

Around the Counsel Table.

Where no counsel is the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Fences and Fence Laws.

1. What style of fence have you found to be best in point of cheapness, durability, and utility? Kindly give full detail as to the method and cost of erection.

2. Do you think that any changes are desirable in regard to the present fence laws of your Province, and if so, what would you suggest?

No fence the best—Hedges good along roads and lanes—Force no man to build a line fence.

1. No fence at all is the cheapest, most durable, and best in many respects. To stop cattle and horses some fence is needed in some places. We have miles of honey locust hedge fence in Stamford township. To properly care for this fence requires considerable labor, but not much expense otherwise. One or two barbed wires fastened at intervals to the hedge itself, will make a well kept hedge very effective. Hedges practically occupy too much room, as good crops cannot be grown close to them. Along roads or lanes they answer nicely. Cattle browse them some and cause them to thicken. Many thousands of young locusts, for the use of a hedge company are grown hereabouts. The farmers that turn the job over to a company will know more about hedges than they care to know, and pay for the knowledge at the same time. I have seen existing hedges that were in a bad way after submitting to a few patent rights. Shade trees in rows are used for posts, the wires being stapled to a scantling attached to the trees. I think the coming farmer will make fences by using posts at some distance, say fifteen to twenty-five feet apart, and two or more wires placed pretty high up, and not try to fence against small animals, which should be confined in special enclosures. I think of trying iron posts, and in time they will, I think, be largely used. Such fences take very little room and would harbor no weeds. Farmers have too many fences. They harbor weeds and rubbish and occupy much valuable land.

2. I think fencing legislation is largely in the hands of municipal councils, and hence the councils and the people should be educated up to cheaper requirements in line fences. No one should be legally forced to build a fence along any road. If councils have the power to require such fences to be built, the power should be cancelled. Why should any man be forced to build even a line fence? Let the man who owns any stock take care of it. He has no right to call upon others to fence against it. If both parties own stock and mutually agree to erect fences of a certain kind, so let it be.

E. MORDEN.

Sec'y Welland Co. F. Institute.

Cedar fence the best—No complaints as to Fence Laws.

(1) I have personally tested about twenty different styles of fence: rail, board, wire, and wire and board combined, and have had about as many more varieties under observation for a number of years, such kinds being in use by neighbours and others, and I feel thoroughly satisfied that a straight cedar rail post and stake fence comes nearest to meeting the requirements in regard to cheapness, durability, and utility.

Stake out the line the fence is to occupy; put in small pegs eleven feet apart along the line; dig the post holes three feet or over in depth; place posts in position so that one side will be in a straight line, and fill up with earth. Select a fairly straight, medium sized rail for top rail of fence, dress both ends to four inches thick, place one end on top of the last top rail, put in position and place the other end on light jack at the desired height. Place a short piece of board four inches wide against post, under the position which will be occupied by bottom rail. Take a small stake and place it against the board and top rail, wire tight under the top rail and above the board at bottom. Place

the bottom rail in position and take out the board at the bottom, move to next space and repeat the operation. This work being completed, place the second rail from bottom in position, and wire again above this rail. Place the third and fourth rails in their position and this will fill the gap under the top rail, making the fence five rails and about four feet four inches in height. Cut off the stakes and posts evenly at a proper height, and the fence is completed. This makes a strong, clean, durable, cheap, and fairly good appearing fence, and will cost about 45c. per rod. To figure on the basis of 100 rods it will be as follows: 800 rails, at 3c. each, \$24; 150 posts, at 4c. each, \$6; 150 stakes, at 1c. each, \$1.50; 50 lbs. of No. 11 wire, at 3c. per lb., \$1.50; 10 ten days labor, at \$1.25 per day, \$12.50; total, \$45.50. Of course the above figures will vary in the different localities in the Province, but in this district the different items are correctly given I believe.

(2) In regard to the fence laws and the changes which might be desirable therein, I am not in possession of sufficient information upon this subject to give an intelligent opinion upon that question, and will therefore content myself with stating that I have heard but very little complaint in regard to the laws relating to fences.

JAMES McEWING.

Drayton.

Combined Wire and Board Fence Found Most Satisfactory.

(1) For many years after the old rail fences began to give out, boards and posts were the principal fence used here. At that time common lumber could be bought for about \$8 per M, and a fence of four boards high cost about \$1 per rod. Now such a fence would cost all told about \$1.40. Some years ago I built a fence of posts and rails, which I have found very good. Posts ten feet apart, six rails, and a barbed wire on the top. If any one has old rails that can be used, he will find this one of the cheapest and safest fences he can put up, but be sure and keep the wire low enough to prevent the stock getting their heads between the top rail and it. The cost of this fence would depend on the value of the old rails and price of posts, which every one would have to judge for himself.

Some two years ago I built part of a lane fence in the following way, and am so well pleased with it that I intend to do more of it where needed. I set the posts eight feet apart, put a board 1x12in. x16ft. at the bottom, and one board 1x6in. x16ft., three feet from the ground to bottom of the board, three barbed wires between the two boards, and one about ten inches above the top one. This makes a cheap, safe fence. Hogs will not get through, cattle and horses can see it, and there is but little danger of stock getting hurt on it. About the cost per rod or say 16ft.: 2 posts at 10c., 20c.; digging holes and setting posts, 5c. each, 10c.; 24ft. of lumber, at \$15 per M, 36c.; about say 5lbs. wire, at 6c., 30c.; labor of putting up, and nails, say 10c.; total per 16ft., \$1.06. I have put the price of material at about what they cost here, but this will vary in other districts to either more or less. Now, from what I have seen of this fence, I consider it to be the most economical one, considering its safety, that the farmers in the older parts of the Province can build, as there is not near so much danger of stock hurting themselves as with an all wire one.

THOS. A. GOOL.

Brantford.

[Owing to the very full and complete report on the Toronto Industrial Exhibition that appears in this issue, we have had at our disposal but a limited space for the publication of the communications that have reached us on these important questions. In what is given we feel convinced that our readers will find much information of interest and practical value. We hope to give a fuller discussion of these or like questions in our next number.—Ed.]

"For your satisfaction, Mr. Editor, I may say, with the arrival of the JOURNAL came answers to my advertisement, and still they come, one this morning from Humeston, Iowa, showing that your columns are appreciated in Uncle Sam's territory. Yours truly, Wm. Tredway. Port Union, Ont., Sept. 23, 1890."

The Dairy.

Pork-Packing Factories.

Prof. Henry states that there is no reason why farmers cannot co-operate and establish small packing houses which will send out smoked ham, breakfast bacon, sausage, and lard. While the idea seems feasible, we believe that it would be intensely profitable if the farmers in cheese factory districts, would co-operate and each send a certain number of hogs to be fattened near the factory on the whey, that in too many cases is put to little if any use. Whey is too valuable a food to waste, and money is too scarce an article to slight an opportunity of making some. In a good neighborhood, it would be an easy matter for the farmers to co-operate to that extent, much to the individual benefit of all. It would afford a profitable means of either using the buttermilk of a creamery, or the whey of a cheese factory.

Butter Factories.

The paper from the pen of Mr. Showell that appears in this issue, is one that our readers will peruse with great interest, as it treats of a very important question in a thoroughly practical and thoughtful way. To fully endorse the paper from beginning to end we would suggest one change, and that is, instead of the farmers being required to send their whole milk to the factory which the essayist commends, we would offer the better suggestion, that only the cream be collected, thereby leaving the patrons the sweet skim milk to feed calves and hogs, and also putting the cost of collection at the lowest limit. In advocating the collection of the whole milk, we can readily see that Mr. Showell has in view the securing of the best sanitary conditions, but we feel certain that by strict and clear instructions being given to the patrons, and these enforced as to the proper methods of caring for and setting milk, these conditions, and the additional advantages we have mentioned, would also be brought about.

Testing Milk in Creameries and Cheese Factories.

Of the many advances in dairying of recent years, none bear so directly upon profitable dairy husbandry as those which have been made in methods of testing milk, for it is clear that for co-operative cheese or butter factories to hold the patronage of our progressive dairymen, a more equitable system of milk or cream valuation than that of paying solely for quantity must be adopted in practice. Cheese and butter factories have been money mints to our farmers, enabling them to secure a steadily profitable market for a product that taxes but little the fertility of the farm and labour of the farmer. But a change is demanded. It needs no lengthy course of reasoning to prove that the system now in use robs progressive Peter to pay careless and backward Paul. At those factories where no system of testing is followed, fraud and indifference sell at a premium, while honesty and enterprise are heavily discounted, but with a method of proper valuation this would be reversed.

Before S. M. Babcock had given to the dairy world an account of his new method, we were of the opinion that for creameries the best system of testing was that used with the oil test churn. For comparison let us briefly state the most important features of Babcock's method. The milk is measured into a small flask with a long neck which is divided into a scale for measurement. To this a measured quantity of sulphuric acid is added. The flasks are then placed into