BUILDING NEW FENCES

There is a whole lot to the question of fencing, and every farmer knows it. Once upon a time an eminent jurist found something that was new to him when he was questioning a witness upon the matter of fences. "A fence for a five acre lot will be the same size, no matter what the shape of the lot, will it not?" he inquired of the witness. But the witness disagreed. To illustrate the point, he took a piece of string from his pocket, knotted the two ends together, and placed the string upon his fingers, holding it up in a form nearly square. "This string, your honor," he said, "is about eight inches each way, and is therefore about 32 inches long, while it encloses a space of about 64 square inches. But if you shape it this way (making it about twelve inches long by about four inches wide), it will still be the same length, but it will only enclose 48 square inches of area." And for one of the few times during a long career, the judge had to admit that the laugh was on him.

Fencing the 100 Acre Farm.

In many portions of Ontario farms of the hundred acre size predominate, and they vary from an outside dimension of 40 rods by 400 rods, to 80 rods by 200 rods, seldom approaching more nearly to an equilateral outside form than the latter. In such a shape of farm, however high the outside line fences may run, considerable cost may still be saved by planning for square fields inside of these line fences, provided that these will work out for convenience in other respects. Farm planning is a matter for the exercise of considerable study, and each farm presents varying aspects of the case for individual consideration.

About the stables, and barns, house, orchard, garden, and farm premises generally, there is need and reason for intelligent arrangement. Convenience here means more by many times than in the planning of the rest of the farm with its fields, lanes, etc. Every little bit of added convenience means so much labor avoided, not for once, but for many times, and it works for efficiency, not in one, or two, but in many ways, and throughout years of time.

About the house premises, fences are wanted, and they should be planned wisely and well. If house and orchard are adjoining, it is best to have fences so placed that live stock may be allowed in the orchard without at the same time approaching too close to the house or interfering with the flower garden. In regard to a vegetable garden, many prefer to have one of the permanent order, close to the house, while others are content to grow most or all of the vegetables in rows beside the root crops on the field. As a general thing, it is quite possible to grow many of the vegetables in the field, but it is equally true that many others, and especially those requiring earlier planting, cannot be grown in this way.

The Vegetable Garden.

Close to the house, close enough to be very convenient at all times, should be placed the vegetable garden. Of course, a southern exposure and a southern slope, with good protection upon the north side is the best, if it can be planned for. If, at the same time, it is possible to have it close to the stable, but protected from poultry, as well as from north winds, so much the better. Like the fields where economy of labor is developed to a high degree, the shape of the vegetable garden should be long and narrow. This formation permits of the use of horse-power for plowing instead of digging, of harrowing and discing, instead of pulverizing the soil by hand, to say nothing of hauling the manure spreader in at one end and out at the other—all of which means the saving of a world of labor and of time. To facilitate all of this, it is best to have ample provision made in the construction of the fence. At each end of the long, narrow, vegetable garden should be placed wide swinging gates, and if the garden is to be a large one it is best to have the gates double, so as to open up wide enough to permit horses to go right through, plowing from end to end and turning outside. Up-to-date wire or iron gates will make ideal provision for this. It is one of the points of possible convenience in the matter of planning the fencing of the farm.

Along the sides of the vegetable garden should be placed fences that are strong and good and tight at the bottom. They should be close enough to keep poultry out. There are times when poultry are very useful in the garden, and there are times when their room is worth much more than their company. Birds of the larger breeds, if well fed, will not do much harm in a garden, but it is not always the case with smaller poultry, and these are the hardest to keep out.

Along each side of this vegetable garden is the right place to plant raspberry, gooseberry, currant and other bushes. They will help to shelter the garden without at the same time shading it too much.

The Flower Garden.

What flowers can do to brighten up the home would fill a big volume. They are worth cultivating, growing and protecting, many times over, and the best protection for them is a good fence.

Ornamental wire, or fences of concrete, are worth the trouble and worth the cost. But at the same time a good wire fence makes an efficient protection and affords an ideal place for running, climbing vines and plants, and ornamental foliage and flowers, all the way from sweet peas to clematis. Even grapes may be planted and cared for with success. Other flowering shrubs may be planted. It is simply wonderful what may be done with a good wire fence, a spade, a rake and a hoe, a seed catalogue, and a wagon load of rocks and stones. It is a case of a little bit of taste, a little bit of labor, and big results—provided that the adequate protection be afforded in the shape of a good, well-made fence.

About the Orchard.

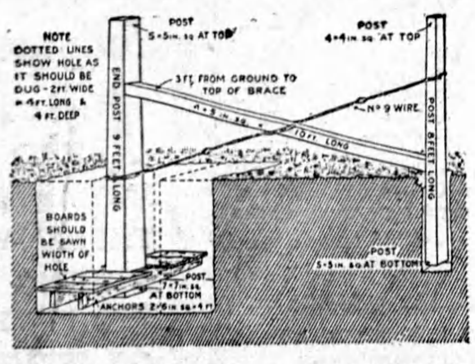
Fences about the orchard should be high enough and close enough and should be provided with gates placed with an eye to the hauling away of dead trees and branches, of the work of getting right all the way around every tree with the sprayer, and also with the ladder, for the work of rescuing the apples. Such a planning of the fence would provide for cultivation, and would prove a protection to the roots under the sod, as well as the branches above.

Fencing the Barnyard.

In planning for better fences about the stables and barns, one of the first considerations is a realization of the dangers and waste of the old system of dumping the manure from the stable right in front of the stable doors. There is a better plan than this—that of installing a litter carrier—and some day you will adopt it. This makes it possible to keep the yard in front of the stables clean and clear of obstacles of all kinds, and promotes cleanliness inside the stable as well as out. With the litter carrier the manure may be taken further afield, and deposited upon a solid bottom, that will conserve the liquid manure, and keep filth away from the stable. This yard should be wide and roomy, but should come in close enough to the stables at the sides to make it practical to close it up with gates and thus prevent animals from simply running round and round the premises when it is desired to drive them into the stable. There should also be ample room at the rear of the barn to make room for teams, wagons and other implements—not to be left out for weeks at a time—but to be put, when necessary, where live stock cannot get entangled amongst them.

That Useful Paddock.

Next should come the question of a number of paddocks. These should be adjacent to the stable yards, should be of good size, and fenced so well that neither bull, stallion, nor boar, can make the slightest dint upon them. They call for strong posts, heavy wire, at least No. 9, which is capable of withstanding a strain of 1,500 to 1,800 lbs. per strand, and there should be at least a height of 11 bars, with stays at least 12 to every rod. Gates and posts should be exceptionally solid. There are few things that prove of more constant and permanent convenience about the farm than two or three or more of these paddocks.



The Corner-Post is well named the "Anchor" of the modern wire fence.

What Kind of Fence.

With the passing of the old rail fence, the subject of replacing them to the best advantage has come in for a lot of experiment and study. To-day the most popular fence of all is the wire fence. If it be made strong enough it is the most efficient, cost considered, of all. But it is a mistake to use light wire, or wire of inferior material. The wire that is at least one-eighth of an inch in thickness, of good steel, and well galvanized, well braced with stays, strung upon good posts, well set, and with solid anchor posts at the corners, partakes of the enduring solidity and strength of an iron wall. If the wires are strung close enough at the ground, and high enough at the top, it will afford a protection such as the old-time rail fences never could. It takes an old-time farmer to tell of the wet, windy night, the fences blown down, the cattle and horses in the fields of growing grain, the hogs that found the holes could not be kept out, and the tricky old cow or ox that could life the rails off the top, one at a time, and make a road for itself and the rest to follow. With the well-built wire fences of to-day such experiences are little known or understood. Our pasture fields are no longer graced by the sight of the colts wearing "pokes," cattle with their heads tied down, others with boards over their eyes to prevent them "jumping" as the "breachy" ones used to do.

"Anchoring" the Fence.

To-day wire fencing has reached a state of high efficiency. The fence that is generally adopted as standard is one that is about 50 inches in height, and a little bit more is still better. For ordinary field fencing a fence that is hog-tight and bull-proof is one of nine to ten strands, of about ⅛-inch wire. The first wire may be close to the ground, the next one three inches above it, the third one three inches higher, the next wire four inches higher, the next five inches, next six inches, and the remaining four ranging seven inches, eight inches and nine inches apart. A good fence may be built by dropping one wire and bringing the fence only three inches lower. Fences that are still more open are often built, and are serviceable, but it is a fact in fence construction that the good fence remains when the little bit extra cost is forgotten.

Corner posts are well named the "anchor" posts of the modern fence. Upon their being well placed and well braced depends a great deal of the efficiency and durability of the fence. These should either be of good, solid cedar, of heavy reinforced concrete, or a well-made and efficient metal post. They should have a solid platform at the bottom, big enough and broad enough. The hole made for them should be dug four feet long and crosswise of the run of the fence. They should be four feet deep and about two feet in width. This hole should indicate the size of the crosspieces that are to be spiked to the bottom of the corner post and of the platform to be placed upon them. The crosspieces should be of 2" x 6" and four feet long, morticed into and spiked to the post. Upon them should be placed short boards, and the whole set in and loaded with stones and filled up with earth. The next post to this should be a good solid post, set not more than 10 or 12 feet away, and with a brace from close to the ground at the second post, and extending to a point close to the top of the corner port. This should be cross-braced in the opposite way from the bottom of the corner post to close to the top of the second post with a strong wire brace. It is better to spend a whole day getting a corner post right in the first place than to have trouble with it afterward.

Regular fence posts may be made of cedar, of reinforced concrete, or of iron. Many manufacturers make iron posts, carefully made and designed to give good service, and treated to withstand the action of the elements. These have many features to recommend them. They cost no more than good cedar posts, if these have to be bought. They may be driven into the ground with a sledge, thus saving the labor of digging post holes. They are convenient, as they usually have some convenient plan for attaching wires in an effective way. Manufacturers usually recommend them as being good for twelve years or so, a period very often equal to the life of a wooden post.

Concrete posts are of all the most enduring. When properly reinforced with iron in the centre they are very strong, and if properly placed they can be made to remain firmly in place in the ground.

Iron posts, on the other hand, make a fence more or less portable. They may be pulled up and the fence moved over to permit of cultivating the fence bottom, at the cost of little comparative labor, only the resetting of the corner posts being heavy. Each has its advantages, and these are the matters for the consideration of every farmer—questions that he must solve for himself.

Savages of Brazil.

In his account of the Roosevelt-Rondon Scientific Expedition to unknown Brazil, Mr. L. E. Miller describes a primitive tribe known as the Nhambiquara who probably represent the lowest type of civilization to be found anywhere on the South American continent. "As we drew up on the river bank," writes Mr. Miller, "the natives gathered about and stared at us curiously, but betrayed no hostile feelings. Colonel Rondon had but recently succeeded in establishing amicable relations with them. On his first visits to the country, numbers of his men had been slain by their poisoned arrows, and they had resented his every step into their stronghold; but having been persistently treated with kindness, they have learned to look upon him as a friend, and some of them even appeared to be heartily glad to see him. In stature the Nhambiquara are short, but well-built, and of a very dark brown color. Clothes are absolutely unknown to them, and virtually the only ornaments in their possession are strings of beads that they had received from Colonel Rondon. Some of the men have the nose and upper lip pierced, and wear pieces of slender bamboo in the perforations. Their huts, or malocas, are rude structures of grass or leaves, and they cultivate small areas of mandioca; but wild fruits, game, and wild honey form the principal articles of their diet. Both in hunting and in warfare they use bows six feet tall, made of palm wood, and long bamboo arrows. Frequently hunting parties go on long tramps through the jungle, subsisting entirely on the fruits of their prowess. At night they build a rude lean-to of branches, eat the game, which they roast in a roaring fire, and then stretch themselves on the bare ground to sleep."

Rather Tame.

Guest (departing from party — "We've had a simply delightful time."

Hostess—"I'm so glad. At the same time, I regret that the storm kept all of our best people away."

GERMAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR ATTEND COMRADE'S FUNERAL

The picture shows the funeral of a prisoner-of-war who died at one of the detention camps near the mouth of the Thames, and was buried with full military honors. His comrades were permitted to follow the body to the grave and act as pall bearers.

ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD

Dainty Dishes.

Banana Pie.—Mix one egg and the yolk of another. Add one cupful of sugar, two tablespoonfuls flour, a little butter, a scant cupful milk and a banana mashed fine. Bake in one crust and use white of egg for frosting on top.

Waldorf Salad.—Peel and slice two large apples. Cut into dice. Use the same amount of celery and add a handful of walnut meats chopped fine. Pour over a rich mayonnaise dressing and serve in a large punch bowl garnished with lettuce leaves.

Potato Soup.—Pare four raw potatoes and cut in cubes. Add water to fill the pan or chafing dish. Cook until the potatoes are soft. Put in a few slices of onion, season with salt and pepper. Strain before serving.

Creamed Ham.—Chop fine one cupful of ham and mix in four tablespoonfuls of grated cheese. Melt one and a half tablespoonfuls butter and blend with equal amount of flour. Put in a pan and stir slowly a cupful and a half sweet milk. Season with a little salt and pepper. Lay in the ham and stir until the cheese is melted.

Cream Sponge.—Dissolve one and a half tablespoonfuls of granulated gelatin in two tablespoonfuls cold water. Beat in two cupfuls cream until stiff. Fold in one-half cupful powdered sugar. Add the gelatin and beat a few minutes until well mixed. Flavor with a teaspoonful of vanilla. Turn into a mold and set in ice box until cold.

Celery in Butter Sauce. — Wash three bunches of celery and cut in good size pieces. Boil in salted water until tender and drain. Beat the yolks of four eggs and add one-half cupful of the cooled water in which the celery was cooked. Season with two tablespoonfuls of lemon juice, one-half teaspoon salt and a dash of cayenne. Cook in a double boiler until thick and add one-half cupful of butter—using a little at a time. Arrange the celery on a hot dish and cover with the sauce.

Butterless, Eggless, Milkless Cake.—This is excellent in spite of its economy. It is made by boiling together for five minutes one cupful each of sugar and water, two cupfuls of raisins, one-third cupful of lard, one-third teaspoonful each of powdered cloves and nutmeg, one teaspoonful of powdered cinnamon and a pinch of salt. This must boil five minutes after it begins to bubble. Let cool and add one tablespoonful of soda dissolved in a little warm water and two cupfuls of flour sifted with one-half teaspoonful of baking powder. Bake in shallow tin, as the finished sheet of cake should not be more than one and one-half inches thick. Bake three-quarters of an hour in very slow oven.

Drinks for Hot Weather.

The first warm days are apt to bring with them a loss of appetite and an increase of thirst. So cool drinks served with luncheon, or in place of afternoon tea, are very acceptable.

However, it is often difficult to think of a variety of soft drinks, and one is apt to fall back on the old standbys—cold tea and lemonade. Here are a few suggestions to help out the housekeeper.

Grape juice is an excellent foundation for a variety of delicious drinks and has the advantage of being healthful. It is much more economical to put up your own grape juice each year, but if you have not done this a case of small bottles does not come high.

Grape juice and limes make one of the most deliciously cooling of summer drinks. Pour into a tall glass three or four fingers of grape juice, add the juice of two limes and a slice of peel; fill the glass with water to taste—a sparkling water is preferable—and serve ice cold.

To make a milk shake fill a glass two-thirds full of milk; sweeten it to taste with any fruit or with a little of some strained preserve if you have not the syrup. Fill the glass with cracked ice and shake together until well mixed.

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