

slow. The Flint corn for grain should be planted 40 inches square and the heavier varieties 42 and 44 inches square. For fodder where ears are not the prime consideration the rows or hills may be slightly closer.

If you are troubled with black birds, crows and fowl that pull the corn up, etc., take a peck of corn or two gallons at first say, and drop a quart in two or three places on the field for the birds. Probably that is all they will devour. It will save much hard feeling and work, also make you feel like a philanthropist and get you a name with all the birds for miles around and in the winter you can rest assured that there are many warm hearts miles away in the Sunny South remembering your kind act.

Cat worms and wire worms are apt to be troublesome in the spring plowed sod but with proper conditions otherwise plenty of stirring and cultivation of the soil the corn should grow so rapidly that the worms cannot bite twice in the same place. No grower is so fortunate but that a certain percentage has to be replanted, so have enough seed to meet the demand. If you should happen to have a field of quack or couch grass where you expected corn, rely on better drainage, cultivation, and more manure to help you out.

Harrow the corn thoroughly immediately after planting and again just before the sprouts appear. Then when the corn is three or four inches high cultivate the land between the rows just as deep and roughly as possible, remembering only, to protect the small plant and its roots that are four or five inches long. After this cultivation should be less severe and later just enough to produce an earth mulch. If the weather has been favorable and the work accomplished at the proper time there should be no hand hoeing to do.

Two Useful Farm Buildings

Henry Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.

There are two useful buildings that should be found on all farms. First, there should be a shop or place for making repairs to machinery or other things required about the farm. It should be furnished with the ordinary wood working tools, a good strong vice and such iron working tools as will enable the farmer to make many repairs that are almost daily required upon the farm. He should have on hand a full assortment of bolts, screws, washers, etc., also some good hardwood lumber, consisting of oak, ash or rock elm of different thicknesses. It is not necessary that the farmer should become his own blacksmith or wagon maker. If, however, he has these requisites on hand, repairs can then be made in less time than it would take to go to the village and at much less cost.

Second, there should be a building in which a stock scale is placed. The man who is buying feed and selling stock and has no way of telling the weight of animals other than by guess, is at a serious disadvantage when dealing with the expert drover, and he often makes a mistake in feeding animals that fail to put on the weight that he is led to expect from the amount of food consumed. By weighing his animals at regular periods, say one month apart, the feeder knows which animal is making a profit and which is losing him money. The wise man will soon weed out the unprofitable animals. Again, the scales will prove not only useful but valuable in other ways. All produce sold from the farm can be weighed and a direct check thus kept on the weights received where such produce is marketed. While fortunately scales are not an absolute necessity in the latter particular, the use of them in such a capacity is advisable and will often prevent mistakes, on the part of the weigh master, which so frequently spell loss to the farmer.

Photos of farm buildings, farm houses and rural scenes are always welcome for publication.

Some Stages in Fence Improvement

H. R. Nixon, Brant Co., Ont.

The farm owned by the writer was purchased by his father 54 years ago. The farm at that time was covered with large pine stumps. A war of extermination was immediately commenced on these. They were up-rooted by means of lever and screw machines. The stumps were dumped into fence rows, and then in not any too straight lines. These fences did duty in enclosing fields of from eight to ten acres. Of late years the stumps have been used for threshing purposes, and for boiling maple syrup. To-day we have only about ten rods remaining.

As these stump fences were done away with



A Fence That Has Served Its Time

Such fences are being rapidly replaced in the best farm sections by woven wire. The stumps are not only unsightly and take up valuable space, but make veritable breeding grounds for weeds as well.

From time to time, they were replaced with rail fences. First the snake fence was erected. These in many ways were as objectionable as the stumps and it did not take long to relegate them to oblivion. The post-and-rail fences proved more popular. This style took less rails and was less unsightly, although it required much time each year to keep it all in repair. When posts became so expensive a few years ago as to be almost prohibitive for fence purposes when required to be 11 feet apart, as for rails, then rail fences without posts were resorted to. These at their best only served for a few years. The wind would roll them over and it was difficult to keep them from sagging endways.

DEAD RAILS

As most of the rails on the farm were hardwood, they had reached a stage where they possessed very little life and would break readily. With such material, the best rail fences soon be-

come an eye sore and of little use for turning stock. As rapidly as convenient we have been and are still making use of the old rails for summer household fuel, and for threshing purposes. The old fences, where fences are absolutely necessary, are being replaced by woven wire.

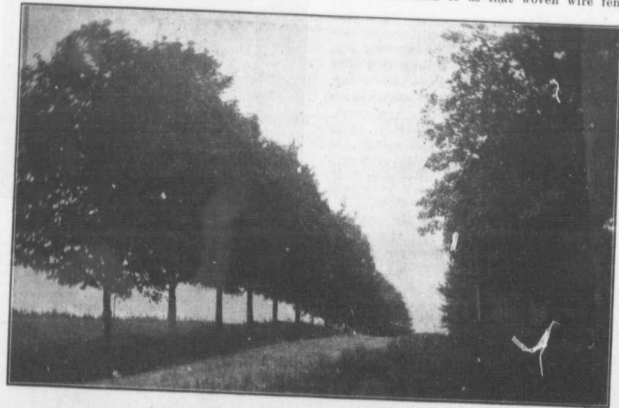
We are doing away with fencing as much as possible. Our farm has been re-divided into 24 acre fields instead of eight, ten and twelve acre fields as formerly. Since doing away with many fences much valuable time has been saved in not having to repair them each spring. Time is also saved in working the larger fields.

In these large fields when they are required for pasturing, we use portable fences of barbwire or plain woven wire. These fences can be put up readily at a very small cost of either time or material. We seldom or never turn our cattle on more than six acres of pasture at once. We change the herd to new pasture each week. We have found from many years experience that this practice pays well in keeping up the milk flow. Having fresh pasture weekly for the dairy cows is a large factor in profitable summer dairying.

A fence that has given us the best of satisfaction, where large stock only is to be turned, is our Osage Orange hedge. We have 265 rods of this hedge, which was set 40 years ago. It has proved to be a thoroughly reliable fence for larger stock since four years after planting. It also adds much beauty to the farm. This hedge has been kept trimmed annually. It is now about five and one-half feet high and two and one-half to three feet wide. The whole stretch for several years has cost only \$5 a year for trimming.

LIVE POSTS

On both sides of the high-way, running through the farm, are hard maple trees, as shown in the illustration. These trees are planted 20 feet apart. They have been set for 28 or 30 years, and are used as fence posts. One 50 rod stretch, a portion of which is shown in the illustration has served as fence posts for Page woven wire fence for a period of 20 years. This Page fence to-day is in first-class condition having needed no repairs for the 20 years that it has been erected, excepting to drive in a few nails in the trees to which the fence is stapled. The growth of the trees forces the oak 3 x 1 inch strips so as to often break the nails off or draw the nail through the solid oak. This particular fence was the first woven wire fence erected on our farm. Although it cost an exceptionally high price when it was purchased, it has demonstrated to us that woven wire fences



An Avenue of Trees Down Which It is a Pleasure To Drive

Hard or sugar maples line both sides of the highway dividing Mr. H. R. Nixon's farm in Brant Co., Ont. The trees illustrated were set 20 years ago. For the last 20 years they have done duty as fence posts for supporting Page woven wire fence. Read the adjoining article on Fence Improvement.