

REVIEW OF THE HEMP MARKET

By T. H. SMITH

Vice-President and General Manager,
Macleod & Company



This report covers the market for Manila hemp for the month of February, 1928, with statistics up to and including February 27th, 1928.

U. S. Grades: The market in New York opened dull with a downward tendency, prices being difficult to quote, there being a complete absence of interest by buyers at any

where near the closing prices for the previous month. In the first week of February sellers appeared on the basis of F, 13-1 4 cents; I, 11-5 8 cents; J1, 10-3 8 cents. Buyers showed but little interest, the small business transacted being 1 8 cent to 1 2 cent under nominal prices quoted by sellers. Market ruling weak, published quotations soon declined to E, 14-1 2 cents; F, 12-7 8 cents; I, 11-1 2 cents; J1, 10-1 4 cents; S2, 11-1 8 cents; sellers with buyers still holding off for lower prices. The market continued dull throughout the first three weeks of the month declining to D, 15-1 8 cents; E, 14-1 4 cents; F, 12-3 8 cents; I, 10-7 8 cents; J1, 9-7 8 cents; S1, 12-1 4 cents; S2, 10-3 4 cents. Buyers remained apathetic even at these prices. Toward the close of the month a further decline was finally checked by buyers showing some interest basis D 15-1 2 cents; E, 13-5 8 cents; F, 12 cents; I, 10-3 4 cents; J1, 9-3 4 cents; S1, 11-7 8 cents; S2, 10-5 8 cents. Improvement, however, was only temporary with sellers soon appearing willing to shade these last quotations. A moderate business resulted in popular grades and the market finally closed with export houses offering sparingly basis F, 11-3 4 cents; I, 10-1 2 cents; J1, 9-7 8 cents.

High-grade hemp of reputable quality while nominally showing a decline in price in sympathy with other grades, is still scarce.

The Manila market for U. S. grades was idle at the beginning of the month with a weakish undertone. Business was transacted at somewhat irregular prices: D, P'36; E, P'34 to P'33; F, P'31 to P'30; G, P'19.4 to P'18.6; H, P'18.4 to P'17.6; I, P'27 to P'26; J1, P'23.4 to P'23; S1, P'30 to P'29.4; S2, P'26.6 to P'25; S3, P'24 to P'23. A moderate business was transacted at slightly easier prices until by mid February prompt hemp was selling at F, P'29.4; G, P'19.4; H, P'18.4; I, P'25.4; J1, P'22.4; S1, P'28.4; S2, P'25; S3, P'23 to perhaps 4 reales less on some grades. The market continued to decline though not rapidly enough to keep in line with the decline in the U. S. and after a fair business being done at gradually declining prices, market touched the basis of F, P'28; G, P'18.6; H, P'17.6; I, P'24; J1, P'22.4; S1, P'27; S2, P'23.2; S3, P'22.4. By the end of the third week prices slumped to F, P'27; G, P'18.6; H, P'17.4; I, P'23.4; J1, P'21.6; S1, P'26; S2, P'22.6; S3, P'21.6. The market was naturally quickly sympathetic to the slight signs of steadiness in the U. S. and export houses refused to encourage dealers in their firmer attitude, market closing on nominal basis: D, P'34; E, P'32.4; F, P'27.2; G, P'18.4; H, P'17.2; I, P'23.4; J1, P'21.4; S1, P'26; S2, P'22.4 to P'23; S3, P'22 to P'22.4.

U. K. Grades: The London market ruled steady in the early days of the month basis: J2, £40; K, £36.10; L1, £35; L2, P'£33.15; M1, £33.15; M2, £31.15; DL, £30.10. The market continued quiet with buyers being in evidence J2, £39.15; K, £36.5; L1, £34.10; L2, £33; M1, £33; M2, £31.5, but shipping houses were reluctant to sell at these prices and the tone turned firmer with quite a fair business passing at J2, £40.10; K, £37.10 to £37; L1, £34.15; L2, £33.15; M1, £33.15; M2, £31.10. At these prices sellers showed more desire to get on with



Rope and Cordage

Twines and Yarns

Transmission Rope

Bolt and Yacht Rope

Drilling Cables

Bull Rope
Whale Lines

Lath Yarn
Bale Rope
Hide Rope
Hay Rope

Johnson Pickett Rope Co.

106 Calle Lara
Manila, Philippines

business; buyers retired and a dull tone set in with a downward tendency, there being free sellers at J2, £41; K, £36.15 to £36.5; L1, £34.15 to £34.5; L2, £33.5 to £33; M1, £33.5 to £33; M2, £31.5; DL, £30.10; DM, £29 with buyers taking no interest in these quotations. The third week of the month the market still reflected a dull tone with J2 at £39.15; K, £35.5 to £35; L1, £33; L2, £32; M1, £32; M2, £30 to perhaps 5/- per ton less all around. A slightly better tone set in the last week of the month, market closing with buyers at last prices quoted. Quotations given are for shipments in various positions up to June.

The Manila market for U. K. grades opened nominally basis J2, P'19.2; K, P'17.2; L1, P'16.4; L2, P'15.6; M1, P'15.4; M2, P'15, but business was soon transacted in Manila at J2, P'19.2; K, P'17.2; L1, P'16.2; L2, P'15.4; M1, P'15.4; M2, P'14.2 to 4 reales lower on some grades. By mid February business was done at slightly higher prices with however regular export houses quoting J2, P'19; K, P'17; L1, P'16; L2, P'15; M1, P'15; M2, P'14.2; DL, P'14; DM, P'13. Here and there parcels changed hands at slightly higher prices. On the 22nd prices paid were basis J2, P'19; K, P'16.6; L1, P'15.6; L2, P'14.4; M1, P'14.4; M2, P'13.4; DL, P'13.2; DM, P'13. At the close there were buyers in Manila at J2, P'18.4; K, P'16.2; L1, P'15.2; L2, P'14.2; M1, P'14.2; M2, P'13.4; DL, P'13.2; DM, P'13 with a possibility of slightly higher prices on prompt parcels.

Japanese enquiry has been at low prices and can scarcely be considered competitive with prices ruling in London, taking the latter market on the average selling prices of the month.

Freight rates remain unchanged.

Statistics: We give below figures for the period extending from January 31st to February 27th, 1928.

	1928	1927
Stocks on January 1st....	139,632	112,382
Receipts to Feb. 27th....	203,080	195,771
Stocks on Feb. 27th....	145,369	110,110

Shipments

To the—	1928		1927	
	To Feb. 27, 1928 Bales	To Feb. 28, 1927 Bales	To Feb. 27, 1928 Bales	To Feb. 28, 1927 Bales
United Kingdom.....	61,921	62,142	61,921	62,142
Continent of Europe.....	26,289	20,987	26,289	20,987
Atlantic U. S.....	36,228	53,813	36,228	53,813
U. S. via Pacific.....	9,760	11,806	9,760	11,806
Japan.....	44,067	33,380	44,067	33,380
Elsewhere and Local....	19,078	15,915	19,078	15,915
			197,345	198,043

NEW ACCOMMODATIONS

Travelers will no doubt be glad to learn that the building housing the Davao club has been completely remodeled and rebuilt and now ranks favorably with any provincial club building. The alterations include a new family room, one new single room and the moving of the famous bar and billiard room to new quarters down stairs. The work has been done under the able direction of Mr. D. M. Burchfield.

Owners of the Mt. Apo Plantation, located at Lawa, Davao Gulf, have closed a contract with Capt. Thomas J. Keeney, president of the Pacific Dehydrating Company, for the installation of a two-ton capacity copra drier at their plantation. The new plant is expected to produce a much higher grade of copra than any of the driers heretofore and is attracting considerable attention inasmuch as it is possible to pare the nuts before drying and make it into a first class food product for human consumption.

O. J. Gobel is now in charge of the Davao branch of the Pacific Commercial Company, relieving F. W. Scheben who has been transferred to Zamboanga.

R. F. Garriz, well known advertising man of Manila, has organized and established The Advertising Bureau, Inc., with offices in the Arias Building. He is president and manager of the company, and O. F. Wang, also well known in the advertising field here, is associated with him. The Journal wishes the company success.