

Binding Twine.

Our readers are aware that the rumor has been freely circulated throughout the Dominion, that high prices on binder twine are accounted for by a combination of manufacturers, who are organized for the avowed purpose of controlling the output, and increasing the marketable value. On looking carefully into the position, we conclude that such rumor is absolutely devoid of fact, and that the high prices on twine are the result of high prices on raw materials, over which the manufacturers of twine have no control.

Manilla hemp is over 100 per cent. higher than last year, and shows no weakness, we are assured, even for delivery in the months of September and October next. From the market reports we have gathered the following facts, which speak for themselves:—

Raw manilla advanced from £29 per ton in May, 1888, to £34 per ton in January, 1889; and has held firm since that date. We give the market reports in detail of the prices of raw manilla between the above dates:—

May, 1888, opened at £29 and closed at £31 per ton	
June, " " from £32 to £35	" "
July, " " £36 to £39	" "
Aug., " " £39 to £41	" "
Sept., " " £41 to £38	" "
Oct., " " £39 to £42	" "
Nov., " " £43 to £47	" "
Dec., " " £48 to £50	" "
Jan., 1889, " £50 to £54	" "

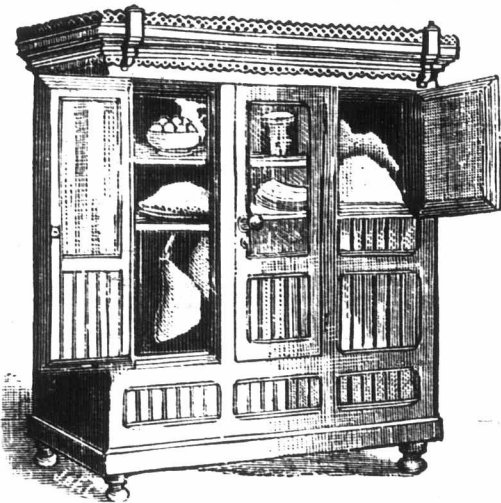
Our readers will note that there was a steady advance in prices from May, 1888, to August-September, with a drop during the latter part of September; while October opened firm at an advance; and from that date till January, 1889, the advance was firm and rapid.

It would take more space than we have at command to go into this subject as fully as we would wish; but the information we have given will be of value to our readers. The above figures illustrate that present prices of binder twine are based on legitimate values; and the outlook is poor for any lowering of prices, as we understand most of the available supply has been sold; and the general impression amongst the knowing ones is that prices will stiffen in sympathy with the great demand in the coming months of June-July. We would, therefore, advise our friends who have not yet contracted for their binder twine to do so at once. We draw your attention to the advertisement in our columns of a reliable hardware house in this city who are large handlers of binder twine.

I am not a regular farmer, but have seven acres of land. * * * Have shown farmers how to get five tons of hay off an acre, and how to pasture a cow on half an acre. I was brought up on one of the best farms in the county, and had a good farm training; and still feel very much interested in it. * * * The ADVOCATE is a good paper. I admire its honest tone, and good, sound, agricultural information. Yours truly, S. T. ALLEN, Yarmouth, N. S., May 18, 1889.

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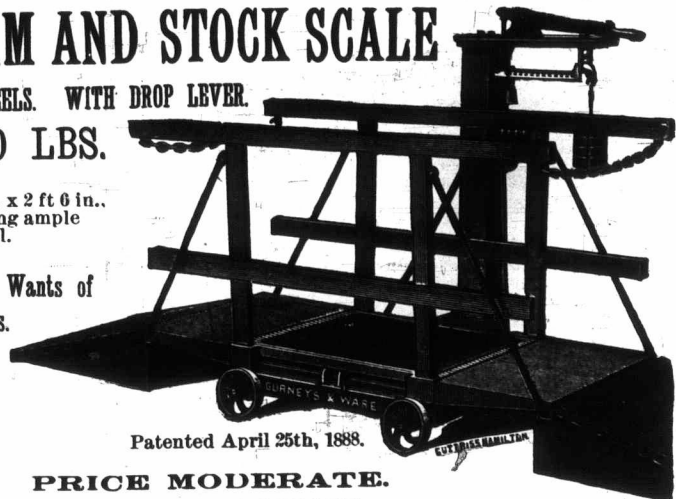
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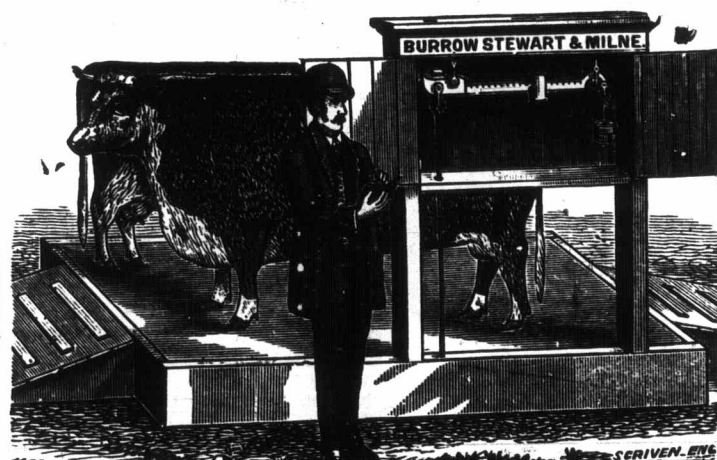
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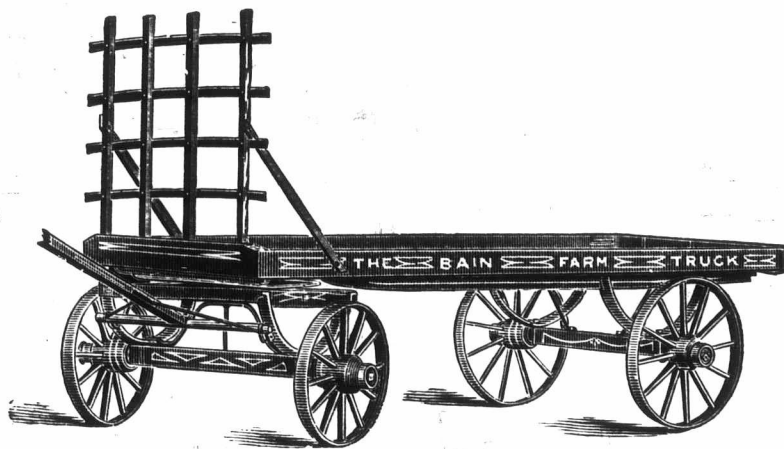
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