

age and twine from Manila, Sisal, New Zealand, and Mauritius fibres, Russian hemp and jute. The machinery is necessarily very varied, and as the fibres are all very long and strong, has to be large and heavy and the wear and tear is very severe. New machines are continually being invented which have to be purchased. For several years the Maritime Provinces continued to add more and more ships to their large fleet of sailing vessels, until toward the end of the seventies sailing vessels began to feel most severely the competition from the iron steamers which were being turned out from the Clyde, and very soon the building of wooden ships was to all intents and purposes abandoned, so that to-day the most desirable orders for large shrouds and hawsers are few and far between.

In the earlier years the fishing industry was a small one, but it has now assumed large proportions, and the fishing fleet which fits out every year for the bank fisheries, for Labrador, for the Gulf of St. Lawrence and for the shores round the three provinces, takes a large amount of rope. Most of this rope is small in size, but as the number of vessels is large, and all draw their supplies for outfits as well as for refitting from the home market, the annual demand is large. Besides the small rope for the running rigging and warps, each vessel fishing on the Grand Banks carries about 240 fathoms of tarred manilla cable to which to ride when at anchor. These cables are generally 9 to 10 inches. Another industry which from small beginnings has assumed large proportions is the lobster fishery, now taking annually thousands of coils of still smaller rope and a large quantity of specially made lobster marlin for the manufacture of the netting for the lobster traps. A vessel losing her cable on the Banks is able to run into Halifax and have a new cable made, probably 240 fathoms of 9 inches in a few hours, thus enabling the vessel to get to sea again the same day, or, if a short piece only is required to splice on to the broken one, this can be made the proper length without loss of time or waste of material. Had the fishermen to wait for a week, as would probably be the case, to get this cable from some large centre, the loss would be a most serious one, or were the dealers to hold these cables in stock they would have to charge a large price even for full lengths, and when short pieces were wanted they would in many instances have to sell the nearest lengths they had, which would be very costly and inconvenient.

One of the most important products of late years is binder twine. Some twenty years ago, when the automatic binder machine was invented, the rope works commenced making twine for the harvesters. The demand at first was very small, as the new machine was more or less of an experiment, but gradually as the advantages of the binder were recognized, its use became general among the farmers of Ontario, and the demand for the twine grew larger year by year. To meet this demand the binder twine factory was built in 1883. This trade continued growing until the Ontario farmers were all well supplied with harvesters and by that time Manitoba was opened up as an important wheat country, and Nova Scotia binder twine gradually found its way across the continent, as far west as the Rocky Mountains, and north to the new wheat lands of Edmonton and Alberta. Looking forward to the development of the wheat lands of Manitoba and the North-West Territory, the Canadian manufacturers of binder twine have hopefully anticipated a large market in the new West, but the result has been disappointing to the manufacturer, and the growth of the twine industry, which should have been proportionate to the enormous increase in the grain production of the North-West, is prac-

tically at a standstill. Instead of a large increase of business in that direction, and in spite of the increased acreage of wheat and notwithstanding the increase of Canadian grown grain, there has been no development of the twine industry. It is a fact that not as much Canadian twine is now consumed in Canada as a few years ago. All Canadians have been pleased with the reports from year to year of the development of the North-West, and they speak with pride of the immense wheat crop of 50,000,000 bushels in the current season. It would naturally be supposed that the twine industry would benefit thereby, and such would be the case States during the past few years have increased their production by the aid of new machinery until at present their output far exceeds the home consumption, and they have consequently put forth most determined efforts to secure the Canadian trade, which provides them with an outlet for their surplus twine. The season in the States is much earlier than it is in Canada, as the ripening of the grain follows the march of the sun north from Texas to Manitoba, and thus a large portion of the twine which is found not to be required by the American farmer is sent to Canada and sold. The Americans almost control the market provided by the North-West, and while the foreign twine is admitted to this country free of duty, if the Canadian manufacturer contemplated selling his product across the line he is met at once with a prohibitive duty of 30 per cent. Binder twine in common with many other articles, such as self binders, reapers, mowers, etc., had been subject to a moderate import duty, but for some reason this duty was removed, and twine only placed upon the free list. The machine which the farmer uses to sow or harvest his grain costs many times as much as the value of the twine he would consume, but the import duty on agricultural machinery is properly maintained. The transfer of binder twine to the free list gave the Americans a grand opportunity of entering into the Canadian market, and while this market had been unnoticed by the American manufacturers previously, they have, since the removal of the duty, made a determined effort to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them for extending their trade. This is without doubt the explanation why the long looked for development of the Canadian twine industry has not as yet taken place.

The rope works at Dartmouth now find employment for about 200 hands, many of whom own cottages of their own in the vicinity of the works, and a pretty and prosperous village has been created. There is a church where services are conducted, and a Sunday school. The social side of life is cultivated by a club under the auspices of the wealthy residents of the locality, where pleasant socials and literary entertainments help to spin out the winter evenings.

The Consumers' Cordage Co. and their predecessors who first owned the Rope Works, have done a great deal for the locality, and have given employment to an industrious portion of our population, who have in turn helped to build up the community in which they live and make it prosperous. The works have also done a great deal for fishermen and other consumers of twine, who have been able to get exactly what they need for their various purposes.—Condensed from Industrial Advocate.

—The weaving industry of Formosa has been found to be a lucrative business, and an experiment is proposed for the weaving of stuffs from the tissue of pineapples, ramie, etc which are largely exported to China.