

MANILA HEMP AND BINDER TWINE.

Manila hemp, the Latin name of which is *Musa textilis*, is a product of the Philippine Islands, owned by the Spanish in the China Seas. Mats, cordage and sail cloth are made of the coarser fibres, whose brilliancy and strength render them fit for carpets, tapestry, network, hammocks, &c. In its dry condition it is the manila hemp known to commerce and from which the best rope is made. Each stalk yields on an average one pound of fibre. When ready for market, it is carried on poles on the shoulders of the natives from the hilly interior of the country to the sea coast, to be gathered by small coasting vessels and delivered to the port of Manila, which is the great market from whence manila hemp is supplied to all parts of the world. A circular issued by Mr. John Hallam states that the Central Prison purchases its hemp from Manila direct, and by ordering only the better grades, has been able to produce a capital quality of binder twine. This runs an average of about 600 to 650 feet to the pound, is put up in bales containing 50 pounds net, or about 31,250 feet of twine to each bale, and will bind on an average upwards of 50 acres of grain, or over 15,000 sheaves, and, taking the price at 8c. per pound (the selling price of the season just closed), at a cost of about 13c. or less per acre.

PATENT RECORD.

The following list of United States patents granted to Canadian inventors, September 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and October 2, 1894, is reported by James Sangster, patent attorney, Buffalo, N.Y.:

Hervey Tallman, Beamsville, Ont., double disk harrow.

Alfred E. Trevithick, St. Henri, Que., street clearing apparatus.

Henry Whiteside, Sussex, Canada, sofa-bed.

James Woods, Newton Brook, Ont., farm gate.

Frederick H. Kinder, Strathroy, Ont., self-supporting attachment for bicycles.

William Borbridge, Thomas Fraser and William Prenter, Ottawa, Ont., assignors of one-fourth to Henry Bush Spencer, of the same place, air-brake coupling.

Gilbert Gagnon, Nanaimo, B.C., cable-grip for logging and other purposes.

James W. Provan, Oshawa, Ont., hay carrier track.

John W. Coyne, Ridgetown, and John A. Shannon, Dutton, Ont., churn.

Cyrus S. Dean, Fort Erie, Ont., assignor of one-half to Charles O. Rano, Buffalo, N.Y., boiler flue cleaner.

John Ross, Halifax, Nova Scotia, animal trap.

James Tomlinson, Granby, Que., apparatus for dispensing liquors.

Joseph A. Bisceglia, Waneta, Canada, means for raising sunken vessels.

John Brown, Weston, Ont., clothes dryer.

Harry Fowell, Belleville, Ont., aerator.

Peter McKellar, Fort William, Ont., machine for pulverizing rock.

Walter H. Morden, Toronto, Ont., file.

Samuel Roman, Montreal, Que., cigar package.

John W. Taylor, Peterboro, Ont., apparatus for the manufacture of carbon brushes.

CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, Oct. 4th, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Oct. 4.	Sept. 27.
Montreal	\$13,321,508	\$12,006,890
Toronto	5,863,376	4,944,346
Halifax	1,405,056	1,174,374
Winnipeg	1,489,922	1,272,022
Hamilton	658,189	546,477

Total..... \$22,738,051 \$19,944,109

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,643,818; last week, \$2,069,094.

—Hamilton continues to make progress in wealth as well as in population. The returns of the assessors for 1894-5, which have just been made public, show an increase over the previous year in both real estate and personal property. The assessment for income, is, however, materially lessened, which probably represents a true state of affairs in Hamilton as well as elsewhere. The total assessment is shown to be \$26,849,820, an increase of \$687,170 over last year's figures. The real estate assessment is \$22,662,450, an increase of about \$700,000 over the figures for 1894. The assessment of personal property amounts to \$2,998,560 as against \$2,896,055 for 1894. The assessment for income, however, is \$719,810 less than in 1894. The population of the city is 48,491, an increase of 253 on the year.

—In spite of all the talk about business depression amongst us, and the fact that people have been "feeling poor," and therefore economizing, there are some hopeful indications. Mr. Power, the general passenger agent of the Grand Trunk, states that the business of his road has been very good, considering the widely-spread depression in the United States. Tourist travel commenced about July, and has continued only in larger volume until now. But there was a decrease in through travel, short trips being much more general than last year. Then, again, the Canadian summer and seaside resorts were much more patronized this year than before. Now that the tariff difficulty across the lines has been settled, says Mr. Power, the outlook for winter business is good. And he adds that passenger business on the Grand Trunk has exceeded expectations. The Muskoka and Georgian Bay resorts, which are advertised extensively, had a large increase in the number of tourist visitors.

—In its column entitled "The Passing Hour," the last issue of the *Canadian Wheelman* has the following paragraph on the subject of stolen bicycles: "In Toronto thefts are of daily occurrence. An organized gang of these gentry of notoriously easy virtue must exist, for sometimes as many as two and three bikes a day are swiped by persons plainly well up in the business, for they effect their seizures with such neatness and despatch, and cover up their tracks so effectually, that but a small proportion of the wheels so mysteriously disappearing are ever recovered." In the opinion of the journal quoted the laxity of the police or rather the want of some system on the part of the detective department, is at the root of the evil.

—The importance of the cheese industry to this country leads interest to the statistics which show its continued activity and the increase of export. Our advices from Montreal show that 87,527 packages were shipped across the Atlantic from that port last week, making the total shipments of cheese from Montreal during the present season of navigation 1,199,815 packages, as compared with 1,085,682 packages for the corresponding period last year. In butter we have not yet "made a strike" in the Old Country. Progress is being made, however, in educating dairy women, and in establishing creameries, as well as in getting country storekeepers out of the bad habit of buying butter indiscriminately and mixing all qualities in their cellars.

—The annual outing of the General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec has been in the neighborhood of Sherbrooke. They went on Friday last per Quebec Central Railway to East Angus, where the visitors were taken over the pulp and paper works by Mr. F. P. Buck, president of the Royal Pulp and Paper Company. Next came the marble and lime works at Dudswell, and then the chrome iron deposits of Black Lake. The party afterwards divided, some going over the Black Lake and the others over the Thetford asbestos mines. The convention was brought to an agreeable close by a banquet given to the members by the Hon. W. B. Ives, M.P., at his residence.

—Public opinion in Montreal has been thoroughly aroused to the inefficiency of the police organization in that city, and especially to its blindness to various evils in the current life of the city which it should have combatted. An investigating committee has at last been appointed by the city council. Furthermore, a committee of citizens has been organized for the presentation of evidence at the police investigation, and has secured the services of Messrs. J. N. Greenshields, Q.C., A. W. Atwater, and R. C. Smith, B.C.L. An office has been opened, where the evidence already in possession of this committee is being prepared for presentation. Mr. A. G. Jones has been engaged as a permanent secretary.

—The idea has suggested itself to some Halifax merchants to determine by means of an ocean race what particular build and rig of fishing schooner is the best. It has been proposed to get up a race, say, from Halifax harbor to Cross Island and return, if say twenty vessels of the kind named, from 80 to 100 tons burthen each, will enter. The *Herald* says it is proposed to raise the sum of \$500, and then the vessels entering to form a sweepstake of \$20 a piece, which, with the \$500, would be divided into three prizes, the race to be run in October of this year. The object is to prove which build of vessels is the fastest, and also to encourage owners of vessels to have speed combined with safety.

—We learn that Mr. Thomas McDougall, manager of the Montreal branch of the Quebec Bank, has been promoted to the position of assistant general manager of that institution. The change, it is understood, will not, we understand, require Mr. McDougall to change his residence immediately from Montreal to Quebec.