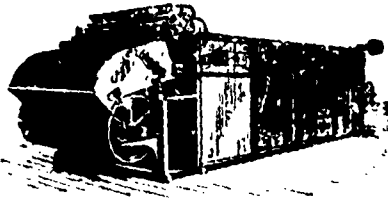


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## ABOUT ROPE.

All the fiber which is made into Manila rope comes from the Philippine islands. The plant resembles the banana. It grows from seeds and also from shoots or suckers, often to the height of 20 or 25 feet, having a tuft of leaves only at the top. It is difficult for those who live in temperate climes to realize the rank growth of tropical vegetation. When properly matured, the leaves are peeled off down to the bottom of the tree. The fiber is then separated, dried and cleaned, and tied in hanks, being from 10 to 15 feet in length; these, in their turn, are put up in bales of 270 pounds, in which shape the material is shipped to Europe and America for manufacture into rope and binder-twine. The fiber called Sisal is from a plant that grows in a wider extent of territory, but the best and most profitable country for its cultivation is Yucatan, now part of Mexico.

In manufacturing a rope, the fibers are first spun into a yarn, this yarn being twisted in a "right hand" direction. A number of these yarns are then twisted "left hand" into a strand. Three or four of these strands are then twisted "right hand" into a now completed rope. As the strand is twisted it tends to untwist the threads, and as the rope is twisted, it tends to untwist the strands, but retwist the threads. It is this opposite twist that tends to keep the rope in its proper form. When a weight is hung on the end of a rope, the tendency is for the rope to untwist and become longer. In untwisting the rope it would twist the threads up, and the weight will revolve until the strain of the untwisting strands just equals the strain of the threads being twisted tighter. In making a new rope it is impossible to make these strains exactly balance one another. It is this fact that makes it necessary to take out the "turns" in a new rope, that is, untwist it when it is put at work. The greater the twist in a new rope, the better it will keep its form, but it is not quite as strong, because the fibers are strongest in the direction of their length, and the greater the angle of the fibers, due to the twist of the strand, the less is their resistance in the direction of the center line of the rope. In bending over a pulley or drum, the rough fibers slide over each other, while under pressure from the load, causing internal chafing and wear. Open an old rope by untwisting the strands, and a fine powder will drop out, due to the cause just mentioned. The larger the drum, therefore, the greater the life of the rope.

—Among the street decorations at the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth, at Sydney, was an arch of impressed bales of wool, valued at about \$7,000. It was 75 feet wide over all, with a height of 50 feet, flanked with imposing towers. The bales of wool were supported by piers built within the tiers, whilst a trussed web supported the arch construction. The whole of the timber was hidden, so that the arch presented the appearance of wool bonded like immense blocks of masonry. It was decorated with shields, a huge ram's head, and flags, whilst the front was embellished with the words, "Welcome to the Land of the Golden Fleece."

—In the ruins of a large ancient stone structure in Paikato canyon, near Bland, New Mexico, an exploration party from Los Angeles recently found a quantity of pottery of great beauty, along with gold and other metal ornaments. There were also found some peculiar samples of cloth. It was woven in spirals, almost like a huge spider's nest. Around the fire-place in the room, which was excavated, stood a dozen large pots, each with bones of animals in it, showing that the inhabitants had suddenly abandoned the room while they were preparing a meal. Near some of the smelter