

THE IMPLEMENT TRADE.

ADVANCE IN PRICES.

Dealers are hereby informed that materials from which all kinds of machinery and implements are made—especially iron and steel—have advanced in price, some manufacturers being unable to secure their supplies for months. We may be mistaken, but it looks as though implements must necessarily advance in price also, and the dealer who sends in his orders early will no doubt have an advantage. Where the dealer has the cash to buy, now is the time for him to do so, as he will not only lessen his risk in the future, but buy cheaper. Implements in stock will "keep" for awhile if the present outlook is to be interpreted as "higher prices" all along the line.—Implement age.

GRASS TWINE.

Considerable attention is being given to the new grass binder twine industry. Samples of the grass from which this class of twine is made, have been forwarded to the secretary of the Winnipeg board of trade. The establishment of a factory here is proposed, if a sufficient quantity of the grass can be procured. It would require an area of about 40,000 acres to supply the necessary amount of grass. The grass is a wirey substance and grows wild here to some extent on marsh lands. The soil where it grows is sour, unproductive land, so far as any other crop is concerned. The cultivation of this grass, where the land is suitable, would therefore be a great advantage in turning otherwise useless land to good account.

The Farm Implement News, of Chicago, has the following to say about this twine:

From what we have seen of grass twine and of its manufacture at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and St. Paul, Minnesota, by the Northwestern Grass Twine company, account of which was given in last week's issue of Farm Implement News, we are of opinion that this twine is going to be a factor of considerable importance in the binder twine business of the future, and that its possibilities should not be overlooked by the manufacturers of binders and of twine.

Generally it has been supposed that the areas of the peculiar wire grass, from which this twine is made, are so limited and scattered that they could not supply any considerable portion of the material required, and also that it would be too bulky for convenient handling and economical shipment. But careful surveys show that within ready reach of the plant at Oshkosh are some 60,000 acres, yielding the grass at the rate of a ton to a ton and a half per acre, besides many thousands of acres more adapted to its growth and good for nothing else that would be put to its production, if there was demand for it, as it would be a profitable crop. The plant at St. Paul has also an ample supply of this grass in easy reach.

The main work of the company since its organization for the development of this industry has been the production and perfection of machinery for tightly and evenly spinning the twine and compactly winding it. They have succeeded so well that the twine now made is as even and smooth as the best is about three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter and runs 250 feet to the pound, and is wound so

tightly that the balls or spools only take up about one-third more room than ordinary twine, length for length. The balls pack snugly and there is no difficulty in filling a car to the full weight.

THE TWINE MARKET.

Although fiber prices are higher and still show advancing tendencies no change has been made in the price of twine since March 20, when the last advance of 1-4 cent occurred. Some of the leading concerns are desirous of setting a new price that will cover all the advances hemp has made, but others are opposed to this until material on hand, purchased prior to the last increase in fiber values, has been exhausted. In other words it is not considered policy to make speculative advances. Manufacturers who are buying hemp on the present market must therefore sell, if at all, at little or no profit until some of the largest concerns have decided to raise the price.

But this condition will probably not continue long. Hemp purchases are made in small lots and prices are constantly increasing. It is extremely probable that another advance in twine prices will take place within the next ten days, or two weeks at the outside.

Here is a well posted twine man's prediction for the remainder of the season. "Prices will continue upward as long as the course of fiber lies the same way. If the hemp market should weaken, twine prices will stand at the last figure, unless the decline in hemp should be heavy, and of that I see no prospect whatever. At the end of harvest, if there shall be found a surplus of twine, prices will be cut in the northwest. As far as the remainder of the country is concerned I predict a firm twine market until harvest is ended."

Current prices f.o.b. Chicago and other central points:

Sisal	9 1-2
Standard	9 1-2
Manila (600-foot)	10 1-2
Pure manila	11

Car lots, 1-4 cent less. Five-ton lots, 1-8 cent less. Fall terms.—Chicago Farm Implement News.

IMPLEMENT TRADE NOTES.

Seeley has opened in the machinery business at Plumas, Minn.

A. J. McPherson has opened in the implement business at Dauphin, Man. The state of Iowa contemplates establishing a prison binder twine factory.

The price of manila in New York on March 27 was 1-2c higher than on Sept. 1, 1898, and sisal is 11-4 cents higher than on that date.

Country dealers in implements are making great displays of the seeders, plows, etc., which they have sold for spring trade the idea being to see which can show the most in each locality. Some astonishing strings of seeders are shown.

Large sales of sisal are reported to have been made in Yucatan for delivery during the current year, at high prices. So largely has the product been sold in advance, that very high prices are expected for any not already contracted for. The producers are reaping a rich harvest.

During the year 1897 United States manufacturers of twine and cordage purchased 54,037 tons of manila fiber at an invoice price of \$74 per ton.

During 1898, they purchased 48,383 tons at a cost of \$87 per ton. Of sisal fiber in 1896, 69,704 tons were purchased at an average rate of about \$118.50 and in 1898, 69,795 tons valued at \$109 per ton.

Sisal advanced 1-8c in New York on March 24, but the following day one lot of manila sold 1-8c decline. No more, however, could have been obtained at the decline, and a few days later the market was very firm and held 1-8c higher. On March 27, 1-8c higher was quoted at New York for both sisal and manila, and some holders asked as much as 3-8c more for sisal.

A movement is on foot to consolidate all the bicycle manufacturing interests of Canada into a concern to be known as the Canadian Bicycle Company, Limited. The capital stock is to be \$5,000,000, if the scheme goes through. The reason advanced for this move is that the manufacturers want to put themselves in a position to compete with the low grade United States wheels, which it is alleged, now practically monopolize the Canadian market.

It is rumored that a big hemp concern in New York, that has handled the bulk of sisal fiber imported into the United States the past six months are about sold up; also that they are large buyers in the primary market and values there have risen to a higher point than current New York quotations. Official figures of the stock in the hands of brokers and speculators of New York and Boston have been steadily declining since Dec. 1 1898. On that date the amount was 73,146 bales, Jan. 1, 66,860; Feb. 1, 61,884; March 1, 44,224. A number of large sales have been made this month.

C.P.R. Annual Meeting.

Montreal, April 5.—The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific railway was held to-day. The old board was re-elected unanimously. The agreement respecting the sale of the Aylmer branch was approved. The issue of securities on the extensions of the Pipestone and Stonewall branches were authorized; the lease of the Columbia and Western railway was approved; the extended agreement with the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railway company, "Soo Line," was approved providing for the taking up of certain maturing interest bearing obligations of that company and the payment of certain current capital obligations and for the equipment of terminals and additions acquired or required by the creation of five million dollars, second mortgage four per cent. bonds of Soo company, interest to be guaranteed by the C. P. R. One million and a half of the said bonds to be held by the trustee against the future requirements, subject to the control of the C. P. R. This arrangement is calculated to enable the Soo company to apply its surplus earnings to interest and dividends and to repay from the earnings of the C. P. R., interest advances in annual instalments. The expenditure of £728,255 on capital account was authorized. At a subsequent meeting of the board the former officers and executive committee were re-elected.

Nervous Employer—I don't pay you for whistling. Office Boy—That's all right, sir. I can't whistle well enough to charge extra for it yet.