

all disputes by arbitration in the Grange. Here we have equity; in the courts we have law, and law is neither more nor less than a dignified costly debate where the ablest pleader wins the field, where equity is often set aside, and law is a dignified sham. This may at first sight seem an insolent assertion; but look at some of our most noted cases, follow them from the lower to the superior courts and count the number of contrary rulings and say, if you dare, that law is anything but a costly farce. Take, for instance, the case in dispute between the two lumbermen on the little river Mississippi in the county of Lanark which gave rise to the case that was the means of getting a Provincial law framed to settle it and had been hanging in courts for years with various reversions till it reached the Privy Council, the Mercer case first decided in favour of the Government, next in the Court of Appeal in favour of young Mercer and next in the Privy Council against Mercer, and it is fair to say that if we had half-a-dozen higher Courts it might have got just so many more judgments for and against. With such facts plainly before us, is it not the height of folly for farmers to trust their cause to courts of law when they can have any little difficulty adjusted by arbitration by themselves in the Grange? We should follow the advice of the old councillor to his friend, who had a claim for £5. on a poor debtor. "My friend," said the lawyer, "did he say that he would not pay you?" "He did." "Well, my friend, just give him five pounds more to never say anything about it." That was a good advice which we should follow.

## CAUSE OF PETTY SUITS.

Many of the petty, annoying suits are originated through the instrumentality of magistrates of a meddlesome disposition who should be called justices of law rather than justices of the peace. It is a great misfortune for a community with such an officer and a few cranks to make employment for law courts where mercenary motives are the main features in the affair. A chief justice on a bench in Ontario once said that the cupidity of magistrates was the cause of more lawsuits than all other causes combined. We have many excellent exceptions where magistrates are not only real gentlemen but justices of the peace in deed as well as in name.

Where an unfit person occupies a place a note should be made of the fact and get the Provincial Grange to use its influence to get him removed.

A good, moral, conscientious, firm magistrate is a boon to the community in which he lives and wields a greater influence as a peacemaker than all other officers combined. We know such a one who has settled more difficulties and brought about as many reconciliations as some busy bodies have had cases.

SECRETARY,  
Prince Albert Div. Grange.

FOR THE RURAL CANADIAN.

## BARBED WIRE FENCES

The force of circumstances compels many to use barbed wire for fencing, and as the years advance it will become more general, notwithstanding the injury it inflicts on stock, especially horses. We must bow to the inevitable, but at the same time try to use the best means at our disposal to prevent cattle from getting entangled in, or running against the barbed wires. Some urge the use of a pole or scantling spiked on the tops of the posts, others the use of a board in the bottom, and some advise both scantling and board with wires between, but this last plan requires posts to be set not much farther than about eight feet apart, and with the scantling on top and board below makes the bill for lumber and posts quite an item. Though the pole on top may be useful in enabling cattle to see the

fence, it is not advisable where horses are kept, because they are much addicted to rubbing against and leaning over fences, and the most natural thing in the world is for them in striking at flies or pawing at each other, to stick the front leg between the wires, resulting in the serious injury of the animal; or, in maiming it for life. The only plan that suggests itself which is at once safe, cheap and generally practical, where posts are set a rod or so apart, is to use no pole or scantling on top but to staple the wires to a piece of board three or more inches wide between the posts. Then plough three furrows on each side and bank up between the posts three feet high, so that when it settles the bank will be at least thirty inches high. Seed down the surface well with timothy, clover, blue grass and white clover and beat it smooth with the back of the shovel so that the seed may get a good start. Such a fence will be comparatively safe as the bank will be visible and an animal running against it will touch it first with its nose and get a wholesome hint to pause and reflect. It is placed in such a position that it can hardly come against the wire with its body or legs, while the boards between the posts serve the double purpose of making the fence more visible, and keeping the wires from sagging should pigs or lambs try to go through.

S. D. G.

## TURNIPS AS FOOD FOR STOCK.

Editor, RURAL CANADIAN.

SIR,—As a subscriber I take the liberty of replying to an article by "W. F. C." in your RURAL about turnip raising. I saw it in the December No. and now it appears in the June No. also. He condemns the practice, first because they are no better than a drink of water out of the well; and again there is too much work growing them. Now, sir, what I am going to say about feeding turnips is what I have learned by personal experience, as I have been in the habit of raising and using them for over fifty years, and I have ever failed to find a substitute to make as much beef or mutton and of the same quality. For several seasons I fattened 600 sheep and on nothing but turnips; they got neither hay nor straw, and they would get so fat that it was hard to drive them to market. "W. F. C." will say that was in the Old Country. What of it? If they are water here they are water there also. "W. F. C." says they are just as well suited for this country as Indian corn is for England or Scotland. What a comparison! Who ever heard of Indian corn being raised in either country? On the other hand turnips can be raised in Canada to just as great perfection as they can in Scotland or England, and with less work. But I differ with the system laid down in THE RURAL. You want to make your drills from twenty-six to twenty-eight turnips apart, thin out to not less than ten turnips apart; sow two pounds to the acre to be sure of a crop. Again, sir, as I am no chemist, I am not able to distinguish between water and substance; but I have the practical experience which I think is better, as I have seen a good many resort to the corn raising but soon return to the turnips as better. Again, show me a farmer that raises from five to ten acres of turnips every season and I will show you one that is getting along well and also one that has his farm in good order. Now, sir, hoping you will find a nook in your RURAL to put this article, you will much oblige yours,

July 28th, 1885. A WESTMINSTER FARMER.

[We welcome a Westminster farmer to the columns of THE RURAL, and hope to see an ever increasing number of farmers give their practical experience on various topics for the benefit of our readers. No doubt, our esteemed contributor, "W. F. C." will make himself heard in defence of his theory.—ED. RURAL.]

## CELLARS ABOVE GROUND.

If I were building me a house, I would not have a cellar under it. I would have it above ground, adjoining the kitchen, and on a level with it.

I would build it thus for several reasons:

*First.* An underground cellar is too frequently a cause of sickness in the family that occupies the rooms above it. Decaying vegetables give a poisonous element to the air, and the constant breathing of it enervates, and often brings to beds of sickness and death those who little think of the danger they are in from this source. Dozens of cases of typhoid fever, diphtheria, and other diseases of an epidemic character are often directly traceable to the unsanitary conditions which prevail in the cellar.

*Second.* A cellar which necessitates going up and down stairs obliges the housewife to spend a great amount of time and labour that might be avoided and saved, and all women will tell you that nothing wears on them more than climbing stairs.

*Third.* An underground cellar is very inconvenient. You cannot get vegetables into it with the ease you could store them in a room above ground. When you come to clean it you find you have a hard task before you, and on account of the difficulties in the way, cellars are often left half-cleaned, and their poisonous work goes on the year around. The above-ground cellar, with a door opening from it into the yard, allows you to remove all refuse easily, and it can be mopped out, scrubbed, and white-washed easily. There is never that dampness about it that you almost invariably find in cellars under a house.

A cellar above-ground is one of the most convenient things a housewife can imagine. There are no stairs to climb. You simply go from one room to another. A friend's wife said to me the other day, when showing me over her new house: "I did not realize how much time it took to go cellar and back, in the course of a day, until we had our new cellar built, so that we could step into it from the kitchen. It seems as if half my work was saved. I wonder why men have stuck to the old fashioned cellar so long? If they desire to make the work of the women as light as possible, they will always build the cellar above ground. It saves so many steps," and my friend's wife breathed a sigh of relief as she looked at her new store room and thought of the old one. She seemed to take more pride in it than in her parlour.

The floor of every cellar should be made of cement. It can then be sponged off as easily as a plate, and kept clean and fresh. The wall should have a good coat of "hard finish," and every spring, after cleaning, it should have a good coat of whitewash to sweeten and purify it. By a proper arrangement of ventilators in the roof, all noxious odours can be carried off as formed, and the temperature of the room can be regulated to a nicety. In a cellar in which proper attention is paid to ventilation, there will be less danger of decay in vegetables than in the old style ones in which the damp air is kept confined.

How to build these cellars in such a way as to make them frost-proof is something the mechanic and the mason can tell you more about than I can. But that they are as much more convenient than the underground cellar as the modern lamp is superior to the "tallow dip" of old days is evident.—E. E. R.

SHEEP culture has many advantages over cattle raising, also dairying. There is a necessity of sheep husbandry for meat production. The rapid increase of population, the scarcity and increasing price of beef, the inferiority of pork in healthfulness and nutrition, tend to the increase of mutton eating.