

of young plants, (planted in the spring of 1846, which now stands six feet high, and is three feet thick, close to the ground, through which even a chicken cannot creep. This fence has been frequently gapped by field mice and the insects described in Query No. 2. From the want of previous experience, the height this hedge has been allowed to attain, is too great in proportion to the stamina of the plant, and the consequence is, it is unable to sustain the pressure of the heavy falls of snow during the winter, leaving it in a ragged condition in the spring, and much damaged in symmetrical appearance. I would strongly urge, therefore, a free use of the dubbing shears for the first years of its growth, and not allow the hedge to exceed three or four feet in height, until the plant has gained a sufficient girth to support it against any casual pressure.

Queries Nos. 4 and 5.—Are answered in the foregoing remarks.

Query No. 6.—I have had no experience in cultivating the "Osage Orange," but have heard that it is greatly prized in the West for the purpose of fences, but in England it has been tried and has failed.

Query No. 7.—I have never kept a strict account of the cost of planting a Quickset Hedge per rod. I have paid as high as \$12 per 1,000 for the sets and have purchased them as low as \$1 per 1,000, and in both cases have planted the sets 1 1/2 inches apart. Independent of the labor, then, in preparing the land and planting the sets, the cost in either instance can be easily ascertained by calculating the number of plants to the rod of 16 1/2 feet, and the plants to the foot. But any farmer who is desirous of raising live fences upon an extensive scale, I would advise to import the berries by the bushel after they have been pulped in England and sow them in drills in the spring, when on the spring following the sets will be above ground, and the spring after that they will be fit for transplanting into hedge rows, at the cost of 6d., or 1s. at most for 1,000 plants. But the great cost of raising hedge fences, consists in the length of time the plant takes to form a fence, and the careful watching and weeding it requires during that time, and in replacing any dead sets, and in erecting an external fence of some kind to keep off cattle and sheep until the plant has attained to a sufficient vigor to protect itself. And the farmer who is not prepared to incur the cost and trouble of performing all that faithfully, I would strongly advise not to meddle with planting hedges, as without the requirements I have mentioned, he could not succeed in raising a hedge fence of any value.

Query No. 8.—As regards the comparative cost of a Quickset Hedge, and a "Post-and-board" fence, I have not made it a consideration.

Query No. 9.—I have raised the native thorn from the seed, and have planted it alternately in hedge rows with the English quickset, but have now tried it exclusively in forming a hedge. The opportunity, however, which that mode afforded me of observing its fitness for fence purposes, leaves no doubt on my mind of its being incomparably superior to the English thorn in every respect, in this Province. It is entirely free from the ravages committed by insects on the English thorn. It is a hardier plant and has a larger and stronger stem for resisting cattle, and likely to endure, when once well-formed, for generations, and kept in order with no greater trouble than a zig-zag or any other fence, without the same decay. It is surprising that the native thorn has not been long since brought into general use as a fence, and any farmer who is desirous of fencing off his fields with quickset fences, cannot, in my opinion, do better than confine his selection to the native plant. He need not travel off his own farm to find the material. All that he has to do is to collect the ripe berries in the fall, put them in a heap in the earth during winter, that they may ferment and pulp. Take them up and sow them in drills in the spring and in two years from that date they will be fit for transplanting into hedge rows. The usual care must then be taken of them, and the only enemy to be dreaded is the field mouse. I have now given you all the information my confined experience permits, upon the distinct and relative qualities of the English and Canadian thorn, as applicable to hedge fences. When I was in England in the winter of 1854-5, I purchased 2,000 beech seedlings, at the cost of 4s. 6d. per thousand. These I brought out with me and planted them in close rows in the garden. When I have the land prepared, I purpose to plant them alternately, in hedge rows, with the native thorn, from which I anticipate a better and more permanent fence than from the thorn alone. Time will tell whether I am right.

When I was in England during the winter of 1854 and '55, I ordered one hundred iron hurdles to be made for me as an experiment, to see whether they could be introduced with advantage into this Province, to average 50 lbs. each, to be six feet long and to have connecting pins three inches long passing through a socket and fastened with a nut. All included at the price of 5s. sterling each, and made of the best malleable wrought iron.

I suppose that by a fair representation to Government of the intention of the importation, it would have permitted the entry of the hurdles at the lowest scale of duty 2 1/2 per cent.; but it appears that in that supposition I was mistaken, for after two humble