

Hemp at Petersburg is assorted into clean hemp, or firsts; outshot hemp, or seconds; half-cleaned hemp, or thirds; and hemp codilla. Riga hemp is distinguished as rein (or clean), outshot, and pass hemp.

Particular care is taken to ship hemp or flax in fine, dry weather. If either get wet, they are apt to heat, and to be totally spoiled. For this reason every vessel taking in hemp or flax is furnished with mats to prevent their getting damp.

A bundle of clean hemp weighs from 55 to 65 poods; ditto outshot, 48 to 55 ditto; ditto half-clean, 40 to 45 ditto (1 pood = 30 lbs. avoirdupois).

To every bundle of assorted hemp is attached a ticket, with the names of the selector, binder and owner, and the date and year. Every bundle has also affixed to it a piece of lead, stamped on one side with the name of the selector, and on the other with the sort of hemp and the time when it was selected. The external marks of good hemp are, its being of an equal green color, and free from spills; but its good quality is proved by the strength of the fibre, which should be fine, thin and long. The first sort should be quite clean and free from spills; the *outshot* is less so; and the *half-clean* contains a still greater portion of spills, and is moreover of mixed qualities and colors.

As a perfect knowledge of the qualities of hemp and flax can only be acquired by experience and attention, agents usually employ men constantly occupied in this business; by which means they are sure of getting goods of the best quality, and have the best chance of giving satisfaction to their principals.

The part separated or picked out in cleaning hemp, is called *hemp codilla*.
--(*Borrisow on the Commerce of Petersburg.*)

With regard to prices, those of hemp will of course vary at different times, like those of all other products. It is usually highest in the summer months, and lowest in September.

In December, 1833, Petersburg clean hemp was 25s. to 26s; Riga rein at 29s. per cwt.

In the year 1840, Italian hemp was at 50s. the owt.; Polish rein, 48s.; Petersburg clean, 47s; Petersburg half-clean, 42s.

At the end of 1854, Petersburg clean, £60 10s. to £63; outshot, £59 to £61; half-clean, £57 10s.; Riga rein, £61 to £64.
