

THE

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NEW SERIES.

The Field.

Fences.

If we should attempt to gather together, and condense in an editorial article, an account of all the various plans and fashions upon which Canadian fences have been made, we should leave little space for other matter. We, however, would call the attention of our readers, at this appropriate season, to the immense advantage of having secure and lasting fences, and we write this article more with a wish to call forth the opinions of the farming community upon various fences that may have come under their observation, than with the hope of advancing anything new in this line.

Rail timber and lumber are becoming scarce, and it has long been hinted that we must turn to some other material.

We have no practical experience of wire ourselves; we wish some one would kindly give us their experience in this material for fencing purposes.

Lave fences are a puzzle to Canadian horticulturists. Our climate seems to taboo, from one reason or another, the use of nearly all hedges. We have had the benefit of many practical and excellent letters upon this point; but the subject seems to have made little impression upon the agricultural public, and, we hardly think that this style of fencing will be generally enquired into until the supply of wood be very much more exhausted.

Rail Fences.—The old-fashioned snake fence, with slanting stakes and ridors, is, we think, pretty generally disused in the more civilized sections. Its great fault is waste of land; next to it comes the straight-rail fence held by upright stakes driven in the ground, and drawn together by a wire at the top—a good fence, but easily moved by the wind, as any force exerted horizontally on the upper part of a panel has an immense leverage upon the stakes, which are in conse-

quence very apt to break off a few inches from the ground.

We would suggest an improvement; we do not know that it is patented; at any rate we have used it without the payment for a right.

Pass short slanting stakes across one another under the second rail, and resting upon the third, and sink them in the ground. These prevent the plough passing quite as close to the fence as it otherwise would, but they are beneficial in two ways; they brace the fence against lateral pressure, such as exerted by the wind, and they relieve the wires of some of the weight of the riders.

At this moment we observe a horse with his head through a fence endeavouring to reach our cabbages. Our boy throws a stone, the head is withdrawn rapidly, and only the providential fact that the rail was smooth prevented a large piece of skin being knocked off the animal's head. This is one of the great troubles in rail fences, making the gaps at the top so small that animals cannot insert their heads.

It is said that if a man can insert his head his whole body may be squeezed through any aperture, and upon the strength of this statement (a statement we don't undertake to prove) may be founded another; that if an animal, from a pig to a bull, can put his head between the rails of a fence, he will find means to get the remainder of his body through.

There are other rail fences, mostly patented, but we do not think much of them generally. A friend of ours, residing at Ancaster, has one round his whole farm, which we were at first inclined to think ill of, but which has now stood the test of wind and weather securely for eight years, and appears to have an equal number of years before it. It is patented by one Jas Fleming, of Toronto. It is a straight-railed fence, with upright stakes. These stakes are rounded at the bottom, and each is let into an angle hole in a block of cedar about six inches thick and two feet long, which is let a few

inches into the ground transversely of the fence; the stakes are held together by a bolt passing through both at the top and through two 2 x 4 scantlings, which overlapping one another at the ends, and thus being secured by this bolt, form each the rider of a panel.

We have seen several panels of this fence blown down, but it was by the same wind that scattered many miles of ordinary fencing in the same section, and it was placed upon its feet (we use the word advisedly) bodily, being unbroken.

It is pig-proof but it has one fault, the rails are apt to settle and leave great gaps between the upper rail and the scantling; but this gap is not so objectionable as in other fences, because, supposing an animal to put his head through, he cannot throw off the rider, as it is securely bolted to the stakes. We think it an expensive rail fence, but it is very lasting, and no frost can influence it.

We are at the end of our review of rail fences, and shall take up our next—board, picket, and the various ways of fencing with lumber, with or without posts set in the ground.

In the meantime, we earnestly solicit opinions upon the various forms of fencing by practical farmers, as now is a time a portion of which can be devoted with advantage to fencing purposes.

NO. 11.

We now come to a consideration of all sorts of fencing made of lumber, and we would here state generally that when rails or lumber have to be respectively bought, we consider that almost any kind of lumber fence, taking into consideration durability and neatness, is far cheaper than any rail fence, and we know of none so expensive now-a-days as the old snake rail fence.

We would here compare the cost of these various fences:

If we take a fence made of eight rails twelve feet long, with a snake of four feet, it will take a rail to a foot of length of fence,