

carrying the wood before it in driving. We now use *cut spikes* instead of hooks, costing less than one cent each. The head of a spike is not quite large enough to hold the rail, but by tying a rope yarn around the stake and nail it is perfectly safe, thus saving expense. In setting up the fence we stretch a line for the stakes, lay the sections along, and set the stakes,

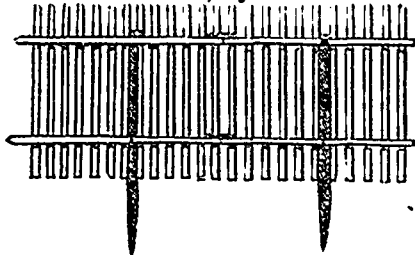


Fig. 2.

two to each section, as shown in the sketch, about 2 to 2½ feet from the end of the section, so as to prevent sagging in the middle. The stakes are driven, and a line stretched for the upper hooks or nails. After driving the hooks, the sections are hung up, and the lower hooks driven under the lower rail. The rails butt together, and to steady them and keep the fence in a line, we tack a narrow strip of board about 1½ feet long across joint, as shown in the sketch. You will see that the labor of setting up such a fence is almost nothing, and to remove and set it again is but a trifle. It is only to pry off the strips across the joints, lift off the section, pull up the stakes and it is ready to set up again. We claim for this fence: 1st, it is cheap, as it requires but little stock, the stakes not costing half as much as posts, which would require digging to set them; 2nd, it is light, and holds next to no wind, and will *always* stand up; 3rd, if well made, it is very handsome; and 4th, it is very easily removed from place to place.

The object in sending this to you is that we think it is, on the whole, the best style of movable fence that we have seen, or heard of, and that the plan would be valuable to any one wanting a movable fence.

The stakes, such as I have described, if taken from wood suitable for stakes, will last 4 or 5 years, and can easily be replaced as they are not connected with the rails. Judging from the durability of a picket fence made of spruce on my farm 20 years ago, I conclude that this fence will last, if no sap is used, 20 years; and if a coat of whitewash is applied occasionally, it will last much longer. We have between four and five hundred feet of this fence in use. One of our yards contains nearly an acre of land. A large part of the fence for that is of a different kind. It is the original fence of the lot—a stone wall with a rail added.

HINTS.

October and November are the closing months in the year when the moulting of fowls generally takes place. With full grown fowls it is the most critical time. The sexes should be kept apart, particularly the larger species and during this time they should be well fed on good, sound and nutritious food, not that which will accumulate too much fat, but which will keep up the extra demand of nature at this time. Granulated bone, wheat, oats, crushed corn, and a good supply of green food, such as cabbages, mangolds, carrots, and a moderate use of cooked meat will keep them in good condition, the food being varied every few days. Chopped onions will be found to be an excellent vegetable, to use occasionally, if given too often, both flesh and egg, will become impregnated with the flavor, to a great degree, which would be undesirable to many persons.

Poultry Keeping.

Is it profitable? How many can answer that question in a satisfactory manner? I wish every one who can, would, for

the benefit of those who can not. Of course, if you keep a large flock of hens that trample down your grain and scratch up your garden, and you only get a half dozen eggs a day, your common sense tells you that they are a damage to you; but if you get "quite a good many eggs," and they bring a pretty good price, usually, you have a vague idea that they are profitable, although you don't know any thing about it. If any reader of the *Farmer* would for one year keep a strict account of every dozen of eggs sold, and the price of every chicken raised, and all the eggs used by the family, and an equally strict account of the actual cost of keeping, and then give the public the benefit of their experience, the question would be answered. We find poultry keeping profitable on a small scale, but have doubts about a larger one. We have thirty-five hens of the Light Brahma breed. We prefer this breed because they are good layers, do not wander, and the chickens mature early and weigh heavily. They have a warm, well-lighted house, kept very clean, in which to roost and lay. Their regular food is a mixture of corn and barley, and about every other day a six-quart pail of sour milk thickened with oat or corn meal. Every day they are supplied with about a half bushel of coal ashes to wallow in (a sure preventive for lice), and are watered as regularly as the horses. About once a week they get a pound or two of scraps from the butcher, and they get all the scraps from the table, besides cabbage leaves, potato and apple parings chopped fine, and are constantly supplied with lime. The result is, they lay regularly all winter; we sell fresh eggs at the highest price every month in the year, and have abundance for our own use. The cost of keeping does not exceed two dollars, any month, and sometimes falls far below that figure.—*Old Maid, in Ohio Farmer.*

Plymouth Rocks.

Fanny Field, a first rate authority on poultry, says in the *Practical Farmer*:—As a market-fowl, the Plymouth Rocks stands at the head of the list. The Rocks hold the same place in American markets that the Dorking holds in the English. I do not say this because somebody else has said it and the Rocks are in fashion, or because I happen to be a breeder of this variety, but because I know it. As I remarked before, I do not raise chickens to look at, nor for the fun of the thing, but for cash. And do you think that I would keep on raising Plymouth Rocks year after year, unless I could make it pay? Not I! The poultry raiser who makes a business of raising chickens for market, and who expects to get his daily bread and butter from the profits on his chickens, wants a breed that as chicks will be sprightly, up and scratching, from the shell, hardy, and feather up quickly. As fowls, they must be good, but not everlasting sitters; good mothers; must lay on flesh rapidly when fattening for market, must weigh when dressed from five to eight pounds, be of good shape, with a good proportion of breast meat, and must have yellow skin, and smooth, yellow legs. The Plymouth Rocks possess all these good qualities, which make them about all that can be desired in a market fowl. "But," says somebody who is bound to find fault. Didn't A. B., in *The Farmer* of May 1, declare that his Rocks were inveterate sitters, and minus the yellow legs, and didn't come half way up to the standard, anyhow?" Yes, but I am not talking about "standard" Rocks just now, I am going around to that after a while. A. B. was unfortunate in having Plymouth Rocks that were "inveterate sitters," but we must not condemn the whole race because one man had bad luck with them. I have a Plymouth Rock hen three years old who never offered to sit; but I should not, on the strength of that one biddy, venture to assert that the Rocks are non-sitters. Somebody else says that the Plymouth Rocks all died off, while his Leghorns escaped; therefore, he concludes, the