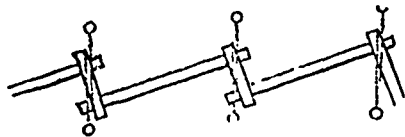


this plan may be adopted. It is explained by the subjoined cut. Logs thirty feet in length, may be used



for the two first tiers, and may be rolled to their places by the help of a team. When it is one or two logs high, it may be finished with heavy poles.

There are some styles of hurdle and cheap fencing, which may be used to advantage. Even the bush farmer ought to have a supply of hurdles for temporary cattle and sheep pens.

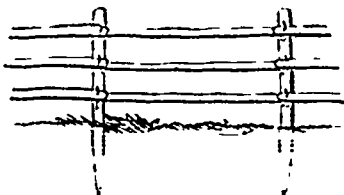


Fig. 1

Fig. 1 shows a cheap temporary fence, intended for confining cattle or horses only. It is made of common split rails, attached to posts by means of annealed fence-wire, thrust through half-inch auger holes made for the purpose, and secured by a twist. One good rail will make two posts, which are set about 20 inches deep into crowbar holes. The meeting ends of the rails are placed on opposite sides of the post, and both are held by one wire, as shown by Figure 2.

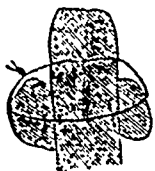


Fig. 2

Another fence, more portable in form, sometimes used on Western prairies, where winds are violent, is represented by Fig. 3. It is very cheap, though not



Fig. 3

neat in appearance. Short sticks are mortised as represented, to form a support, to which common fence rails, or poles, are nailed. A rider is added without nailing, as exhibited in Fig. 4. It stands firmly upon the ground, and may be moved with great facility. It is as easily made as the preceding

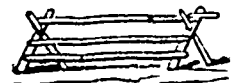


Fig. 4

ing, and more durable

Work for April.

THE tug of farm work begins this month. First comes the care of the fences. These should be kept in thorough order, that there may be no danger of unruly cattle breaking in upon the growing crops. It is a good plan to renew a portion of the fencing of a farm year by year, so that it may all undergo a constant process of renovation. A common evil in early spring, is letting cattle and horses upon meadows and pastures, while the ground is wet and springy. Avoid this by all means. It injures the roots of grass, and while there is but little feed, only tantalizes the stock, and makes dry food distasteful. As soon as meadows are tolerably dry, loose and projecting stones should be picked off, and the land rolled. In these days of mowing machines, it is desirable to get meadows as clean and smooth as possible. Stumps should be got rid of, brush exterminated, and small hillocks levelled down. Let bare spots be re-seeded, and the whole top-dressed with fine well-rotted manure, unless indeed this was done last fall,—the preferable plan. Put in force Old Richard's advice this month. "Plough deep while sluggards sleep." Of all operations on the farm, ploughing most needs to be done well. Eschew all slovenly, skim-surface work, and be thorough about it. Let teams be well cared for,

as to feed, grooming, and attention generally. They should be gradually brought to hard work, so as to harden to it. Horses are very apt to get collar and harness galls in the spring; guard against this. A Dutch collar is often very useful, to change the bearing, and prevent wounds.

Clover may still be sown either alone, or on winter grain. Give it a dressing of plaster. Various crops as oats, barley, potatoes, are much affected by the time the seed is got into the ground. Sow as early as the state of the land will permit. Pull out rod root and cockle from among wheat. Now milch cows and their calves, will require attention. To rear calves, they must be kept clean and comfortable, fed regularly with nutritious diet, and sudden changes of food avoided. They do best if weaned early. Lambs must be cared for, and all needless exposure guarded against. The yearling ewes must not be neglected. Manure heaps should be turned over, compost arrangements made, and any well-rotted dung that may be on hand, carted out. Orchard and shade trees may be planted out as soon as the weather and land are favourable. Trees heeled-in last fall, may be delayed longer than trees left in the ground until the buds are swollen. Rainy days this month, should be improved in cleaning out cellars, putting tools in order, greasing waggons, oiling harness, preparing seed, squaring up account books, and reviewing plans for the busy season. In the garden, as well as on the farm, there will be enough to do this month. Early potatoes and peas should be planted so soon as the ground is free from frost. Rake off the coarse litter from asparagus beds, fork in fine manure, and give a dressing of salt. The beginning of April is early enough to start the hot-bed for family gardens in this climate. Cold frames and hand-glasses, will be found useful in starting and protecting tender plants. Remove the covering from strawberries, raspberries, grapes, and plant out cuttings of currants, gooseberries, &c. Early in the spring is the best time for setting out strawberries. If properly done, they will bear a little the same season. Draining, manuring, path-making, pruning, and transplanting should all be attended to as early as possible. In the garden, as well as on the farm, it is wisdom to take time by the forelock, and never put off until to-morrow what can be done to-day.

The Proper Time for Gathering Hops.

AN interesting discussion on the above subject, recently took place at a meeting of the Maidstone Farmers' Club, (England), with a brief notice of which, such of our readers as are hop growers and brewers, will feel themselves interested.

It appears that a great change has taken place in England, within the last quarter of a century, in regard to the degree of ripeness which hops should attain before being gathered. The constantly increasing amount of pale ale which the great brewers export to foreign countries, as well as the increased consumption at home, seems to have occasioned a corresponding demand for what are called pale hops, that is hops having a bright green or yellowish colour, that have not attained to perfect ripeness. Formerly, hops after getting thoroughly ripe, and having a brown colour, commanded good prices, but now such qualities are almost unsaleable, except at greatly reduced rates. Hence the temptation to growers to commence picking before their hops get fully ripe; a practice that seems of late years to have much increased, and which is attended with serious disadvantages. Hops, when gathered before perfect maturity or ripeness, lose considerably in weight, being as it is termed deficient in "condition." This, of course, is a positive loss to the grower,—and as the sequel will show, of no particular advantage to the brewer. Besides it is well known to practical men, that when the vines (bines) are cut before the fruit is well matured, the stock is liable to injury; that is, its reproductive powers become weakened, as is often

seen by the feeble state of the bine in the following year. Several instances of this kind, we observed both in Canada and the State of New York, last season.

In reply to a remark from a planter, that the brewers had set the fashion of so great an extension of pale ale, Mr. Baverstock, an experienced and extensive brewer remarked: "That the brewers had nothing to do with causing the bines to be cut so early, and would endeavour briefly to show this. At the time these letters were published he made extracts from different samples of hops of different growths in various parts of the country, and showed them to Mr. Punnett. The result led him to the conclusion that it was quite unnecessary to pick hops green, to produce pale beer. No matter how brown the hop grow—he did not care how brown it was, as long as it was brown from natural ripeness—it would produce as pale an extract as if it were picked before its time. The extract he made from the green hop was browner than that made from the hop fully ripened in the usual way. As to whether the brewer introduced pale ales in this country, that had very little to do with this question, but what they had to consider was, what was best for themselves, and he could safely say, as a large consumer, it was much better for them to leave their hops to ripen on the poles in the natural way—supposing they were growing independently of any disease—and they would produce quite as pale, and a much more wholesome beer, than as if they were prematurely picked. With regard to the origin of pale ale he might state that it was first made in Calcutta in 1822, and when it was introduced into this country the demand for it grew so rapidly that it was manufactured here, with great success. The colour, however, had nothing at all to do with the quality of the beer, which could be made just as good brown as pale."

Mr. Baverstock further mentioned that beer brewed from well ripened hops, kept better, and was of a superior flavour, and would be even of a paler colour, than from green, unripe hops.

"Mr. Hodson remarked that if any gentleman could devise a plan of so training the bine as to allow of the hops being picked without cutting the bine at all, he would be conferring a great boon on the agricultural interest; and he suggested whether it might not be advisable for the club to offer a prize for an essay on the subject. Messrs. Simmonds and Hunt were now trying the experiment of training hops on strings, but it remained to be seen how that plan answered. They all know from experience that when they had a bad crop of hops, and had not cut the bines until near Christmas they got a much better crop next year. When he first commenced growing hops, in the year 1859, he tested almost every day's picking throughout the season, and made decoctions each day. The picking lasted five weeks, and he found that those hops picked late in the season, and which therefore were riper, gave a somewhat paler liquor than those gathered in the commencement of the season. He was therefore greatly astonished to find that the merchants gave a much better price for the earlier picked hops, on account of their colour. It was to be regretted that some steps had not been taken to remove this erroneous impression, because they all knew that it was much better not to pick their hops until they were ripe.

Mr. Barling, an old and extensive hop grower, observed. "If it was a necessity for the farmers to produce a light hop to meet the demands of the market, right or wrong—and he maintained that it was wrong—how to do this with the least amount of damage to the plant. Having paid considerable attention to the means by which plants were nourished, and the mode in which they provided for the production of other plants like themselves, he had learnt that the sap which left the root of the plants had to undergo a process in the leaf, and until this operation had been performed it did not descend again through the various channels of the plant to the root. The sap traversed all portions of the plant, and while in the leaf the character of it was so completely altered that when it descended it fed all the plant system. The root did not grow from the earth, but from the leaf, which took the nutriment from the air. This fed the branches, and they carried it into the stem, and thence it proceeded to the root, on which a new coat was formed every year, just in the same way as a ring of wood was added to a tree. It was on the health of that ring that the future crop found the chance of being good or bad. Therefore in cutting the bine early, to supply light hops, they severed the connection between that which was going to feed the root for another year, and inflicted great injury. Now they could not cure this evil, except by allowing the bine to grow its natural time, but they could moderate it by cutting the bine as high up as