The wire is delivered in rings of 60–70 pounds, containing 800–1000 feet of the smaller, and 600–800 feet of the larger size.

Before being used, each ring receives three coats of oil, by dipping it first in a tank with raw, and then twice in one with boiled but cold linseed oil. Each coat of oil must be perfectly dry, before a new one is put on. After the oil has thoroughly hardened, the rings are ready to be spliced.

The splice used formerly for iron wire consisted in tapering the ends of the wires for about 2½–3 inches, laying the flat sides upon each other and wrapping the whole with thin wire. By a blow on a specially prepared steel mould, the cir-

sidersably the required ultimate strength, being in average 172,000 pounds per square inch. After two strands were completed with this wire, it was concluded to increase the size of the wire to 11 feet to the pound, equal to No. 7 Birmingham gauge. This wire possesses a little smaller breaking strength, averaging about 170,000 pounds per square inch, but greater ductility. The principal advantage however, is, that instead of 332 wires, only 282 are necessary for one strand, which gives a saving in the time of manufacture of nearly one-sixth.