

# POTASH

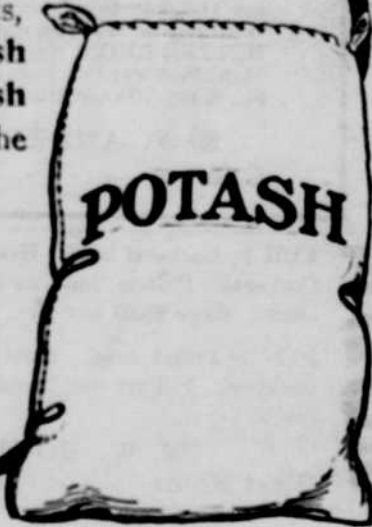
is the  
Salt of the Earth

It is also the most abundant in the plant. Unless it has enough Potash in soluble form at the right time it cannot use the other plant food you or your soil may supply. Take no chances. Tie to facts, not to theories. Many soils need only Potash to raise big crops. All soils need Potash sooner or later. Begin to use it before the crops starve. Do it now, for

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Urge your fertilizer dealer to carry Potash salts in stock. You and he will have no difficulty in buying them if you will write to us about it.

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Continental Bldg., Baltimore, Md.



## 100 Bushels Corn Per Acre

You can build up your farm to produce 100 bushels of corn per acre, and even a bigger yield by systematic rotation, careful seed selection and good plowing with good implements, proper cultivation, and

### By Using Virginia-Carolina Fertilizers

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Baltimore, Md.  
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Shreveport, La.



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## Fertilizer

Before buying it will pay you to investigate

High Grade **Paragon**

High Grade **Half & Half**

High Grade **16% Acid Phosphate**

Manufactured By

**CANTON OIL MILL COMPANY,**  
CANTON, MISSISSIPPI.

We use only Cotton Seed Meal and High Grade Acid Phosphate in our fertilizers.

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(ADVERTISEMENT.)

### THE HUMAN SIDE OF TWINE

When we drive home from the implement dealer with our little load of Sisal twine for the coming harvest, we do not often realize that we are giving that twine its final lift on the journey of many thousands miles which it has taken months to make. Seldom do we appreciate when we give it its final resting place in the binder box that the first hands which touched it were those of a Maya boy or girl in far off tropical Yucatan whose ancestors were a great civilized people, with temples and literature, centuries before Columbus came ashore in his red velvet suit.

Or, if it is Manila twine, the first step in its long pilgrimage was under the guidance of a bare-footed, brown-skinned little Filipino savage, who perhaps never heard of a binder, and whose views of agricultural implements are a pointed stone or a crooked stick.

Yet, if it were not for the industry of these two widely separated nations, the farmers of this rich state would still be obliged to bind their grain with old-fashioned wire, which never worked or with untrustworthy cotton strand. In fact, the problem of twine was the problem of successful binding for years after the self-binder was an established fact.

It took many years and thousands of dollars to eliminate this primary drawback to the early grain growers of the country. One manufacturer alone spent \$15,000 trying to make twine out of grass, \$35,000 using paper as a substitute, and \$43,000 on straw—all in the end to be discarded as unsatisfactory. Then, after searching the world with a close tooth rake, as it were, it was found that two fibres could be made to do the work—Manila and Sisal. The Manila—long, soft and even—had generally been used in multiple strands for making cable and cordage; while the Sisal—strong, pliable and smooth—was found to lend itself perfectly for the manufacture of a single-strand cord, such as the self-binder necessitated.

Then commenced a merry struggle between the distant races for the honor of supplying the twine which was to make His Majesty, the American farmer, the greatest food producer in the world. At first, owing to the established position of the Manila hemp trade caused by the cordage industry, the little brown brother in the Philippines forged ahead, but he made no progress in his methods of production, using the knife and block and other simple methods followed by his primitive forefathers in extracting the fibre. It was soon seen that Sisal would either be the ultimate material to supply this demand or the demand would not be filled. At this point of the race a number of clever, aggressive Yucatecs, educated in the sciences in this country and abroad, sprang into the game. They saw the future commercial possibilities of the neglected Sisal plant. At their own expense they built railroads into the arid, dry territories where henequen grew. They invented new machines, capable of cleaning 100,000 leaves a day, and soon began to compete on an equal basis with the Manila fibre.

The Spanish-American war temporarily advanced the price of Manila fibre to such an extent that good grades of Manila fibre commanded a price which was practically prohibitive for binder twine. Therefore, manufacturers of binder twine concentrated their energy and genius in the production of a perfect binder twine from Sisal. This required some adjustment of machinery and some change in methods, but manufacturers of twine succeeded so that the twine made from Sisal has for some years been as perfect and satisfactory as any binder twine ever made from any material. This has resulted in the increased use of Sisal, until during the past season not less than 85 per cent, and possibly 90 per cent, of the material which went into the manufacture of binder twine in the United States was Sisal fibre.

First-class binder twine can be made from high-grade Manila fibre, but it is very difficult to make even a reasonably good article of binder twine from low-grade Manila. Before the American occupation of the Philippine Islands, the Spanish officials at times exerted their arbitrary power for the purpose of maintaining the quality of the fibre which was produced by the natives. It was not an uncommon thing for the governor of a district to seize a quantity of inferior fibre and publicly burn it in the middle of the plaza. This was an object lesson to the natives to produce better grades of fibre. However, since the Americans have taken possession of the Philippine Islands, no authority has been exercised and no influence exerted by the officials in connection with the quality of fibre. The result is a very much greater proportion of low-grade fibres than has ever been produced in previous years. Unquestionably, large quantities of this low-grade fibre will be used in the manufacture of binder twine for the harvest of 1910, and it is unnecessary to state that those who attempt to use twine made from this low-grade Manila fibre will have troubles of their own.

There may never be a famine in twine, but it is rather to the farmer's interest always to keep a weather eye on the future, and in this particular instance to secure his twine supply, whether it be Sisal or Manila, at as early a date as possible.