THE CANADA FARMER

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The Field.

Cheap Farm Gates.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In your journal for July 1st, I took occasion to say that a good farm gate was much to be desired. I now propose to present your readers with a couple of plans, which come almost, if not quite, up to the standard of excellence, as given in my former communication, and which may be of interest to some.

Fig. 1 is a modification of "Robinson's Farm Gate." Its most valuable features are the mode of hanging adopted, its heavy top piece, and its simplicity, which renders it not liable to get out of order. The upper horizontal bar is eleven feet long, three inches in diameter horizontally, and five inches deep at the hinge, and two and a half at the latch. Its mortices are only two-thirds through to shut out rain, and five-eights by three inches—except at the heel-piece, where it is an inch and a quarter. The heel-piece is three by five inches, and the four lower bars are boards, one by five inches. The cross bars, the braces, and the two pieces forming the head-piece are one by three inches—these, and the heel-piece, should be of some tough and hard timber, as white oak. They are secured at each crossing with bolts.

An important advantage is the protection of every mortice and the hinge from the weather. The hinge is made by driving an iron rod, at least three quarters of an inch in diameter, into the top of the post, which turns in a hole seven-eighths of an inch across, bored two-thirds of the distance through the large end of the upper bar. A short iron plug driven into this hole makes a hard resting point, that will not wear, for the gate to turn upon. Fig. 2 shows the form of wooden collar, which fits the round post and completes the hinge. It is secured to the gate with a bolt. The latch is simply a notch cut in the top of the fixed post at the head of the gate, and is found to be the best, as it is the simplest fastening that can be devised, (see Fig. 3). A pin can be inserted between the two vertical bars forming the head-piece, and into a hole bored in the post, as an additional fastening, if required, to prevent hogs from lifting the gate. A pin or spike may also be driven into the post on which the hinges turn, just above the lower hinge, and will make all secure.

The expense of this gate need be little greater than that of a pair of bars, and it would not be easy to find a structure of this kind containing so many valuable features requisite in a farm gate, at a less cost.

The contrivance represented in Fig. 4 should commend itself to every farmer as a model farm gate. It is entirely constructed, posts and all, of round timber cut from the pole and log in the woods. A farmer having the necessary iron parts, can go into the woods armed with an axe, saw, auger, and gouge, and construct several in a day.

The gate itself is formed of an upper and lower horizontal bar, which may be three to four inches in diameter. These are connected by rods about four feet in length, and which may be of half inch iron. The diagonal braces are cut from three inch poles,

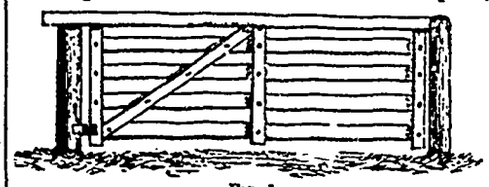

FIG. 1.

and halved in the middle for the intersections. They are made of equal lengths, and their ends formed with the gouge so as to fit around the iron rods, and the upper and lower bars. Then being placed in position with the two horizontal pieces, and the rods inserted in holes bored in them at equal distances, all are screwed up tight. It will be seen that there can be no "sag" in a gate of this principle.

Additional bars can be bolted to the frame as shown in the engraving—these can be smaller than

FIG. 2.

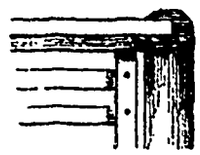

FIG. 3.

the others. Fig. 5 shows the construction of lower hinges; the other portion is the same as that described in the gate preceding. The fastening arrangement may be somewhat similar; to open the gate the forward end is lifted off its post.

Cedar, with the bark on, would be a suitable timber for making this gate—the upper bar might be better of some tougher wood—and would give a rustic appearance much more in harmony with the

FIG. 4.

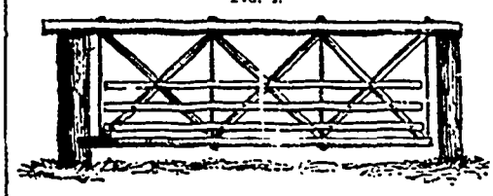

FIG. 5.

surroundings of most farm fields, than any structure formed of sawed lumber could possibly present.

The writer is indebted to the "Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs," a work which gives more information of interest and value to dwellers in the country, for a given sum, than any in the whole catalogue of rural publications, for most of the details of this gate, which is a modification of a plan given in that work. J. F. C.

L'ORIGNAL, Ontario, Dec., 1867.

Calcined Bones.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Will you please inform me, through the columns of your valuable journal, what is the manurial value of Calcined Bones, and to what crop they are most particularly serviceable on sandy soil? Also the same in regard to the liquor in which raw bones, &c., have been boiled—*i. e.*, gelatine—and the best way of applying it, in compost, or alone.

A YORKSHIREMAN.

Ottawa, Nov. 2nd, 1867.

ANS.—Calcined bones possess a high manurial value, especially in soils already supplied with sufficient organic matter. They absorb with avidity both air and water, by which the phosphate of lime, amounting to about seventy-five per cent., is rendered soluble, and in that condition enters freely into the circulation of plants. In soils that are poor in animal and vegetable matters, bones that have not been subjected to either burning or boiling are much to be preferred, as these processes deprive them of their organic matter, which yields by decomposition in the soil nearly 5 per cent. of ammonia. Burnt bones may be applied with special advantage to turnips, and they will be found to act beneficially both on root and cereal crops generally. Bones in any shape are considered to act more powerfully on light sandy soils than on such as are wet and stiff, arising partly, no doubt, from the porous character of the former, freely admitting air and water, which are nature's great forces in effecting decomposition.

The liquor in which green bones have been boiled being rich in ammonia, we should prefer using it in a compost consisting of dried earth and peaty matter, with leaves and partially rotted barn-yard manure. This being well incorporated by once or twice turning, would make an excellent manure, generally adapted to all sorts of soils and crops.

North Wellington Turnip Competition.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—Having seen a communication in the last number of the CANADA FARMER, from a Montreal correspondent, respecting a crop of turnips grown by him in the Township of Shipton, in which he states that "a square rod, selected, 'topped and tailed,' weighed 384 lbs., or 1,024 bushels, being nearly 28 tons to the acre," following which he says, "he should be glad to learn if any prize