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THE CORDAGE ROPE AND TWINE INDUSTRY 1953



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NOTICE

The annual reports prepared by the Industry and Merchandising Division of the Bureau of Statistics are divided into 3 volumes, as follows: **Volume I** — The Primary Industries, including mining, forestry and fisheries; **Volume II** — Manufacturing; **Volume III** — Merchandising and Services. The volumes are made up of parts, and the parts in turn are subdivided according to the industries or provinces which they comprise.

Volume II consists of the following parts, the first two of which deal with manufacturing as a whole and the balance with the major manufacturing groups.

- I — General Review of the Manufacturing Industries, \$1.50
- II — The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, (7 sections, as follows:)
 - Section A. Summary for Canada, 25¢
 - Section B. Atlantic Provinces, 25¢
 - Section C. Quebec, 25¢
 - Section D. Ontario, 25¢
 - Section E. Prairie Provinces, 25¢
 - Section F. British Columbia, 25¢
 - Section G. The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, Regional Distribution, 75¢
- III — Foods and Beverages
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- XV — Products of Petroleum and Coal
- XVI — Chemicals and Allied Products
- XVII — Miscellaneous Manufactures

The present report belongs in Part VII, Textiles. It is punched to permit of filing in a ring binder along with others of the group. The reports in this group are:

- A — General Review of All Textiles, 25¢

Textile Mills

- B — General Review, 25¢
- C — The Cotton Textile Industries, 25¢
- D — The Wool Textile Industries, 25¢
- E — The Synthetic Textiles and Silk Industry, 25¢
- F — The Narrow Fabrics Industry, 25¢
- G — The Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Goods Industry, 25¢
- H — The Awning, Tent and Sail Industry, 25¢
- I — The Cordage, Rope and Twine Industry, 25¢
- J — The Cotton and Jute Bag Industry, 25¢
- K — The Miscellaneous Textiles Industries, 25¢

Knitting Mills

- L — The Hosiery and Knitted Goods Industries, 25¢

Clothing

- M — General Review, 25¢
- N — The Men's Factory Clothing Industry, 25¢
- O — The Women's and Children's Factory Clothing Industries, 25¢
- P — The Corset Industry, 25¢
- Q — The Fur Goods and Fur Dressing Industries, 25¢
- R — The Hat and Cap Industry, 25¢
- S — The Miscellaneous Clothing Industries, 25¢

THE CORDAGE, ROPE AND TWINE INDUSTRY

1953

The value of factory shipments in the cordage, rope and twine industry fell sharply from \$28,841,340 in 1952 to \$17,866,014 in 1953. This \$11 million drop was largely accounted for by severe reductions in the industry's two main commodities, binder and baler twine. Shipments of binder twine were down by \$6.6 million and baler twine by \$3.1 million. Rope shipments and shipments of twines were also reduced in value.

Factory shipments of binder twine in 1953 totalled 33,896,191 pounds valued at \$5,620,063 compared with 55,096,595 pounds valued at \$12,209,470 in 1952. Baler twine shipments amounted to 23,189,580 pounds worth \$6,974,305 in the earlier year compared with 22,823,373 pounds worth \$3,864,113 in the later. From these figures it is evident that both volume and price contributed importantly to the reduction in value of shipments in the case of binder twine whereas price change is almost solely responsible for the decrease in baler twine. In connection with the price change, it should be noted that the average price paid by the industry for its sisal, the principal constituent of both commodities, fell from 25 cents per pound in 1952 to 18 cents per pound in 1953.

Rope was shipped to the extent of 11,293,919 pounds with a factory selling value of \$4,565,506 as against 12,149,664 pounds worth \$5,511,639 a year earlier. Twine managed an increase in physical volume, 6,431,090 pounds in 1952 and 7,142,319 pounds in 1953, but the value of the twine shipments fell from \$2,813,311 to \$2,591,116 over the two years.

The information collected on production suggested an even sharper reduction in the level of activity. The amount of binder twine manufactured fell from 63,288,181 pounds in 1952 to 25,451,557 pounds in 1953. Baler twine production fell from 28,984,421 pounds to 19,949,653 pounds over the two years. Comparable 1952 figures are not available for the 10,764,800 pounds of rope and 6,975,299 pounds of twine produced in the year under review. The volume of production index¹ for the industry as a whole registered a drop of 39 per cent.

Fairly substantial reductions in inventory are indicated by the foregoing production and shipments data, particularly in binder and baler twine. The value of finished goods inventory held by the industry at plant fell from \$4,917,000 at the end of 1952 to \$2,275,000 at the end of 1953 according to the Bureau's inventory survey.

The curtailment of activity was reflected in the employment situation. Employment which stood at 1,720 in 1952 fell to 1,188 in 1953, a drop of 31 per cent, while salaries and wage payments decreased by 28 per cent, from \$4,930,896 to \$3,570,086 over the two years. A two-thirds reduction occurred in the cost of materials consumed during the same period, from \$21,655,091 in 1952 to \$7,336,124 in 1953. As has been indicated, this reduction derives from the combined effects of lower prices and lower production.

Oddly enough, there was an increase from 11 to 14 in the number of establishments. The newcomers, however, were not entrants into the baler and binder twine section of the industry. The 14 establishments were distributed provincially as follows: Newfoundland 1, Nova Scotia 1, Quebec 3, Ontario 7 and British Columbia 2, Ontario dominated the industry accounting for 83 per cent of products shipped and 80 per cent of employment.

Hard fibres such as Manilla hemp, African sisal, Mexican sisal, Brazilian sisal, etc., constitute the principal materials used by the industry. The quantity consumed in 1953 was valued at \$5,596,049 or 76 per cent of the total cost of materials consumed.

Detailed information on the industry's use of fuel and electricity during the year and on its power installation will be found in Tables 12 and 13. Beginning with 1948, this information is being collected every fifth year instead of annually as theretofore.

Full details of factory shipments and materials consumed are given in Tables 3 and 5 of this report.

1. Based on 1949 equals 100, the Bureau's volume of production index for the cordage, rope and twine industry is as follows: 1950 - 104.5; 1951 - 143.8; 1952 - 136.3; 1953 - 83.4.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics, Representative Years, 1921-1953

Year and Provinces	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of materials used	Gross value of production
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$
1921	9	824	1,055,462	4,620,408	7,962,550
1924	9	1,359	1,486,702	5,096,892	8,876,786
1929	13	1,368	1,518,280	7,798,893	11,798,165
1930	13	1,058	1,182,568	6,059,887	8,551,349
1933	11	1,015	1,027,460	2,461,395	4,740,612
1937	10	1,030	1,132,435	3,907,340	6,578,967
1938	10	882	1,007,597	3,057,839	4,910,962
1939	10	978	1,055,702	2,710,778	4,966,074
1940	11	1,285	1,533,026	4,903,793	9,192,945
1941	11	1,346	1,668,462	5,684,207	10,895,994
1942	11	1,590	2,243,872	8,350,266	13,758,225
1943	11	1,531	2,279,708	8,197,636	12,650,931
1944	10	1,741	2,637,162	10,594,964	16,177,696
1945	10	1,678	2,477,765	8,814,693	14,419,946
1946	10	1,740	2,669,236	8,058,127	13,869,880
1947	10	1,607	2,837,339	11,053,378	18,229,405
1948	10	1,470	2,999,745	11,575,748	17,995,920
1949	10	1,302	2,805,837	10,732,750	16,917,938
1950	10	1,370	3,030,188	10,989,236	17,459,571
1951	11	1,774	4,576,300	19,736,188	29,709,244
1952					
Canada	11	1,720	4,930,896	21,635,091	28,841,340 ²
Ontario	6	1,453	4,203,115	19,393,233	24,902,500 ²
Other provinces	5	267	727,781	2,261,858	3,938,840 ²
1953					
Canada	14	1,188	3,570,086	7,336,124	17,866,014 ²
Quebec	3	13	35,735	148,824	230,836 ²
Ontario	7	949	2,895,139	5,682,971	14,750,741 ²
Other provinces ¹	4	226	639,212	1,504,329	2,884,437 ²

1. Includes one establishment in Newfoundland, one in Nova Scotia and two in British Columbia.

2. Beginning with 1952 the value of factory shipments has been collected instead of the gross value of production.

The statistics published in this report include only the statistics of manufacturing establishments whose principal products are cordage, rope and twine. Statistics relating to specific products, such as twines, are not to be regarded as the total for Canada since some of these products are also produced in cotton textiles establishments.

TABLE 2. Comparison of Principal Statistics, 1952 and 1953

Item	1952	1953	+ Increase - Decrease
Establishments reporting	No. 11	14	+ 3
Employees on salaries:			
Total	No. 221	207	- 14
Male	146	137	- 9
Female	75	70	- 5
Total salaries	\$ 911,540	870,647	- 40,893
Employees on wages:			
Monthly average	No. 1,499	981	- 518
Male	1,026	657	- 369
Female	473	324	- 149
Total wages	\$ 4,019,356	2,699,439	- 1,319,917
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$ 189,836	205,596	+ 15,760
Cost of materials used	\$ 21,655,091	7,336,124	- 14,318,967
Value of factory shipments	\$ 28,841,340	17,866,014	- 10,975,326

Profits or losses cannot be estimated from the figures published in this report as no data are collected for overhead expenses, such as interest, rent, depreciation, taxes, insurance, advertising, etc.

TABLE 3. Factory Shipments, 1952 and 1953

Principal products	1952		1953	
	Quantity	Selling value at factory	Quantity	Selling value at factory
	lb.	\$	lb.	\$
Binder twine	55,096,595	12,209,470 ¹	33,896,191	5,620,063 ¹
Baler twine — All sisal	23,189,580	6,974,305	22,823,373	3,864,113
Twines for sale:				
Hemp	117,272	106,869	144,492	114,689
Jute	1,725,104	754,220	1,355,064	514,953
Sisal	4,143,458	1,497,637	4,970,058	1,593,304
All other	445,256	454,585	672,705	368,170
Rope:				
Manilla	7,014,421	3,092,145	6,684,780	2,827,685
Sisal	4,719,526	1,945,383	4,259,980	1,377,486
Cotton	146,954	126,810	170,219	173,769
Jute				
Hemp	110,375	72,038	70,896	47,005
All other	158,388	275,263	108,044	139,561
Yarns:				
Flax, hemp, jute, etc.	1,509,870	521,963	1,775,277	532,699
All other products, unable to specify	—	810,652	—	692,517
Total factory shipments	—	28,841,340	—	17,866,014

1. Selling value at factory in this case does not represent sales at a definite level as it includes sales to wholesalers at wholesale prices along with sales to dealer organizations at manufacturer's cost of production. As a guide to selling prices of binder twine, reference may be had to the wholesale prices as published by Prices Statistics Branch of the Bureau of Statistics which for the years 1952 and 1953 were \$33,426 and \$26,296 per cwt., respectively.

TABLE 4. Consumption of Binder Twine in Canada for the Years, 1950-1953

	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Production	391,266	659,345	632,882	254,516
Imports	11,289	5,198	12,386	21,529
Total	402,555	664,543	645,268	276,045
Exports	174,936	260,659	174,778	229,582
Available for consumption	227,619	403,884	470,490	46,463

TABLE 5. Materials Used, 1952 and 1953

Principal materials	1952		1953	
	Quantity	Cost value at factory	Quantity	Cost value at factory
	lb.	\$	lb.	\$
Hard fibres:				
Manilla hemp	10,538,232	2,932,944	6,279,698	1,430,633
Java sisal	1,591,207	483,490	1,113,736	152,459
Mexicansisal	7,659,659	1,280,026	6,130,289	649,562
African sisal	31,191,359	8,172,290	15,958,767	2,242,178
Cuban	2,496,681	610,558	1,759,229	197,451
Haitian	6,937,813	1,584,124	1,171,130	149,199
Brazilian	15,750,621	3,968,153	5,493,283	756,811
Venezuelan	626,926	139,363	—	—
Other hemp and sisal	509,329	127,613	138,071	17,756
Soft fibres:				
Hemp, hemp tow, flax, flax tow and jute	2,435,659	454,455	2,726,870	347,305
Twines, cotton and other	120,757	425,233	65,724	164,665
Yarns purchased:				
Flax, hemp and jute	669,169	223,211	820,890	214,556
Cotton and other	273,745	187,836	499,676	270,565
Nylon	55,202	129,504	85,559	173,273
Oils	—	331,473	—	174,757
Wax	—	13,061	—	13,342
Degras	—	23,118	—	11,995
All other materials and supplies	—	161,444	—	129,881
Packing and shipping materials:				
Burlap	—	32,155	—	11,647
Other packing and shipping materials	—	375,040	—	228,089
Total cost of materials used	—	21,655,091	—	7,336,124

TABLE 6. Imports of Materials Used and Products Made by the Cordage Rope and Twine Industry, 1952 and 1953

Articles imported	Unit of measure	1952		1953	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Fibrilla, flax fibre and flax tow	cwt.	431	26,719	575	20,772
Hemp, dressed or undressed	"	4,838	104,671	860	25,318
Manila fibre	"	103,009	2,457,045	58,812	1,266,373
Vegetable fibres, n.o.p.	"	13,380	128,081	13,855	140,438
Sisal, istle and tampico fibre	"	802,344	17,021,619	456,823	5,267,841
Jute and jute butts	"	5,893	66,585	71,294	571,799
Okum of flax, hemp and jute	"	18,946	336,521	25,717	425,216
Coir and coir yarn	"	6,029	67,565	5,656	41,988
Yarns, vegetable fibres, singles, n.o.p.	lb.	93,434	41,228	247,490	94,398
Yarns, cords and twines, vegetable fibres, plied, n.o.p.	"	844,798	309,215	1,207,061	331,150
Yarns, cords and twines, jute, plied, n.o.p.	"	265,096	66,349	347,577	73,621
Yarns, jute, singles, n.o.p.	"	475,609	105,031	1,270,723	227,472
Cords and twine, cotton, n.o.p.	"	347,513	331,696	513,024	439,835
Thread, twines, marlines, fishing lines of vegetable fibre for commercial fishing purposes or for the construction or repair of fishing nets	"	940,290	828,707	814,013	752,409
Cordage, manila, sisal and New Zealand fibre, exceeding one inch in circumference	"	1,019,624	296,419	1,592,732	439,878
Cordage exceeding one inch in circumference, wholly of vegetable fibre, n.o.p.	"	463,874	141,875	358,680	103,308
Rope and cordage not exceeding one and one half inches in circumference, to be used for commercial fishing purposes, or for the construction and repair of fishing nets	"	1,019,624	296,419	2,404,127	645,977
Binder twine	cwt.	12,386	372,816	21,529	457,570
Fish nets and nettings	lb.	1,341,697	2,964,043	738,112	1,702,057
Jute manufactures, n.o.p.	"	49,907	21,090	50,966	30,540
Vegetable fibre manufactures, n.o.p.	"	1,310,810	1,847,274	1,935,432	2,067,343

TABLE 7. Exports of Cordage, Rope and Twine, etc., 1952 and 1953

Articles exported	1952		1953	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	cwt.	\$	cwt.	\$
Fibre and tow of flax or hemp	22,480	536,097	6,655	110,583
Binder twine	174,778	3,849,501	229,582	3,988,593
Rope	465	115,035	284	29,562
Cordage and twine, n.o.p.	138,165	4,279,385	129,351	2,681,602
Nets, twines, lines and rope for commercial fishing	—	550,594	—	133,787

TABLE 8. Employees by Sex and Remuneration, 1952 and 1953

		1952			1953			
		Ontario	Other	Total	Ontario	Quebec	Other ¹	Total
Salaried Employees:								
Total	No.	155	66	221	156	3	48	207
Male	"	100	46	146	97	3	37	137
Female	"	55	20	75	59	—	11	70
Total salaries	\$	639,859	271,681	911,540	653,816	9,359	207,472	870,647
Wage-earners:								
Monthly average	No.	1,298	201	1,499	793	10	178	981
Male	"	882	144	1,026	528	8	121	657
Female	"	416	57	473	265	2	57	324
Total wages	\$	3,563,256	456,100	4,019,356	2,241,323	26,376	431,740	2,699,439
All Employees:								
Total	No.	1,453	267	1,720	949	13	226	1,188
Male	"	982	190	1,172	625	11	158	794
Female	"	471	77	548	324	2	68	394
Total salaries and wages	\$	4,203,115	727,781	4,930,896	2,895,139	35,735	639,212	3,570,086

1. Includes one establishment in Newfoundland, one in Nova Scotia, and two in British Columbia.

TABLE 9. Monthly Employment of Wage-earners, 1951-1953

	1951			1952			1953		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
					Number				
January	1,011	540	1,551	1,039	484	1,523	755	412	1,167
February	1,048	564	1,612	1,108	483	1,591	762	403	1,165
March	1,035	575	1,610	1,254	544	1,798	718	364	1,082
April	1,047	558	1,605	1,275	569	1,844	713	357	1,070
May	1,044	557	1,601	1,219	548	1,767	701	334	1,035
June	1,051	551	1,602	1,227	522	1,749	691	318	1,009
July	1,025	532	1,557	1,014	467	1,481	610	261	871
August	1,011	546	1,557	821	393	1,214	546	233	779
September	997	553	1,550	890	458	1,348	583	280	863
October	1,029	554	1,583	843	398	1,241	596	301	897
November	1,068	553	1,621	859	387	1,246	616	305	921
December	989	479	1,468	754	402	1,156	614	306	920
Monthly average	1,030	549	1,579	1,026	473	1,499	657	324	981

TABLE 10. Estimated Capital, Repair and Maintenance Expenditures 1944-1953

(Thousands of dollars)

Year	Capital expenditures			Repair and maintenance expenditures			Capital, repair and maintenance expenditures		
	Con- struction	Machinery and equipment	Sub- total	Con- struction	Machinery and equipment	Sub- total	Con- struction	Machinery and equipment	Total
1944	9	85	94	499 ¹		499	593 ¹		593
1945	264	39	303	408 ¹		408	711 ¹		711
1946	275	65	340	469	—	469	744	65	809
1947	64	122	186	125	386	511	189	508	697
1948	30	455	485	104	407	511	135	861	996
1949	2	379	381	198	427	625	200	806	1,006
1950	—	181	181	227	347	574	227	528	755
1951	180	294	474	141	520	661	321	814	1,135
1952	78	473	551	154	461	615	232	934	1,166
1953 ²	53	595	648	126	384	510	179	979	1,158

1. Breakdown on Repairs for 1944 and 1945 are not available.

2. Figures for 1953 are preliminary.

TABLE 11. Mechanical Equipment, 1952 and 1953

	1952	1953
	No.	No.
Spindles which consumed fibre during the year	4,219	3,930
Spindles which consumed no fibre during the year	162	524
Twisting and doubling spindles	731	719
Looms	14	14
Braiding machines	209	234
Rope machines	170	167
Winding machines	364	324
Netting	8	9

TABLE 12. Power Installation, 1948 and 1953

Classes of power	1948		1953	
	Number of units	Horse-power capacity	Number of units	Horse-power capacity
Steam engines and steam turbines	1	200	7	186
Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than Diesel engines	1	100	—	—
Electric motors operated by purchased power:				
In use	689	9,132	1,259	8,348
Idle	38	839	175	1,691
Total Power used in Manufacturing	729	10,271	1,441	10,225
Boiler installation:				
In use	3	360	2	200
Idle	—	—	1	100

TABLE 13. Consumption of Fuel and Electricity, 1948 and 1953

Kinds of fuel	Unit of measure	1948		1953	
		Quantity	Cost value at factory	Quantity	Cost value at factory
			\$		\$
Bituminous coal	ton	3,769	40,342	3,027	38,297
Sub-bituminous coal	"	—	—	580	8,085
Gasoline (including gasoline used cars and trucks)	Imp. gal.	7,157	2,101	10,734	4,083
Kerosene or coal oil	"	497	112	90	23
Fuel oil	"	6,808	1,182	81,937	10,230
Other fuel	—	—	15,566	—	14,719
Total cost of fuel	—	—	59,303	—	75,437
Electricity purchased (including service charges)	Kw. H	12,064,650	107,811	10,913,982	130,159
Total cost of fuel and electricity	—	—	167,114	—	205,596

List of Cordage, Rope and Twine Manufacturers Operating in Canada in 1953

Name of firm	Location	Products made
Newfoundland:		
Colonial Cordage Company Ltd.	St. John's	Rope, twine, yarn
Nova Scotia:		
Plymouth Cordage Co. of Canada, Ltd. (H.O. Welland, Ontario)	Wyse Road, Dartmouth	Binder twine, Rope, twine
Quebec:		
Bolduc, The C.N. Manufacturing Co.	12 College St., Lennoxville	Rope
Dominion Wire Rope & Cable Co., Ltd. (Synthetic Cordage Div.)	175 St. Joseph St., Lachine	Rope, twine
Kenyon William, & Sons (Canada) Ltd.	Cabana & Berard Sts., Granby	Rope
Ontario:		
Algonquin Line & Thread Co. Ltd.	6 Bartlett Avenue, Toronto	Fishing lines, etc.
Brantford Cordage Co. Ltd., The	111 Brant St., Brantford	Baler twine, binder twine, rope, twine
Brooks Limited, John S.	722 Broad St., E., Dunville	Fish netting
Derrett Cordage Co.	6 Bartlett Avenue, Toronto	Twines, lines
Doon Twines Ltd.	50 Ottawa St., S., Kitchener	Baler twine, binder twine, rope, twine, yarn.
International Harvester Co. of Canada Ltd.	208 Hillyard Street, Hamilton	Baler twine, binder twine
Plymouth Cordage Co. of Canada Ltd.	229 Plymouth Road, Welland	Baler twine, binder twine, rope, twine,
British Columbia:		
Canada Western Cordage Co., Ltd. (H.O. 20 Water St., Vancouver)	Braid St., New Westminster	Rope, twine
First Vancouver Fish Net & Twine Factory...	121 Main St., Vancouver	Fish nets, twines

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