

DISPOSAL OF BROOKSVILLE PLANT INTRODUCTION GARDEN, HERNANDO COUNTY, FLA.,

JANUARY 24, 1927.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

MR. HAUGEN, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 322]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 322) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to dispose of real property, located in Hernando County, Fla., known as the Brooksville plant introduction garden, no longer required for plant introduction purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The joint resolution reported herewith is as follows:

[House Joint Resolution 322, Sixth-ninth Congress, second session]

JOINT RESOLUTION Authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to dispose of real property, located in Hernando County, Florida, known as the Brooksville plant introduction garden, no longer required for plant introduction purposes

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Agriculture be, and he hereby is, authorized to sell or cause to be sold at public or private sale at such price or prices on such terms and in such manner as he may deem for the best interests of the Government, the tract or parcel of land situate in Hernando County, Florida, ordinarily referred to as the Brooksville plant introduction garden, and more particularly described as follows: The south half of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 30, township 22 south, of range 20 east, containing twenty acres, more or less, and the entire portion of the north half of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 30, township 22 south, of range 20, which lies south of and adjacent to the county road, running through said section and township, consisting of fifteen acres, more or less, in the county of Hernando, State of Florida, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, which said tract or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements aforesaid, is no longer needed for plant introduction purposes, and to execute and deliver in the name of the United States and in its behalf any and all contracts, conveyances, or other instruments necessary to effectuate and complete such sale.

SEC. 2. That the net proceeds from the sale of the aforesaid property be deposited in the Treasury of the United States.

There is printed as follows a letter from Mr. R. W. Dunlap, Acting Secretary, Department of Agriculture:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, December 18, 1926.

Hon. GILBERT N. HAUGEN,
*Chairman Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. HAUGEN: There is inclosed, for the consideration of your committee, the draft of a proposed joint resolution authorizing this department to dispose of 35 acres of land located in Hernando County, Fla., together with certain buildings and improvements thereon, known as the Brooksville plant introduction garden, which property is no longer required for plant introduction purposes.

In 1911 the Hernando Tobacco Co., a corporation of the State of Florida, deeded to the Department of Agriculture, for a consideration of \$1, 35 acres of land located in Hernando County, Fla., near the city of Brooksville. In consideration of the transfer of this land to the department, the tobacco company received from the authorities of Hernando County the sum of \$394. The primary purpose of the department in acquiring this land was to provide a suitable place for growing, testing, propagating, and distributing oriental bamboos in connection with crop development in this country. From time to time other lines of work were inaugurated and carried through at the Brooksville garden, which was found well adapted to experimental work in such new crops for the South as dasheen, tropical yams, chayotes, arrowroot, edible cannas, and various other crop plants. For several years investigations in connection with the southern problems affecting the production and storing of corn were conducted at Brooksville; also extensive studies of nematodes, and the study and testing of upland rice and other crops.

Active work at the garden was continued until 1923. At that time, owing to the completion of some of the more important nematode projects, the fact that the experimental work in vegetable crops, such as dasheens, yams, and chayotes, had been carried as far as conditions at the station would permit, and the further fact that the limit had been reached in handling the bamboos on account of soil conditions and the presence of certain pests which were detrimental to their proper development, it was decided to close the station. The valuable collections of plants that were capable of being moved, including representatives of all the more important types of bamboos suitable for propagation and distribution, were transferred to other points, and the station was placed in charge of a caretaker.

During its occupancy of the Brooksville station the department erected there a cottage, barn, storage house, and a small laboratory building. The cottage is a frame structure, was built in 1912, and is in fair condition. It is probably worth about \$2,500 at the present time, although it cost the department considerably less than that sum. The barn, storage house, and laboratory are relatively inexpensive, and have been dismantled as far as practicable. These improvements, of course, add to the value of the property, but the buildings can not be advantageously removed for use elsewhere.

The availability of the Brooksville garden for other Government purposes was brought to the attention of the Federal Real Estate Board in the spring of 1925 and again in the fall of that year, but no request was received from any Government agency for the use of this property. Accordingly, on December 28, 1925, the surveyor general of real estate gave his clearance on the proposal to dispose of the land, which opens the way to the department to secure the necessary authority from Congress for such disposal.

It is difficult to estimate the value of real estate in Florida, but according to our best information the property should sell at somewhere from \$6,000 to \$8,500, probably in the neighborhood of \$7,000. If this authority is granted by Congress, it is our plan to advertise the property for sale in the usual way, and sell to the highest bidder, the net proceeds from the sale to be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the Treasury of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

R. W. DUNLAP, Acting Secretary.