

larged them, and, the timber being durable, they have abundance of rails left. Many tidy farmers build along the front straight post and rail fence, the rails and post being wired. The great majority of fences on the farms are the "snake" variety.

(2) and (3) Some fences are built of wire on the line of the road when there is a likelihood of a snow block, the township contributing to the cost. The only difficulty in that case is of the road becoming high because of the constant packing of the snow while drifting, filling up the track, cutting off and frequently causing the sleighs to upset.

(4) It might be, but would be the cause of much ill-feeling if a neighbor's cattle or hogs should happen to get out and destroy his neighbor's crops.

Uxbridge, Ont.

J. E. G.

Nearly Every Kind of Fence in Use

To the Editor of FARMING:

Yours of June 8th to hand, and would reply to questions as follows:

1. Nearly every kind of fence (except stone) is seen in this locality, including considerable quantities of the old "stake and rider" and other zig-zag fences.

2. Much less than one-half of the fences are of wire, but constantly on the increase.

3. Where wire-fencing has been erected on the road-side it has caused the "track" to build up with the traffic so that it is seldom really good in winter, but never impassable from blockades.

4. I think the plan of having the roadsides clear of fences an "ideal" one as it would mean that no stock would be allowed to roam at large on the highway to the annoyance of both residents and travellers. But it is not workable in this locality as large numbers of live stock are driven to the various shipping points nearly every week in the year. And it would be next to impossible to prevent damage to growing crops in summer, and the stock would be much more difficult to control, even in winter, without the aid of roadside fences.

GEO. WRIGHT.

Elora, Ont., June 13th, 1899.

Has Two Miles of Wire Fence

To the Editor of FARMING:

Yours of the 9th inst. to hand re "Farm Fence." I have nearly two miles of wire fence on my farm of 140 acres and some of it has been in use fifteen years, and I can with confidence recommend it as a most suitable fence. (2) Wire is used to a large extent, and I will say that it meets all the requisites excepting for sheep. They will go through it unless the wires are close. (3) Wire fencing has been effectual in preventing snow blockades in our township. All the north and south roads have it on, the wire being supplied by the Council. (4) I do not think the plan of having no fence on the roadway workable. Every farmer should have all his roads fenced and should keep all the gates closed.

Wire fencing is not expensive. It takes 60 lbs. of wire four strands, which is quite sufficient for all stock, except sheep and hogs, to the acre or 13 rods. The posts are 12 feet apart, and are 6 feet long, pointed to a sharp point and sloping up 18 inches, and driven with a mall after a hole is punched with a crowbar, which is very easily done in the spring when the ground is soft. I find it a most suitable fence and easily kept in order, and there is no

waste land. I plow within six inches of the posts, and there are no weeds, as you can cut everything clean, getting under the wire.

Spring grain looks well for the time it has been on the ground, but the hay crop is going to be very short in this locality.

R. R. SANGSTER.

Lancaster, Ont., June 12, 1899.

The Wire Fence the Coming Fence

To the Editor of FARMING:

The fences in this locality were for the most part of black ash and pine rails, with a few cedar rails brought from the township north of us. The rails are mostly about done except the cedar. Some have, by buying cedar posts, made a good straight fence out of the old rails, but it is an expensive fence, as it requires a post every 10 feet; and costs a good deal for labor in building. Others have had the sound old rails put into a straight fence without posts, building some kind of a patent affair, at a cost of about 10 cts. per rod for labor. These do fairly well for a few years. They look neat and do not take up much room, but are apt to go endways in a few years, or to be blown over with a strong gale if in an exposed situation.

The new fences that are being built are almost all wire fences of some kind, using a post at about every 20 or 24 feet. There is not much barb wire being used now, since the different modes of weaving the plain wire perpendicularly has come into use. Some use the Page fence, which comes ready woven. Others are building the Gem fence, which is woven on the fence. The right to build it, along with full set of tools, for 100 acres, is about \$5 or \$6. Any farmer can weave his own and use any kind of wire he chooses. As to which of these is best, every farmer must judge for himself. Counting cost and the durability of each, any of these seems to meet every requirement of a farm fence. I have no doubt that in a few more years our fences will be all of wire.

There seems to be a wide difference of opinion as to the effect of these wire fences on the roads in winter. In some places they are just what is needed, while in others they seem to keep the road heavy. On lines where there is much travel the snow gathers on the track and piles up gradually until it becomes bad for heavy loads. This I believe can be helped some by hitching a common plow behind a sleigh and plowing out the track. But on the back lines, where there is not much travel, this objection will not apply. On these lines, often for most of the winter, the roads are blocked, and people have to resort to all kinds of roads, through fields, over plowed land, and often across water-courses, which in spring are often dangerous. The wire fences in this case will be a boon, as the road would never be blocked or impassable. Much labor would be saved which is now expended in opening roads which could be used in some other road improvement. Besides, where there are wire fences the road dries sooner in spring after the sleighing is done. There are no drifts on the sides of the road to obstruct water-courses and to keep the roads muddy and wet long after the snow is off the centre.

The plan you mention of having every farmer herd his stock, and having no road fences is, I fear, not workable. Wire fences along the road would have the same effect as no fence, and would save the labor and annoyance of herding, a task which most Canadian boys are not fond of. What will be used when posts are out of buying will be a problem to solve, but I have no doubt it will be, like all others, solved as soon as needed. A wire fence, well built, is a neat, tidy fence, taking up little room, is easy on itself, as wind-storms have little effect on them. They do not blow over, collect no rubbish, and have no corners for weeds to grow in. Snow does not drift in large piles as