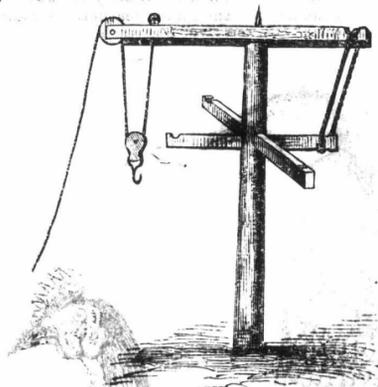


Hints and Helps.

We give an illustration of a conveniently arranged post to hang hogs on. The post is made with four arms. It should extend about two feet above the arms, with an inch and a half pin in the top. The tackle consists of a piece of 3 x 4 inch white oak scantling, with a pulley wheel in one end. This scantling should be long enough so that when placed on the top of the post the end with the pulley wheel will extend four or five inches farther



than the arms. The rope is first fastened in the scantling back from the pulley wheel, then through the movable pulley with hook, then through the pulley wheel in the scantling, and drops to the ground. When you wish to raise a hog, put the centre of the gambrel (which has already been fastened to the hog's legs) in the hook attached to the movable pulley. By pulling at that end of the rope which dropped to the ground the hog is easily raised. Before attempting to elevate the hog fasten the other end of the scantling as shown in the engraving, to the arm below. When the hog is hoisted to the desired arm, the scantling can then be turned so as to place a hog on each arm. One movable scantling, with rope and pulley, will do for any number of posts. After all the arms on one post have been filled, lift the scantling to the top of another.

Making and Filling Ice Houses

Will be found profitable to all country homes or other places where ice cannot be procured cheaply. A few years ago it was generally supposed to be quite difficult to keep ice through the summer, and an ice house was considered too expensive for the average farmer. But of late years the idea that ice can be kept only in a costly and elaborate structure has been proved incorrect, and the number of ice houses has increased considerably, but not to the extent they should. One ought to be found on every farm, or else a good substitute should be provided.

A room either above or below ground works well. If only a small amount of ice is needed, a room may be boarded off from the wagon shed or any of the outbuildings which may be convenient. A clean basement room in any outhouse, or in a dwelling house, would also answer the purpose.

Our illustrations show several methods of building cheap and useful houses for this purpose.



Fig. 1—Rough or Shanty Ice House, left open under the Eaves for Ventilation.

Cheap ones may be quickly constructed in the form of strong board shanties, with a good but not tight floor. Place a few inches of sawdust on the floor; pile up the ice compactly in square blocks, leaving a space of eight to twelve inches all round next to the boards, to be filled with sawdust, trodden in, as the structure of ice is built upwards. Cover the whole with eight or ten inches of sawdust, and let plenty of fresh air blow through the shanty over the top. Ice will keep in this way as well as in the most costly and elaborate building. Chaff or finely cut straw may be substituted for the sawdust; but being less perfect non-conductors, should be in thicker layers. One door is enough for a house of common size. A better ice

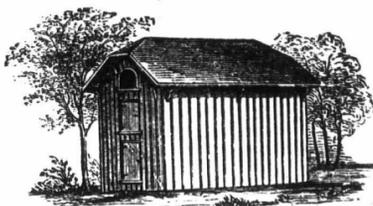


Fig. 2—Another Plan of Ice House.

house can be built of boards, with double walls. Fill the space between the walls with sawdust. Although they do not keep ice better than the one just described, they save some labor by obviating the removal of the sawdust every time they are filled with ice. But even in these a thin stratum of sawdust should be packed around the ice, say three or four inches, between the walls and the ice, which should be filled in and pressed hard as each layer of ice is laid.

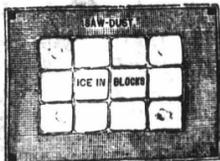


Fig. 3—Plan of Single-Wall Board Ice House.



Fig. 4—Plan of Double-Wall Board Ice House.

The accompanying plans and views show the construction of these buildings. It will be seen in the view of the double-walled house that a large ventilating window is placed in each end at the top; these windows should always be open. There are two double doors at one end in large building, and one in small; these are for convenience in filling and taking the ice out at different heights. Care should be taken that all the sawdust be pressed solid, and no cavities left. An ice house with one apartment, eight by ten feet and six feet high (including a foot of sawdust all around), will keep ice enough for a moderate family.

Some of our readers are no doubt far from rivers or any other suitable place to obtain ice. For their benefit we give a plan recommended by Mr. Warning, which is very simple and requires but a trifling expense to construct and fill. "Select a place on the north side of some building. Lay a floor 12 x 12 ft. on scantlings, one foot from the ground. Set firmly at each corner a post from 4 to 6 inches square and from 8 to 10 ft. long. When the weather becomes cold place on the floor

sawdust, tanbark or rye-straw to the depth of 8 to 10 inches. On the top of this place another floor of the same size, putting a curb inside the posts to keep the filling between the floors in its place. Next make a curb 10 x 10 ft. and 6 inches deep. Fasten the corners with common gate-hooks. On a cold day place the curb on the floor, having each side and end of the curb at an equal distance from the edges of the floor; put in a few inches of sawdust, chaff or tanbark, and dash water slowly over the bottom inside the curb, until it forms a coating of ice that will not leak; fill the curb with water and let it stand until it is frozen solid. With boiling water thaw the curb loose, raise it to the top of the frozen mass, slop a little water round the edges until it becomes water-tight, fill and freeze as before, and so on until a sufficient quantity of ice is obtained. Place boards on the inside of the posts and fill the space between the ice and boards with tanbark, rye-straw or sawdust. Nail boards on the outside of the posts and fill the space thus made with the same substance as before used; cover the top of the ice with sawdust or tanbark to the depth of 10 or 12 inches. Over the whole put a roof to shield from sun and rain. Ice can thus be kept the entire season. If a stream of running water can be turned into the curb the labor will be very much lessened." The above is the size of house recommended, but the same plan can be carried out with a building of any dimensions.

An illustration of a more expensive building than any of the above was given in the February number of the ADVOCATE. Those who wish to add a first-class refrigerator to their ice house for dairy or family purposes, a card to Messrs. Wishrow & Hillock, of Toronto, will give them every information.

The Norway Spruce.

The Norway Spruce is one of the most popular, if not one of the most beautiful and hardy of evergreens. If it were properly treated while young, we are convinced it would command a higher respect during its old age. The desire on the part of those who plant trees about their homes to see them grow as fast as possible and their distrust of any pinching or cutting back are natural. Anything that retards growth for one year is condemned. It is too long to wait for results that, at best, are not to be counted upon positively as they believe. Therein lies the mistake. The results may be confidently counted upon; and in this we speak from our own experience. The Norway Spruce if left to itself while young, especially if not well planted, attains its fullest beauty in ten years. Afterwards, the lower branches begin to lose their foliage and the conical symmetry which in this tree constitutes its first charm, is marred. If when first set in its permanent abode the buds had once been pinched out—or what is the same thing, the tips of all the branches except the lower and lowermost ones had been cut off—and the same course had been pursued the second spring, growth would have been confined mainly to the lower branches, and a vigor would have been imparted to them that would be retained as long as the upper branches remained robust or as long as the tree maintained a healthy existence. The impression, which until of late years has been quite general, that evergreens (hardy coniferous evergreens, at least) were never to be cut back, is still a conviction in the minds of many; and it is one that deprives them of the very best means both of adding to the attractiveness of their evergreens and of preserving their attraction unimpaired to a good old age. For the purpose of inducing this strong development of the bottom branches, and at the same time a more compact habit throughout, instead of cutting off or "back" the branches, we have for several years past merely twisted out of the verticle of buds which terminates them. Those buds begin to form as soon as the spring growth is completed, and they may be removed in the following fall, winter, or early the next spring. Thus only the terminal growth which would have been made is prevented, and the same object is accomplished.