Director of Agriculture, Mauritius, in succession to Mr. F. A. Stockdale.

MR. J. H. HOLLAND, F.L.S., and MR. W. N. WINN, Assistants, Second Class, in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have been promoted to the grade of Assistant, First Class, with effect from 1st April.

H. H. W. PEARSON.—It is with very great sorrow that his friends at Kew have received the intelligence of the death from acute pneumonia of Dr. H. H. W. Pearson, at Mount Royal Hospital, Wynberg, Cape Town, on 3rd November, 1916, in his forty-seventh year. Henry Harold Welch Pearson was born at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, on 28th January, 1870. His early education was obtained at private schools and by private tuition. In 1889 he matriculated in the University of London. In 1893 he gained an open scholarship of the Clothworkers' Company, tenable either at Oxford or Cambridge, and entered the latter university as a non-collegiate student in October, 1893. He was placed in Class I. of the Natural Science Tripos—Part I.—and graduated B.A. in 1896, entering Christ's College as a pensioner in the same year. In 1897 he was placed in Class I. of the Natural Science Tripos—Part II.—with botany as a special subject, and was elected Foundation Scholar and Darwin Prizeman of Christ's College. In the same year he visited Ceylon as a Wort's Travelling Scholar of the University, spending six months in the island in the study of tropical vegetation, and in pursuing original investigations. On his return to Cambridge in January, 1898, he was appointed Assistant Curator of the University Herbarium under the late Professor Marshall Ward,