

Harvester Binding Twine, Where it is grown, and how it is made.

The article known as Harvester Twine has become so prominent a factor in the market that many of our readers will read the following description of its origin and manufacture, growth and sale as a domestic product, with interest :

Twines and cordage of all kinds are made from a variety of products : paper, wood, grasses, rush and sedge-weed, fibres of various varieties, etc., but the string largely used in the Self-binding Harvesters of to-day, is made either from the leaf fibre of the manilla and sisal trees, or from native hemp. The bulk of the Harvester cord, however, is of the variety known as manilla. The manilla tree is found in the Phillipine Islands, and grows to a height of 15 to 20 feet, and the large palm-like leaves stretch out from the trunk of the tree a distance of 6 to 15 feet. The fibre from which the twine is made is found in the stem and its branches of the leaf. When the trees are about to flower they are cut down and split lengthwise in four pieces. The petioles or stems which are the portions furnishing the fibres, are then pulled off. Those which grow near the centre are rejected as their fibres are not strong enough to be useful. To separate the fibre, the stems are thoroughly beaten with wooden clubs, and its separation is further effected by the use of a coarse hackle, after which the fibres are thoroughly washed, and when freed from the woody parts are hung upon poles or ropes to dry. The fibres are coarse or finer as they near the centre of the stem, the coarser being used for cordage and twines, while the finer fibres are woven into exceedingly fine fabrics such as shirting, veiling, etc., and these articles of apparel are dyed by the natives in fancy colors, and are quite pleasing in appearance as well as durable.

The manilla fibre after being prepared, is put up in bales of about 300 pounds each, and arrives in that condition in this country.

The sisal hemp is a fibre closely resembling manilla, and is found in Yucatan, one of the States of Southern Mexico. The plant from which it is obtained closely resembles the century plant, and the fibre is obtained from the stems of the leaves, much the same as the manilla, thereby enabling unreliable makers of binding cords to use a large preponderance of the fibre and sell it as a pure manilla. We therefore caution our customers against purchasing Binder Cord from outside parties, but to place their orders with us direct or through our agents and obtain the pure article.

The Harvester Cord supplied by us is of the variety known as Manilla.

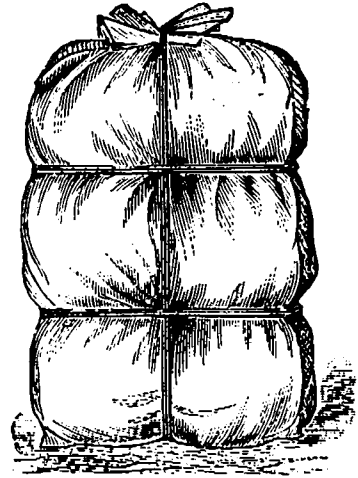
The manufacture of rope and other cordage is familiar to many of our readers, and we will only give a hasty glance into how

"The Binder Cord is Made."

The first process after unbaling the fibre is to straighten out the hanks and place them in a large pan or vat, and thoroughly saturate them with whale oil ; this renders the fibre soft and pliable. They are then hacked or scutched by a revolving toothed cylinder, that effectually separates, cleans and straightens out the fine threads. It is then passed through a machine called a spreader or mixer which thoroughly disintegrates the fibre. This operation forms the threads into a round continuous roll called the sliver, which is nothing more nor less than a round, light, fluffy rope, similar in appearance, use and formation to the old-fashioned wool rolls that we saw our grandmothers twist into yarn on the old spinning-wheel. The roll of fibre now passes through another machine that still reduces the bulk of the roll and correspondingly increases the length ; thence the roll is passed through the drawing frame which further reduces its diameter and prepares it for the spinning jenny which takes up the sliver and twists it into the regular twine. After being spun the cord is wound on a bobbin by a process of winding direct from the spinning jenny, and then, after being re-wound upon another bobbin, in order to smooth down the loose floating ends, it is formed into balls of 3½ to 4 pounds each on a baling machine. During this latter operation the twine is carefully inspected by experienced operators and all defective cord is thrown out. The balls are then completed by tagging the inside end of the cord

denoting which end to use from, and then packing them into bags of from 25 to 65 pounds each. Great care should be taken in buying Harvester Twine, as a poor article will work badly on the best machine, and it frequently occurs that good reliable binders are condemned as not tying successfully, when in reality the fault lies in the cheap cord that is being used instead of a defective machine.

We have purchased for the coming harvest a large quantity of Binding Cord, and are in a position to supply all who are in want of it ; and those desirous of buying from us we advise, to place their orders early. It may be somewhat difficult to estimate just the amount of cord that will be required for the season, or even the quantity per acre, for the reason that if large sheaves are bound the quantity of cord will be much less than if the sheaves are made smaller. We presume that, taking the average of grain it would be safe to estimate about 1½ pounds of cord to the acre, if fair-sized sheaves are bound.



This represents a 50lb. Bag of Cord.

The Cord is shipped in bags varying in weight from 25 to 65 pounds each, and containing an equal number of balls, averaging in weight about 3½ pounds.

THE question sometimes arises can a firm doing so large a business turn out a machine as carefully and perfectly made as a smaller manufacturer? We answer, Certainly it can. By doing so extensive a business we are enabled to use expensive and special tools and machinery. There is also more uniformity and system in the work and a higher grade of mechanics employed.

THE TORONTO REAPER STILL RANKS AL.

Is without an equal in heavy
lodged grain.

Is built mostly of Malleable Iron.

LIGHT, STRONG, DURABLE.

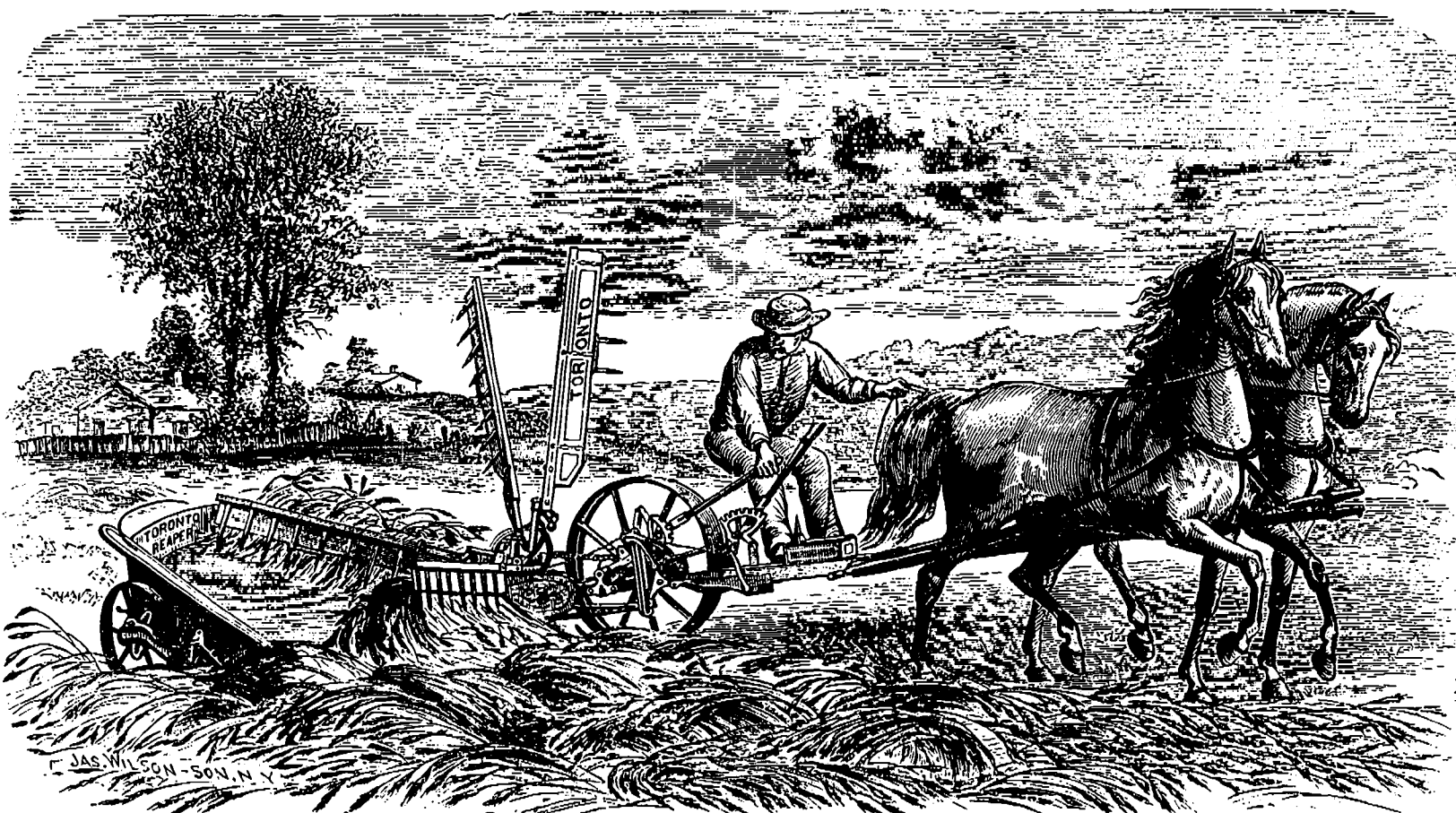
POINTS OF EXCELLENCE.

It has the new Mechanical Gear.
It is built largely of Malleable Iron.
It weighs 800 Pounds.
It cuts a swath of 5 ft. 6 in.
It is readily adjusted to all conditions of surface and crop.
Its draft is very light.
It has no side draft.
It is simply immense in saving down and tangled grain.
The driver has complete control of the machine whilst on his seat.
It is very strong.
It is a great favorite where known.

HAWKESVILLE, Co. Waterloo, June 1st, 1882.

DEAR SIRS.—Am well pleased with the Toronto Reaper and Mower I bought from you. Have used them one season and have not lost any time in harvest, through breakages. These machines have undoubtedly a better quality of material than is to be found in any others we have seen. The objectionable pitman rod, one of the weak points of other machines, is not used in this machine. This does away with the friction and rattling noise of common reapers and mowers. They are easy on the team, on account of being evenly balanced and having no side draft. The Mower is very handy, for in passing an obstacle the cutter bar can be raised perpendicularly while the knives are in motion. I take great pleasure in recommending any one who wants a good reaper or mower to see the Toronto before purchasing elsewhere.

THOS. WILKINSON.



THE TORONTO REAPER SAVING DOWN GRAIN.

Unexcelled for Strength, Durability and Capacity.

The height of cut can be adjusted instantly by the driver without leaving his seat.