

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

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ago to Ottawa. Anyway, the men who went represent no one but themselves. They do not even represent the Conservative party, much less the people of Manitoba, as the whole thing was secretly conceived and secretly carried out. It is evidently some wire-pulling scheme, planned by the head wire-pullers of the party, and only serves to show the peculiarities of partizanship and party domination. If there are any public questions of interest in Manitoba which require to be impressed upon the Dominion government by a delegation from here, they should be discussed openly, and a popular delegation sent to handle the matter. A secret pilgrimage of this kind can only be set down as a piece of party trickery, engineered by the party wire-pullers, who are skilled in "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain."

## A Native Fibre Plant.

Some time ago a bunch of fibrous material was sent to The Commercial by Jno. N. Mout, of Rounthwaite, in this province. The material was from a plant discovered by Mr. Mout, growing in his district. The fibre appeared to be very fine and strong. The plant from which the fibre was taken was last year's growth, and on this account it was impossible to define the species from the specimens sent. Mr. Mout has now sent three complete specimens of the plant of this year's growth to this office, and from these we recognize that the plant is what is known as Indian hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*). This plant though not cultivated, is known to botanists as a fibrous plant of perhaps some value. As the plant (Indian Hemp) evidently a native of Manitoba, it will be interesting to learn something about it. In a report on the "Uncultivated Bast Fibres of the United States," prepared by C. R. Dodge of the department of agriculture of that country, the following description is given of Indian hemp:

"The Indian Hemp plant, known botanically as *Apocynum cannabinum*, has long been regarded as a useful fibre plant by certain tribes of North American Indians. From it they manufacture, in rude fashion, bags, mats, small ornamental baskets, belts, twine, and other cordage, fishing lines, and nets. The fibre is easily separated from the stock, and when cleaned is quite fine, long, and tenacious. In color it is light cinnamon, as usually seen, though finely prepared specimens are creamy white and remarkably fine and soft. Samples of the fibre have been received at various times from Minnesota, Nebraska, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona, together with a great variety of articles of Indian manufacture. The finest prepared specimen is a fish line, such as is used by the Pi-Utes at the Walker River Reservation in Nevada. The fiber will rank with *Asclepias* for strength, and is readily obtained, as the stems are long, straight, smooth, and slender. Although paper has not been made of it, it could doubtless be utilized for that purpose.

The plant, which is indigenous to the United States, is a perennial herb, belonging to the dogbane family, with upright branching stems, 4 or 5 feet in length, having opposite leaves, and a tough, reddish bark. Spon mentions the species, but gives it the common name "Colorado hemp," which

does not apply to this species but to *Sesbania macrocarpa*. He states that "it yields a fine, white, strong fibre." The naturally prepared fiber of the specimens of *A. cannabinum* that have come under my notice are always a dark cinnamon color, and not white, and it may be that the two species have been confounded by European writers.

In the Russian exhibit at the Columbian Exhibition, was shown a beautiful sample of Apocynum fibre, about 2½ feet in length, and a dark Salmon in color, which it was claimed was used commercially in Russia to a limited extent.

There are several foreign species, as *A. sibiricum*, *A. syriacum*, etc., which abound in Southern Siberia, Turkish Transcaucasia, and on the Adriatic, and that produce fibre employed for cordage, fishing nets, lines, and other uses. Spon states that in some districts, where the fibre is more carefully prepared, it is manufactured into textiles. "It is separated by a short retting, is strong and elastic, easily divisible, bleaches and dyes well, and has a length of 6 to 12 feet."

## The World's Wheat Supplies

An interesting statistical exhibit is furnished by the Liverpool Corn Trade News, giving in detail estimates of wheat production for all the various wheat-producing countries, for six years. This compilation shows the following totals for the ten leading countries and for all other production, for seven years, representing bushels:

	Ten countries.	All other.	Total, bush.
1894	2,956,000,000	466,000,000	2,522,000,000
1895	1,986,000,000	467,000,000	2,453,000,000
1896	1,935,000,000	487,000,000	2,442,000,000
1897	1,950,000,000	511,000,000	2,461,000,000
1898	1,818,000,000	479,000,000	2,292,000,000
1899	1,726,000,000	448,000,000	2,174,000,000
1898	1,846,000,000	448,000,000	2,294,000,000

Av. 7 yrs. 1,905,000,000 472,000,000 2,377,000,000  
The ten important countries included in the first column of the foregoing table are as follows: United States, France, Russia and Poland, India, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Germany, Spain and Portugal, Argentine, United Kingdom.

It is to be observed of the total for 1894 that the compilation recognizes estimates for the coming harvests of Australasia and South America, which gives quite a margin for ultimate changes. Also, that the crop of the United States is estimated at 520,000,000, Canada 50,000,000 and Mexico 15,000,000, which figures are likely to prove excessive.

Bearing in mind, therefore, that the estimate of 815,000,000 quarters as the world's yield of 1894 is dependant upon the fulfilment of the brilliant promise of the countries of the Southern Hemisphere, and the yield of the Russian crop nearly equalling last season's magnificent out-turn, any revision of the aggregate later in the season will in all likelihood, be in the direction of smaller figures. The increase upon last season's out-turn is 8,000,000 quarters (or about 2½ per cent.), about 5,000,000 quarters more than the natural growth of the population demands for the purpose of human food; but in view of the growing practice of feeding wheat to animals, both in America and in Europe, it is more than likely that this excess will easily be disposed of.

## Silver.

The commercial price of bar silver in London has displayed a slight tendency to regain ground, though the movement has been entirely fractional. A small increase in the demand for the East is the most probable cause. India council drafts were sold in London this week to the amount of 4,000,000 rupees at the rate of 193½ per rupee. Silver prices on Oct. 26, were: London, 29½d., New York, 64c.

## Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

The following shows the number of cars of wheat inspected at \*Winnipeg for the weeks of ended on the dates named compared with the number of cars inspected for the corresponding weeks a year ago, as reported by Inspector Horne to the Board of Trade:

Grade.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.
Extra Manitoba	29.	6.	13.	20.	27.
hard	6	3	2	6	4
No. 1 hard	161	187	85	87	160
No. 2 hard	8	9	7	4	6
No. 3 hard	0	0	0	0	0
No. 4 hard	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Northern	11	6	8	12	10
No. 2 Northern	6	0	1	2	0
No. 1 White type	6	2	3	2	2
No. 2 White type	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring	1	1	1	0	4
No. 1 Rejected	43	18	10	10	8
No. 2 Rejected	0	14	16	18	10
No Grade	0	0	3	1	1
Total	244	238	139	142	211
Same week last year	210	280	230	282	190

\*Wheat inspected at Emerson going out via the Northern Pacific, is included in Winnipeg returns. A considerable portion of the wheat moving is inspected at Fort William, and does not show in these figures.

## The Cutting on Wire.

Hardware, in its regular Montreal market report last week, referred to the fact that there had been cutting on certain lines of smooth wire in Ontario of late, in a material way. Since then representatives of both the makers and jobbers in that city have been spoken to and the fact fully verified.

A well known Montreal maker, speaking of the matter, admitted that cutting on the list rates had been done by a Hamilton firm. He held, however, that the circumstances were not as aggravated as represented, and that the cutting had not extended outside of Hamilton.

A leading jobber on the other hand, said that this might be very well, but, as a large buyer of wire, he intends to see that the wire manufacturers either enforced the agreement or threw it up.

The fact of the matter in his opinion was, that the large jobbers did not receive fair treatment at all from the makers, not only on wire, but on many other lines, and if the latter were not prepared to do justice, the jobbers would have to take action themselves in self-defence.

In the present instance the difficulty originally arose from the fact that the makers had, in addition to the regular jobbers, a list of smaller dealers to whom they sold wire at list rates.

A well-known retailer in Hamilton applied to be put on this list, but as he was a sort of Ishmaelite, with his hand against every man, the privilege had been refused. He had then brought in U. S. annealed wire, on which line the principal cutting had been done, and offered it around \$1.00, while it cost him, at the least, \$2.28.

These freebooting tactics had compelled a large jobbing firm in Hamilton to sell at makers' prices, or nearly so. And, therefore, the matter from this small beginning promised to seriously affect jobbers both in Montreal and Toronto. He contended that if in the first place the makers had sold only to jobbers, the difficulty could not have arisen, and that this was the secret of the whole difficulty in a nutshell. What the outcome will be it is easy to see, for the Montreal jobber spoken to means business; and he, no doubt, will not allow his trade to be taken away from him, but will do his best to retain it. Under these circumstances lively developments are likely to follow, unless the makers do something. With trade as backward as it is at present, however, it is just possible that the latter will refuse to sell jobbers alone, and cut off their lists of small dealers.—Hardware Merchant.