

Death of Edwin Partridge.

The Chicago Elevator and Grain Trade Journal has the following reference to the late Edwin Partridge, the great Chicago speculator who died a short time ago:

"Edwin Partridge died at his home in Chicago, April 17, as the result of Bright's disease, from which he had been suffering for several months. He was born on a farm near Durhamville, N. Y., Oct. 21, 1835. He received a district school education, clerked in a country store a few years, and then went to Buffalo, where he started in the dry goods business with his brother. He withdrew from this firm in 1869 and came to Chicago, where he immediately started in the same business. The great fire of 1871 swept away everything but his residence, which he mortgaged and again started in the dry goods business. He was remarkably successful in this business, and commenced to speculate a little on the side. Gradually his speculations grew larger and larger. His brother withdrew from the dry goods partnership. After a time the business was discontinued and Ed. Partridge, the plunger, devoted his entire time to speculation.

Several times he suffered heavy losses on the board, and was on the brink of bankruptcy. In one campaign which proved a profitable one for Mr. Partridge, he is credited with having out the greatest short line ever sold by any bear. It was not until the campaign was closed, and Partridge, after steadily buying wheat on a steadily declining market, had pocketed his winnings, that the trade grasped the immensity of his operations. The leading firms through whom he had traded compared notes and found that he had covered 20,000,000 bushels of short wheat. Everybody was aghast at the danger they had just missed. He showed by subsequent operations that he did not contemplate such a large deal—half of 20,000,000 was large enough.

His good fortune was largely due to the queer course he always adopted, one that no other than Partridge could have adopted without having been forced into bankruptcy. He would fight an advance as long as his ready money lasted. When that gave out he would tell commission men to do what they pleased, carry him if they wanted to, or cover his line if they chose to. He would declare his inability to put up margins. The result would be that the commission men would buy his wheat in as well as they knew how, and then Partridge would pay the losses. Sometimes it compelled him to raise money on his investments, but the usual result would be that after the deal was over, no matter how tremendous the loss, it would not involve more than his cash assets. He would have left at least all his real estate. He was quite small in stature, weighing scarcely more than 100 pounds, yet in that compact and wiry frame was enough greatness to make his associates in life respect and fear him. His gait was shambling and awkward, he stooped just a trifle—owing to his early clerkship in a country store—and his cheap sack coat with side pockets was off the same piece as his baggy trousers. His Derby hat was as unpretentious in style as were his solid but plain looking shoes. Partridge's speech was as awkward as his gait. He was aware of this and said little, though at the same time not at all reserved or taciturn. His head and his heart were about all there was to him. These were large enough to offset his insignificant figure, and his awkwardness of manner and expression. One of his peculiar traits was the drawing down of one side of his mouth whenever he was laboring under an unusual mental or nervous strain. This was the only visible sign of agitation.

He was a man of clear perceptions, and his strong convictions and the nerve with which

he backed them made him a marked man. Since 1869 he had been a familiar figure in local commercial circles, and for the last ten years, during which he had devoted himself almost exclusively to speculation, his name and fame were world-wide. Probably no man as merchant and operator, had been called upon in the West to meet such odds and face such opposition, and those who knew him are agreed as to his business acumen, courage, common sense and kindness of heart.

Binder Twine.

In regard to cordage, says the Montreal Gazette, the outlook is a very promising, especially so for binder twine, and the general impression is that a sharp advance in prices will take place as soon as the demand sets in, which will be due principally to the following reasons: The cost of raw material has been increased and stocks were well cleaned up both in Canada and the United States last year, and the fact that the market was closer sold up than for some years past, consequently the large stocks of old twine which depressed it in the past, have been about cleaned out.

Binder Twine Market Improvement

Very nearly all the manufacturers of binder twine have made some less twine this season than they have usually made with conditions as they are. With practically no carried-over stock to meet the difference in the amount manufactured, it would seem that the present visible supply is not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of an ordinary harvest of small grain. There is one difficulty about speaking exactly on this branch of the subject. That is this: Many twine manufacturers are short sighted enough to refuse to allow any person, no matter how disinterested he may be, to ascertain what the amount of their production is. There are a few manufacturers who are far sighted enough to see their own interests and furnish exact information to the Cordage Trade Journal. At the present time if the exact production of all the twine mills for the present season, and the same for last season to this date, could be furnished to the trade by a neutral member of the trade like the Cordage Trade Journal, and the figures showed a material decline in production, a demand would be created that would astonish some of the half-awake manufacturers and carry prices beyond the wildest dreams of any.

Conditions have gradually improved in the binder twine market during the last six months, and now the situation is such that with a fair crop the present season has a very good prospect of ending satisfactorily and profitably for manufacturers and merchants. This situation has been brought about by a combination of circumstances which many persons in the trade have considered most untoward. Perhaps the foundation of the improvement now noted was the backwardness of smaller jobbers in placing their orders. This resulted in some manufacturers curtailing their production so that they have had their business well in hand during the whole season. Then the course of sisal hemp prices made manufacturers very conservative about running their mills beyond the limits of the orders on hand. These elements having strengthened the market, it is very apparent what debt of gratitude is due to president Frank K. Sturgis and vice-president William C. Lane, who so restricted the production of the United States Cordage Company last year that it carried over little or no twine. Had they heeded the mistaken advice of some of their advisers there would now be great cloud over the market. It is becoming apparent too, that, as the Cordage Trade Journal foretold on September 15, 1895, the "manufacturers have an opportunity" this season "in the binder twine trade that they have not had in recent years." because there was

"little or nothing in the way of stocks in the country to meet" when the season opened.—Cordage Trade Journal.

Hides.

The feature of the hide market during the past week, says the Montreal Gazette, has been the stronger feeling in beef hides and prices have advanced 1c per pound, which is due principally to the improved demand from tanners, an active demand from United States buyers and the recent sharp advance in prices in the States of late. On the whole the market has been more active and dealers report a decided improvement in business. We quote: No. 1 5c, No. 2 4c, and No. 3 3c. The feeling in lamb skins and clips is firm at the recent advance, dealers still paying 25c each. The demand for calfskins has been better, but prices are unchanged at 6c for No. 1 and 1c for No. 2.

The June number of The Delineator, which is called the summer number, contains a choice representation of the reigning modes and materials, and in addition a special article on wedding attire and customs. Mrs. Witherspoon's Tea-Table Chat is this month especially interesting. Carolyn Hakthead's entertaining description of the Society of Colonial Dames is accompanied by portraits of some of the officers of that order. The fourth paper by Mary Cadwalader Jones is fully as interesting as its predecessors. Mrs. Charles Sprague Smith tells about Illustrating as a Profession for Women, and "Frances Leeds" continues her exposition of household decoration by describing the doing over of a commonplace parlor into a blue and ivory boudoir. Especially attractive to women is the first of a series of Talks on Beauty by Dr. J. S. Levisaur, who treats of the care and treatment of the skin. Of like practical utility is the third and last paper on the Care of the Teeth, by a well-known New York dentist, and Mrs. Buchanan's contribution on Improved Methods of Household Sanitation. Emma Haywood's Illustrations and Descriptions of Ecclesiastical Embroidery and Fancy Stitches, a chapter on Seasonable Cookery, notices of New Books, and the latest ideas in Knitting, Lace-Making and Crocheting are among the other features of this number of The Delineator. Address: The Delineator Publishing Co., 83 Richmond St., West, Toronto, Ont.

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