

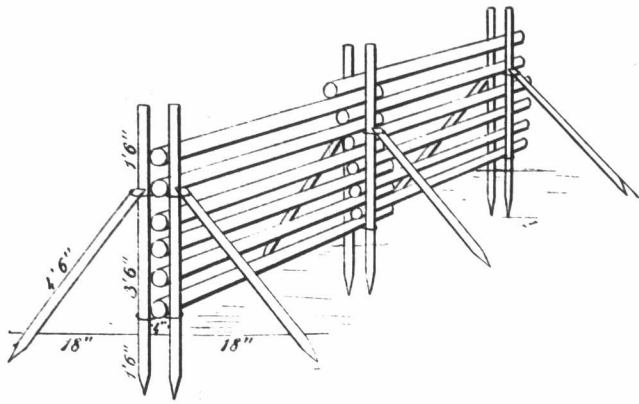
length of an ordinary rail will permit. When this is done, I commence at the bottom to put on rails, overlapping the ends, and fastening them to the stake with number eleven smooth fence wire. I keep on in this way until I have the fence four rails high, which brings it to the top of the stakes. I then cut cross stakes and sharpen one end, which I drive in the ground ten or twelve inches, placing them about two and one-half feet from the bottom of the fence, and long enough to hold a good sized rail for a rider where they cross at the top. I then put on good solid rails for riders, and wire them to the cross stakes. I then pass a wire from one cross stake to the other, passing it under fourth rail from the bottom and drawing it tight with the pinchers. It usually takes from one and a half to two pounds of wire per rod, according to the size of rails used. I have found this a very cheap and substantial stock-proof fence.

Ontario Co., Ont. ROBT. SPENCER.
Renovating Old Rail Fence—Setting Anchor Post.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In reply to your article in March 15th issue, on Farm Fencing, I would say after close inspection of a number of patent devices, and an actual test of five or six more, we have adopted the following one of our own invention, and therefore not patented, which we think is the cheapest, neatest and best. We have at least 200 rods of this fence that has been built for six years, and not one panel has ever blown down.

First prepare the stakes, 6 or 6½ feet long, sharpened at one end and sawn off square at the other; drive a pair of stakes about 4 inches apart and in a line of proposed fence, next pair stakes to be 11 feet or the distance the rails will allow from the first pair, and so on to end; then put a wire around the stakes six inches from the ground for the bottom rail to rest on, then build on three more rails. Now for the braces. Cut the braces 4½ feet long, sharpen one end, flatten the other end to one inch; drive the brace into the ground about one foot, and 18 inches from upright stake. Cut a nick in the upright stake one inch deep just where the brace touches, which should be ¾ feet from the ground, then put on second wire, cross the wire between the stakes, wire to come down onto the braces about two inches, then lay on two more rails, or, if necessary, three, if the rails are very small, and your fence is complete.



The cost for new material is very small, as old stakes that are too short for cross stakes for worm fence can be used, or a cedar or oak rail will make two stakes or a stake and a brace; the wire will cost about one cent per rod. I think two men could prepare stakes and braces and put up 20 rods in a day. In this fence there are no wide spaces for stock to get their heads through; you can replace broken rails easily, or take out a panel without cutting a wire or taking out a stake.

I am pleased you are asking for discussion for setting anchor post and other post for wire fence, as we have put up considerable wire fence and propose putting up a long stretch in the spring, and I have given it a good deal of consideration. I am afraid the frost would burst the cement. My idea at present is, dig the hole 4 feet by 2 feet and 3 feet deep, with a hole 1 foot deeper in the center for bottom of post to rest in; take the anchor post, cut a gain 2 inches deep and 6 inches wide one foot from the bottom end, spike on securely a piece 2x6 inches and 3 feet long of good, tough wood, this piece to be set on a line with fence; set next post 15 feet from first post, put a brace from near top of anchor post to near ground of second post, put two or three twisted No. 9 wire from top of second post to ground line of anchor post. Before filling in end post put a flat stone on outside end of cross piece, fill in earth to within one foot of top, then fill in with small stones or gravel; this will keep the post from heaving with the frost. For intermediate posts I intend to use rather small ones, from four to six inches at top, and sharpen bottom end.

Peel Co., Ont. J. PICKERING.
Five Smooth Wires, with Barbed Wire on Top.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Having noticed an article in your March 15th issue, entitled "Farm Fencing," I send you the description of a wire fence we built two years ago. This fence is advertised in your columns by Picket Wire Fence Co. of Toronto. We have five smooth twisted wires and a barbed wire on top, and these are joined together by wire sections, twisted around strands two feet apart, alternately.

The spaces between wires vary. Ours are placed 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 inches apart from the ground up.

We set posts 12 feet apart and 3 feet deep, except the three end ones, which were 6 feet apart and 4 feet deep, and braced thus, W. Two strips were spiked into notches near bottom of end post, and large stones placed on each side of post. The wires were wrapped around end post, and tied to wire to prevent post from turning and letting wires slack. Posts will last longer without a bank than with, if land is dry. I consider this fence neat and strong, and not so dangerous as barbed wire. Total cost per rod two years ago, including posts and staples, 65 cents. Wire is now cheaper, which will materially lessen the cost of fence.

Ontario Co., Ont. ALEX. JEFFREY.

Clover an Excellent Fertilizer for Potatoes.

BY JOHN TAYLOR, WATERLOO CO., ONT.

Our regular crop rotation is not arranged to suit the potato crop especially, but our potato crop is worked in with the rotation. Our potatoes will be planted the coming season on land that grew a crop of wheat in 1897. The field was seeded down and has an excellent catch of clover. The clover will be allowed to grow in the spring till about May 15th, when it will be plowed. The ground will be thoroughly harrowed, rolled and worked with the disk harrow. After the ground has been plowed and harrowed thoroughly a coat of barnyard manure will be spread on top (about 15 good loads per acre) and worked in with the disk harrow. More manure could be applied if the land needed it. Some will, perhaps, be afraid they could not work it in by cultivation, but we have found no difficulty in that regard. We believe clover can scarcely be valued too highly as a fertilizer for potatoes. Some of the finest crops of potatoes we ever grew were grown on an old clover sod which was full of clover roots. It was plowed about May 1st, planting the seed right in the sod every third furrow. It will take the potatoes about thirty days to come up, but you are almost sure, everything else being favorable, of a fine crop of good smooth tubers.

We will plant White Elephant mostly, which we find to be a good all-round potato for family use. Seed is cut from good averaged sized marketable tubers, two eyes to a piece. Too great care cannot be taken to have good fresh seed. Potatoes that have sprouted and grown much in the cellar or pit are not as good for seed, as so much of the vitality is lost. We prefer to plant in drills from 30 to 36 inches apart, setting about 14 inches apart in the row, 4 to 5 inches deep. During the last two seasons the bugs have been unusually plentiful. Last year many crops were almost destroyed in this locality by the bugs early in the season just as the potato was coming up. On that account we found late planting, near June 1st, the best for field crop.

Too great importance cannot be attached to cultivation. We keep working on the land with harrow and disk till potatoes are up. Then use the horse hoe or scuffler, running deep at first, then shallow, only stirring the surface, as we must be careful not to break the roots of the growing potatoes. Frequency will depend on the season largely. It does not pay to let a crust form after rain, as then a great deal of moisture is lost by evaporation. We are decidedly opposed to hilling up as is usually done by the plow. First because great injury is done the crop by cutting the little fine rootlets which spread out between the rows. Then the moisture is not so well distributed among the potatoes after a rain. Potatoes use a great deal of moisture. All the hilling needed is simply to keep the potatoes from being sunburnt. The growing tubers are apt to swell and crack the soil, but a very little earth thrown on them with the scuffler is all the hilling that is required. We prefer applying Paris green dry with plaster to destroy bugs, but have had little trouble yet with blight.

The Growing of Mangels, Carrots and Turnips.

BY THOS. A. CHISHOLM, BRUCE CO., ONT.

One of the objects of growing roots by most farmers is to help to clean the land, and either partially or altogether take the place of summer-fallowing. In regard to carrots, the first sowing of the three mentioned roots, the work up to the time of sowing is very similar to the others, but I always select the most mellow and cleanest part of field; then after sowing, even in the most favorable seasons, the germination and growth are very slow up to the thinning time, often giving weeds a start, causing the thinning to take at least double the labor of turnips, also a good deal more work is required to harvest crop, and greater care in stowing them away in such a manner that they will keep. This to a certain extent also applies to mangels; but as carrots are good for horses, and mangels for pigs, as well as being excellent for late spring feeding; it is well to grow them both to this extent at least.

Now, as to the preparation of land for these above-mentioned crops, it is very much alike in the first place, which, if at all possible, is best begun immediately after harvest the previous season by a light plowing of an oat stubble (if grown on sod all the better), followed by harrowing, and late in the fall by a deep plowing; after manuring the carrot portion of land with well-rotted manure, at the rate of fifteen to twenty loads per acre, if light or medium soil, but if heavy soil would recommend

less to be put on in fall, and a coat of green manure as free of weed seeds as possible, to be applied in the winter because of its mellowing effect on such soil.

For turnips and mangels apply manure in the winter, spreading as evenly as possible on surface, manuring the mangel portion heavier than the turnips, not less than twenty loads per acre, working the manure into soil as early as possible in spring by either common harrow, disk harrow, or gang plow, as found best adapted for the purpose. Have always plowed until last year with single plow before drilling up, but last year worked it with iron plow and disk harrow and secured a good crop.

Sow carrots about the 10th of May, earlier or later a week or so, according to season; on drills as narrow as can be worked, scuffed, say about 25 inches, sowing two pounds of seed per acre. Have sown turnips from the 1st of June to the 15th of same month in drills from 28 to 30 inches wide, sowing from 1½ to 2 lbs. of seed per acre.

To secure even germination of seed it is well to keep ground harrowed not less than each half-day's plowing, and also rolling if weather is very dry, leaving it rolled for a week or ten days before drilling up. Have found the half-long white carrot to be a good yielder. Mangels—The long red is the heaviest yielder, but the yellow mangel and the Golden Tankard are very fine quality. Turnips—I usually mix all the kinds of swede seed seedsman has on hand, but would recommend growing a portion of some green-topped swede turnips separated for late spring feeding, as they are extra good keepers, and also some Greystone, Aberdeen or white globe for early fall feeding.

Home Grown Seed Corn Earlier than Imported.

BY WILLIAM MOUNTAIN, PERTH CO., ONT.

We invariably follow the practice of plowing down sod, a clover sod being preferred, although on two or three occasions we have sown corn two years in succession with good results, the land being in good heart and well fertilized. We plow down the sod just before sowing, plowing as wide as can well be turned, working with disk and Acme harrows until it is as fine as it is possible to make it, using the roller if necessary, rolling after seeding also. The land intended for corn is top dressed during the winter with barnyard manure just as it is made, about ten loads to the acre. In our opinion, clover is a very valuable fertilizer, although it is not always available. By top dressing and plowing down a good heavy stand of clover it insures a sufficient amount of heat and moisture to give it a good start.

The varieties which have done best with us for the silo are the following, in the order named: Butler County Early Dent, Huron Dent, and Compton's Early. These varieties insure a good degree of maturity and a large proportion of cob. For a crop to husk, Compton's Early White Flint and Smut-nose. I would prefer to plant in hills were it not for the fact that we are generally pushed by work at this time, and also on account of the harvester working better when in rows than in hills. We sow with the seed drill, 37½ inches apart, sowing about 8 of a bushel to the acre. As soon as the corn is well above ground we commence to use the weeder, using it once a week or more if the ground is baked by rain, until corn becomes too large. We use the scuffler about three times at intervals, beginning at a good depth and becoming shallower as the corn roots extend outward. When scuffling the last time, about the time of blossoming, we put a homemade attachment on the rear of the scuffler which shoves a quantity of the loose earth up to the roots. We sow rape just alongside of the corn row on the south or east side. We only sow rape in part of the corn crop. Some years rape is quite a success, and in others, especially dry ones, it is only a partial success. For feeding lambs in the late fall the rape is good, and in a favorable fall makes a good growth after the corn crop is removed. It has been our experience that home-grown corn seed matures a week or more earlier than the same variety brought from the south.

Root Growing at the Dominion Experimental Farm.

BY JOHN FIXTER, FARM FOREMAN.

Comparing heavy clay soil against any of the sandy soils, I would say the clay takes one-quarter to one-third more labor. If a farm will allow selection of soil, choose for carrots light sandy loam; for mangels, medium; turnips, heavy sandy loam, tending to clay. For carrots or mangels select a field that has been a meadow two or three years. Plow very shallow immediately after the hay is taken off. Harrow and disk harrow sufficient to cut up all the sod and keep the surface cultivated until autumn. The cultivating should be done when the soil is dry and very warm. This is an excellent plan to kill thistles, scutch grass, or any other weeds. If the soil is heavy I would plow and subsoil deep in the autumn and spread on twenty tons manure per acre. For turnips select a field that has been in grain the previous year and has had clover sown with it. Do not touch the field until about May 30th, when you will have a heavy growth of clover to plow under. Roll with a heavy land roller. Disk harrow thoroughly up to the time of sowing, then make your drills two feet apart. Roll down about one third and sow.

Time and Manner of Sowing.—Carrots, 3 to 4 pounds per acre, sow May 1st to 10th; mangels, 4