#### November 28, 1912.

### **Concrete Corner and Gate Posts**

Nothing gives more trouble and injures the appearance of property so greatly as sagging gates and fences caused by retten gates and corner-posts. Property owners are rapidly getting rid of this nuisance by making such posts of concrete.

The concrete post shown in the illustration herewith is a home-made article according to the owner's plan. It has been in service five

years and is easily good for 90 years more. The post and braces were moulded in position and as one piece. The post proper is 10 inches square and the braces six inches. They extend three and a half feet into the ground and end in a bulb of concrete.

For the post mould proper, two-inch lumber makes a stiff form. Cut two boards 2 x 10 inches and two 2 x 14 inches, all seven feet six inches long. (For the 2 x 10, a 2 x 4 and a 2 x 6 inch piece may be substituted; likewise for the 2 x 14 inch, a 2 x 6 and a 2 x 8 inch may be used.) The 2 x 10 inch pieces are nailed to the three sets of 2 x 4 inch cleats as shown in the drawing. Holes are bored in the cleats so that the five-eighth-inch bolts 18 inches long, running across

the forms from cleat to cleat, will rest against the  $2 \times 14$  inch boards and hold the box-like form in shape. One-inch triangular-shaped strips tacked in the corners of the form will bevel the edges and produce a neater appearing post.

Each form for the braces consists of two side pieces,  $1 \ge 6$  inches, and one bottom piece,  $1 \ge 6$ inches, all 10 feet long. Nail the pieces together in the form of a trough six inches deep. To make the bevel joint with the post form, lay off 3% inches on the lower edge of the side pieces at one end And saw off the trough to the bevel. In the side pieces of the post mould, eight inches

from the top, cut an opening extending downward seven inches deep and eight inches wide to receive the moulds for the braces.

MIXING THE CONCRETE AND MOLDING THE POST

With the forms ready and all of the material on hand, dig the hole three and a half feet deep for post proper. At distances of nine feet six inches from the centre of the finished post dig another hole three and a half feet deep for the concrete bulb in which the brace will end. One foot above the bottom of this hole, open a trench eight inches wide sloping upward towards the corner post to a point within seven feet of the centre of it.

Mix the concrete, one bag of Portland cement to two cubic feet of sand to four cubic feet of crushed rock, or one bag of cement to four cubic feet of good pit gravel. Make the concrete mushy wet and fill the holes to the depth of one foot. Set the mould for the post in position and slide the troughs for the braces into the openings, with the upper ends even with the inside of the post form. Fasten them securely and chink the cracks with old rags. Brace all forms firmly. Down the post form, two inches from each corner, set a three-eighth-inch rod 10 feet long with the upper ends bent backward. Fill the post form with concrete to the openings of the braces. Place one inch of concrete in the troughts for the braces and lay upon it, one inch from each side, two three-eighth-inch lods with

their upper ends extending into the post mould.



A Durable, Satisfactory Corner Post Made at Home

One of the many profitable uses that may be made of concrete on the farm is in the manufacture of fence posts: corner posts particularly. The post here illustrated will stay steady, no matter how tight we may stretch the wire. Its construction is described in an article adjoining.

> more rods in a similar manner and then another inch of concrete. Work rapidly and without delay finish filling the post form with concrete. After the concrete has stiffened, bevel the top edges of the brace with a trowel.

> For each post with two braces, there will be required four bags of Portland cement, eight cubic feet of sand, 16 cubic feet of crushed rock, (or four bags of cement and 16 cubic feet of bank-run gravel), and 12 pieces of three-eighthinch rods 10 feet long. These materials will cost about 88.26.

See that the post is fenced off so that animals



Forms for the Construction of Corner Post Illustrated Above

cannot disturb it before the concrete has acquired its strength. After seven days the forms may be carefully removed. Do not use the post until it is 30 days old. Many persons make cornerposts in the fall, before freezing weather, and do not place the fencing on them until the next spring. The wire fencing may be pulled around the post, as shown, or ratchet fasteners may be attached by making holes through the post by means of small gaspipe set through holes in the form or by means of greased rods turned frequently while the cement is setting.

The same form is adaptable to brace-posts in the fence line or to gate-posts. Hinges and fasteners for gates can be secured in the manner described above for ratchet wire-tighteners. For ehtrance ways, very attractive ornamental posts can be made in the same general method.

#### Crop Rotation and its Advantages\* Jas. Bryson, Chateauguay Co., Que.

I am a thorough believer in rotating crops. The rotation that I have practised for a number of years has given me beneficial results in keeping up the fertility of the soil and in helping to keep down weeds.

I first haul our winter manure and bank in large piles in the field. I let it rot, as I think that rotting has a tendency to rot the wed seeds that may be in the feed or bedding. We spread these piles of manure on our sod fields when we break them out of pasture and turn the manure down for a crop of corn or oats. The balance of our manure, that which is made after sleighing is done, we pile in the barnyard to be spread as a top dressing for our new meadows. This manure also is first allowed to rot. I do not straw in it as it gathers in the clover or timothy the next season.

## THE ROTATION IN DETAIL

I practise a six-year rotation as follows: I first plow the sod manured in the fall for corn (resslage) or oats, as I find corn does better on our clay soil when plowed in the fall before and as early as we can get it done. The grass roots have a better chance to rot when plowed early than when the weather is warmer and the soil works better. As a rule I do not plow our land very deeply for corn. The second year I seed our corn and oat fields to any other kinds of grain, such as mixed barley and oats or barley and oats separate, and seed with clover and timothy.

The third year I cut a crop of clover and timothy. I do not pasture it in the fall as I find that if it is a cold winter and not much snow the meadows need the after growth of grass and clover as a protection in winter. The fourth year I take a second crop of hay, mostly timothy. Clover, the second year, is not always a good crop. We almost always get my timothy seed from the second crop of hay. The fifth and sixth years we pasture.

The time has now been reached when women as well as men must work. The curse of Adam, "by the sweat of thy brow," is common to the race—and like many another curse, becomes the blessing of the race. No longer can women be blessing of the race. No longer can women be consumers only, they must also be producers. It is not a question of race suicide. It is a question of feeding and clothing those who are already here; and the surest source of real independence is to the women and men on the farms.—Dr. Amie A. Backus, Elgin Co., Ont.

Why did you burn the straw piles? Did it ever occur to you that in burning a ton of straw valuable plant food was lost? The soil suffers in physical condition as well as available plant food when humus is destroyed. A ton of wheat straw has 200 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 240 pounds of potash; oats straw has 240 pounds of nitrogen, 80 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 360 pounds of potash. Why throw this plant food away for the sake of illuminating the landscape? Scatter it over the field and plow it under.

"This is the second article on his farm practice that Mr. Bryson has written for Farm and Dairy as required of him by the rules of the Interprovincial Prize Farms Competition in which he successfully competed.

# FARM AND DAIRY