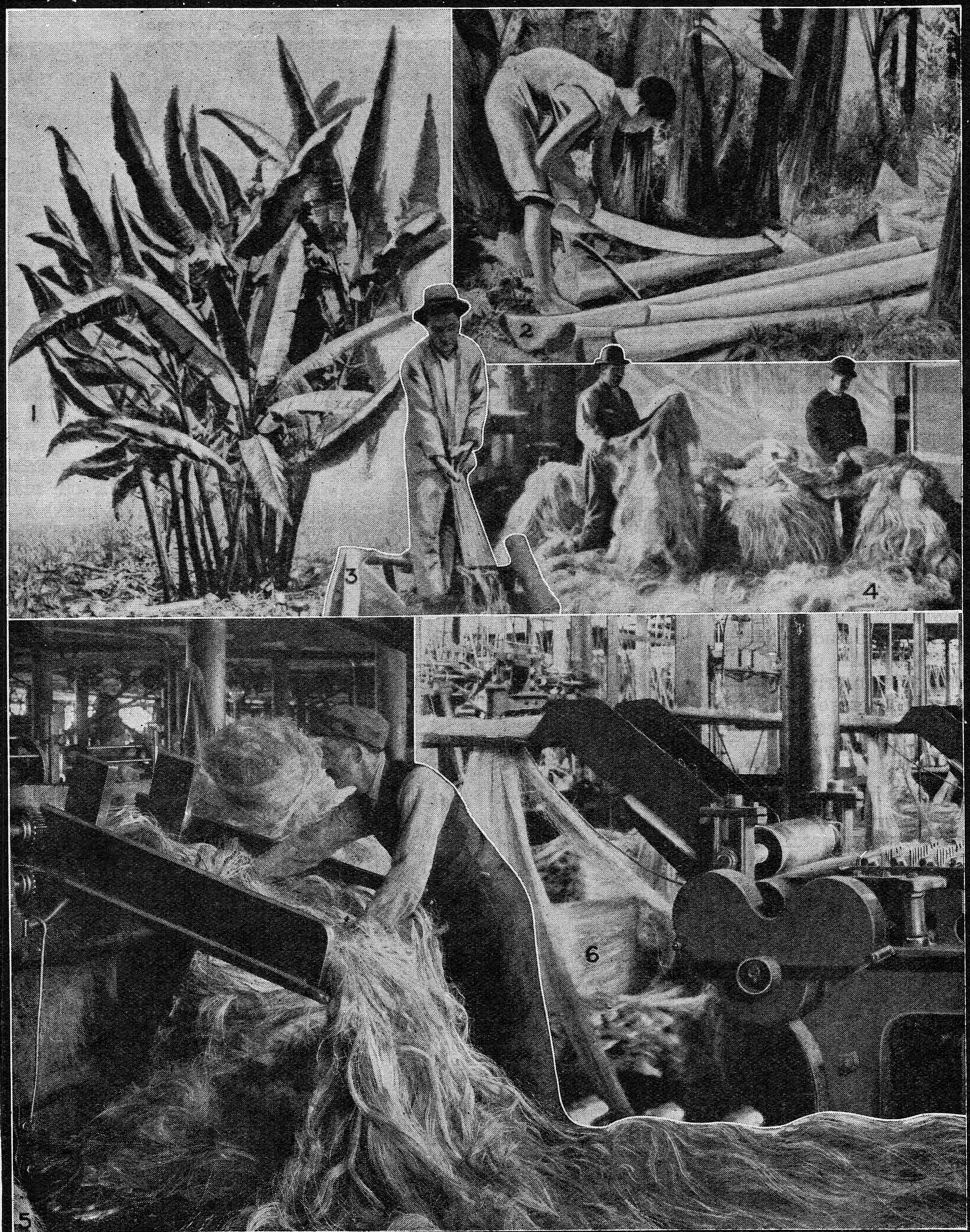


PREPARING FIBRE FOR SPINNING INTO TWINE



When you walk away from a shop with a little ball of manila twine in your hand, you little realize that you are giving that twine its last lift on a journey that has covered thousands of miles, over land and sea. Before any man touched it, it was a part of the manila plant (1), which is a native of the Philippine Islands. The manila plant is cut down by a brown-skinned little Filipino, who uses only primitive tools, perhaps a hatchet, but sometimes only a sharp stone or a forked stick (2). Another Filipino breaks the stalk into layers or strips (3), after which it is taken to the warehouse, where it is carefully examined and sorted (4) before being shipped for manufacture into twine. Arrived at the factory, the fibre is first softened and combed (5) into long ribbons called "slivers." These usually go through a second, and even a third or fourth, combing or drawing (6), depending on the grade of fibre.

contained in the Easy Reference Fact-Index at the end of this work