

A Test for Manilla Rope.

In view of the value and importance of a good

lighted and thoroughly burned out. There were then three piles of ashes of entirely dissimilar appearance. The manilla-hemp produced an ash having a dull grayish-black appearance; the sisal hemp left an ash of a whitish-gray color, while the combined manilla and sisal fiber gave a grizzly white and black ash, reminding one of nothing so much as a man's beard when turning from black to gray. The presence of the two fibers was distinctly apparent by the different colors of the ashes. We have thus a very simple solution to a very important difficulty, and it is now open to any one, whether a merchant or the owner or commander of a vessel, to test the rope which may be supplied to him, and to ascertain for himself whether or not pure manilla-hemp alone has been used in its manufacture, always assuming, of course, that pure manilla rope was ordered by him.

rope, it is to be deplored that hitherto there has been no simple and ready method of detecting the presence of an inferior fiber, like sisal, in a rope presumably made of pure manilla-hemp. The difficulty of detection, however, now no longer exists, as has just been illustrated by Frost Brothers, the old established rope manufacturers, of Shadwell, England. The test

is as simple and as easy of performance as can well be conceived. Messrs. Frost produced three pieces of 3-inch rope, one made from pure manilla-hemp, one from pure sisal, and one from an equal mixture of manilla and sisal, the fibers having been carefully intermixed before the yarns were spun. Each of the ropes were untwisted, and from a strand of each was taken a piece of yarn about six inches in length. Each piece of yarn was untwisted and separated into loose fibers, which were separately rolled between the palms of the hands, producing three balls of each about the size of a large walnut. These three balls were then placed on an iron fire shovel and each