

After submission of the estimates to the House, the item to cover the cost of working farms, as referred to above, was withdrawn, and consequently none of them have been established this year.

GRASS TWINE MANUFACTURE.

Early last year a communication was received from the Northwestern Grass Twine Company, of St. Paul, Minn., asking for information as to the marsh lands within a radius of 40 miles of this city producing wild grass suitable for the manufacture of twine, and the Company forwarded samples of the wild grass sought. Correspondence was asked for from persons familiar with the district who could afford the desired information. The data received showed that a certain amount was to be found in different localities, but it was afterwards deemed advisable by the Council to place the correspondence in the hands of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, who reported later on that suitable grass is quite common in Manitoba, but in limited areas only, and that after making special inquiries of their Swamp Lands Inspector, as well as of the C. P. R. Land Department and Dr. Fletcher, Botanist of the Geological Survey, the general information given was that no large areas could be found in this district where this grass grows by itself.

As grass binder twine is now quite extensively used in Minnesota and Dakota, it is to be hoped that further exploration may reveal in this Province a sufficiently large area to make the manufacture of twine profitable here.