

Binder Twine.

Prices are not yet being quoted on binder twine for 1898, except in isolated cases, where dealers are selling to those customers who have patronized them for years. Enough is known of the tendency in price, however, to say that sisal, and those mixtures, which include a considerable amount of sisal fibre, will range higher than in 1897, while pure manilla will perhaps be a shade lower. The difference between sisal and manilla twine will probably be not more than a cent and three-quarters and possibly not more than a cent and a half a pound. At these relative prices manilla will prove a cheaper twine than sisal, because it runs so many more feet to the pound. One result of this may be a more general use of manilla twine. In the northwest, a few years ago, pure manilla was the only grade of binder twine that could be sold, more recently farmers have been inclined to buy sisal because of the saving in expense. With a continuance of the present slight difference in first cost, the former popularity of the manilla grade may return.—Minneapolis Farm Implements.

WEEKLY WHEAT REVIEW.

London, Jan. 10.—The Mark Lane Express, in its weekly review of the wheat market says: "There is an improved outlook in France, where the wheat had a poor start in October and November. The thaw in Central Europe has not been an unmixed advantage, but the snow is still thick on the wheat fields eastward of Vistula and the Carpathians. Argentina will have about 3,000,000 quarters for export."

AVAILABLE SUPPLIES.

New York, Jan. 11.—Special cable and telegraphic dispatches to Bradstreet's, covering the principal points of accumulation, indicate the following changes in available supply last Saturday as compared with the preceding Saturday:

Wheat—United States and Canada, east of the Rockies, increase 138,000; afloat for and in Europe, increase 500,000, world's supply total increase 638,000.

Corn—United States and Canada, east of the Rockies, increased 774,000.

Oats—United States and Canada, east of the Rockies, increased 2,510,000.

Large gains and decreases about balance.

Among the larger increases in wheat stocks, not reported in the official supply, are the gains of 189,000 bushels at Galveston; 100,000 bushels at Minneapolis private elevators; 87,000 bushels at Cleveland, and 49,000 bushels at Fort William and Kewatin, Ont. The heaviest decrease reported is that of 250,000 bushels at Northwestern Interior elevators.

BANK STATEMENT.

London, Jan. 13.—The weekly statement of the bank of England shows the following changes compared with previous account: Total reserve, increased, £800,000; circulation decreased, £635,000; bullion increased, £165,216; other securities decreased, £1,624,000; other deposits decreased, £1,073,000; public deposits increased, £201,000; notes reserve increased, £708,000; government securities unchanged. The proportion of the Bank of England's reserve to liability, which, last week was 39.17 per cent., is now 41.45 per cent. The bank's rate of discount remains unchanged at 3 per cent.

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C. E. KERR, Cashier**D. McDONALD, Inspector****MOVEMENTS OF BUSINESS MEN.**

J. H. Ashdown left on Thursday for St. Paul, accompanied by members of his family.

E. G. Hicks, manager of the Manitoba Produce Co., Winnipeg, has returned from a trip to Dauphin.

J. L. Melkie, of J. L. Melkie & Co., music dealers, of Winnipeg and Port Arthur, is in the city this week. Mr. Melkie makes his home at Port Arthur, and he is spending a season in the city. Mr. Maclean, manager of the Winnipeg business, has taken advantage of Mr. Melkie's visit to make a business trip west.

Mr. Thos. Ryan left this week for the east on a business trip.

N. Bawlf, president of the Northern Elevator company, returned Tuesday from a trip to Northern Alberta. All three of the large Manitoba firms—the Dominion Elevator Co., the Northern Elevator Co., and the Manitoba Elevator Co., in addition to the large milling companies, are buying wheat along the Edmonton branch, he says.

Ottawa, Jan. 13.—The government is likely to have a knotty problem to solve in the treatment which they will accord the binder twine industry in Canada. The duty was struck off on 1st of January inst., and last week a strong deputation represented that the industry would go to the wall unless some protection were given them. To-day another deputation representing a company at Brantford kept up by the farmers of that district made similar representations to Mr. Fielding and several other members of the government. The feeling in the meantime is that the government can scarcely afford to go back to the old system in view of the pledge made to the farmers.

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