



Reward.

If farmers, who have discovered ingenious methods in connection with their work which would be of use to their fellow farmers, will write us and describe the same, furnishing a sketch when practicable, we will reward them by publishing them over their names, with an illustration when possible; and further, when we consider the plans or ideas advanced have special merit we will remit them amounts varying from 75c to \$5.00, in proportion to our estimate of their value to our readers.

HAVE your path macadamized from the gate to the front door. It saves a great deal of labor within the house to have clean, good walks about it.

ONE of the most foolish things done in connection with a vegetable garden is to work the ground when it is too wet. Many farmers of good judgment in other matters will persist in doing this, and then wonder why it is that they have such a poor return for the money and labor expended.

You will need something by and by to dust over your cabbages, cucumbers and other vegetables against the depredations of insects. So that you may be prepared for these insects save up all the soot from the cleaning of stoves and stovepipes in a barrel under shelter. When needed for use mix with dry ashes, quicklime, plaster and enough of kerosene to make very savoury.

THE conviction is more and more growing in the minds of good farmers, that if all the manurial resources of the farm are saved and utilized, commercial fertilizers will be unnecessary. The liquid portion of manure, which commonly soaks into the ground and is lost, is said to be worth as much as all the rest put together. If the efforts of nature to keep the soil fertile, which it makes through the atmospheric influences, are intelligently supplemented by human effort, every farm will be sufficient unto itself in fertilizing properties.

The Sparrow Nuisance.

MR. E. W. VERMILYEA, Belleville, sends us the following:—I noticed in your last issue of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED a reward offered to any person who would write you some new idea, in connection with farming, that would benefit the farmer. I take interest in relating to you the fact that unless some immediate plan is devised to kill the sparrow birds, that have become such a nuisance of late, the farmers will suffer greatly from loss of grain, for they increase terribly fast and are very destructive in a field of grain. I saw last summer about fifty or sixty on one shock of wheat, and I can safely say that one-half the wheat in that shock was destroyed; not only in what they consumed, but the grain lay on the ground under the shock in quantities. And still worse, the little pests resort to our barns in the winter and remain there until late in spring, feeding entirely upon our grain that is scattered through the barn, and occasionally making a big haul in the granaries, when perchance the doors are left open a short time. On bright sunny days they come outside the barn to sun themselves, and as they sit in large and rather close flocks, my idea of killing them is to fire shot among them, and by so doing, kill perhaps one-half dozen at a time.

A Superior Fence.

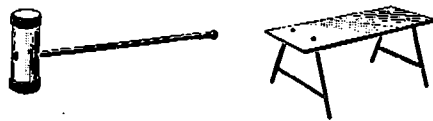
MR. A. M. FRASER, Loch Broom, Pictou, N. S., writes us as follows:—I send you a description of a fence which I have built that proves to be a good one, and has the following advantages over all others that I have seen: It takes less material; it

can be built in less time; frost will not heave it nearly as much as other post fences, because the frost cannot get a leverage on account of the ditch and dyke. It is the expansion of the surface of the earth that forces the posts up on a level surface, no matter how deep they are, if the land is wet.

Take posts about 6 in. thick, 5 ft. 6 in. long; point the small end; make a hole with a crowbar; drive them down about 2 ft.; put on one rail at the top and one wire 10 in. under it. Plough several cuts on each side of the fence; build a dyke of the soil 18 in. high under the wire, and you have a neat fence four feet high.



The posts can be driven just when the frost comes out (they will drive easy then) and the fence finished later. I drive by hand, using a hammer made from a piece of hardwood 6 in. thick and 16 in. long, with a handle 3 ft. 6 in. And stand on a stool 18 in. high, with cross pieces on the legs to keep it from sinking in the soft ground.



Growing Corn Fodder.

BY D. P. L. CAMPBELL, VANKLEEK HILL, ONT.

The three numbers of the ILLUSTRATED published, and which we read with pleasure and profit, bid fair to the success of the enterprise. As you invite correspondence from farmers on topics relating to agriculture, I herewith send you a short description of our method of growing corn fodder, and leave it for you to make use of anything useful it may contain.

Plough the land early the previous fall. During winter manure is hauled from the stables and thrown into large heaps on the field and allowed to ferment, that from the horse and cow stable being mixed together; but I think horse manure preferable to that of cattle. In the spring a liberal quantity is spread on the land and harrowed thoroughly as soon as the soil becomes dry enough to pulverize. It is then allowed to remain in this condition until planting, which is done as soon as danger from frost is thought to be past. The planting is accomplished by ploughing shallow, and scattering the seed in every third furrow. Formerly forty kernels of corn per foot were given as the proper thickness, but experience has proven that the stalks will not mature properly if sown so thickly. On the other hand, some writers say that the kernels should be about eight inches apart. This again in our experience is going to the other extreme, as the stalks would grow from twelve to sixteen feet high and as stout as small fork handles. We sow the ordinary "western" or "horse tooth" variety, and consider ten to twenty grains per foot about right. When through planting, the ground is thoroughly harrowed and rolled, in order to crush any lumps that may remain on the surface. In eight or ten days the corn will have made its appearance and the soil gets another harrowing. There is no danger of uprooting the corn, as we have used an iron harrow the two past seasons. Should the weather prove favorable, the corn will now make rapid growth, and is benefited by having the cultivator or horse hoe passed between the drills once in ten days or two weeks, until it grows so high as to become liable to be broken by the whiffletree. There does not seem to be much nourishment in the stalks before tasseling, so that a mixture of peas and oats sown early would make a more profitable soiling crop for feeding first when the pasture becomes short. In this section (Eastern Ontario) we allow the crop to grow as long as there is no danger of frost, so that the stalks may mature and form

nubbins. Last season, however, though exceptional, we had heavy frosts on the nights of the 6th and 7th of September, which damaged the crop so that it had to be cut at once, for if left uncut after heavy frost the stalks soon become almost worthless. Cutting is done with a sickle, passing the left arm around the end of the drill and cutting backwards. When enough for a bundle is cut it is laid evenly on the ground, and, if the weather is fine, allowed to remain until the following day, when it is bound and shocked up: two bands being placed around each stook. After remaining a couple of weeks or so in the stook they are hauled to the barns and placed standing on top of mows or other available space. If laid down in any quantity they will mould.

Hints About Lawns.

HOW TO SECURE A GOOD EVEN LAWN—A CHEAP AND SERVICEABLE HAND ROLLER.

To secure a good even lawn which will remain green in seasons of severe drouth, a deep and rich soil must be prepared. Most land requires underdraining and reducing to a fine mellow condition, to a depth of a foot and a half if practicable. If all this work can be done early in spring, as soon as the frost disappears and the soil is dry enough, the grass seed may be sown at once; otherwise it would be better to prepare the ground well and wait till autumn. If the spring is moist, it will do to sow later than in a dry season. It is very important to have the soil equally well prepared over the whole surface to give a uniformly green growth, and to prevent dry and brown patches. On large grounds this is done by subsoiling and harrowing with horse labor; on an eighth of an acre it must be done by hand. To make it sufficiently rich, finely broken manure must be worked in through the soil; this will aid in giving a green lawn in times of drouth. The application of pulverized lime, at the rate of a peck to a square rod, will be useful if well harrowed



FIG. 1.

or raked in. The grass seed should be sown on a finely pulverized smooth mellow surface, and brushed or rolled in, so as not to bury the seed over half an inch, and warm and moist weather will soon give the new green carpet. The best grass is Kentucky blue-grass or June grass, which is fine and continues green a long time, and will grow in the shade of trees. Red-top and white clover may be added. Sow at least five or six times as much as



FIG. 2.

farmers give to their grass lands. It should not be mowed closely the first year, or before well established. A more speedy way of securing a lawn, where the surface is limited, is by turving. The

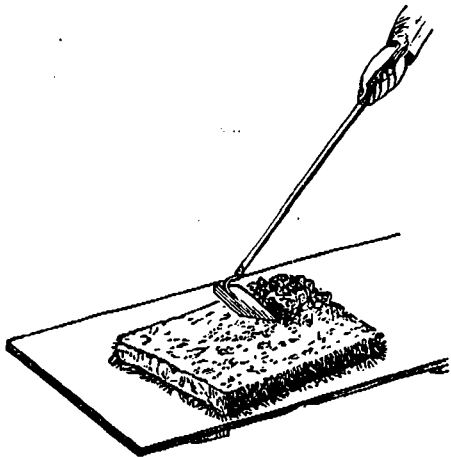


FIG. 3.

work, however, must be well done, or it will be rough and lumpy, like Fig. 1, which represents a