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EARLY HUMOR.

Gladstone, when a boy, was visiting in the country and the farmer was showing him around. Coming to a field that contained a large, black bull, the farmer said: "There's a fine, strong, bull there, Master William, and it's only two years old."

"How do you tell its age?" queried the boy.

"Why, by its horns," said the farmer. "By its horns," Young Gladstone looked thoughtful a moment, then his face cleared. "Ah, I see. Two horns—two years."

"A Scotchman, wishing to know his fate at once, telegraphed a proposal of marriage to a lady acquaintance. After spending the entire day at the telegraph office, he was finally rewarded, late in the evening, by an affirmative answer. "If I were you," suggested the operator, when he delivered the message, "I'd think twice before I'd marry a girl that kept me waiting all day for my answer." "Na, na," retorted the Scot. "The lass who waits for the night rates is the lass for me."

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Preserving Fence Posts from Decay.

Wood-rot, in all its forms, is due to the action of fungi working under suitable air and moisture conditions. In fence-posts, these conditions are most favorable at or near the surface of the ground, and hence it is there that decay first starts. Some woods, like the cedar and tamarack, are more resistant to fungus attack, and may last, as fence posts, from eight to ten years. Unfortunately, however, the supply of these woods has grown very scarce, and the farmer is faced with the alternative of importing durable material at a high price, or of applying preservatives to the common, non-durable woods which grow in his own wood-lot. As the latter alternative is not only cheaper, but also much more effective, it is of considerable economic interest to the farmer to know how these wood-preservatives are applied.

Creosote, a "dead" oil of coal tar, is perhaps the best preservative for this purpose, as it does not dissolve out of the treated wood, when in contact with moist earth. It costs from eight to fifteen cents per gallon.

There are two methods of applying the creosote, but before either method can be applied, it is necessary to have the posts well seasoned if the best results are desired. This seasoning is best accomplished by peeling the bark from the posts and then stacking them in loose piles in the open air for several months, so the amount of water in the wood may be reduced to the smallest per cent. possible.

The Brush Method consists in applying the creosote like a coat of paint to the lower portion of the post, up to a point six inches above the ground line, the creosote being first heated to one hundred and eighty degrees Fahrenheit. Two or more coats may be applied, time being allowed between each application for the creosote to soak into the wood.

What is known as the Open-tank Method, while more expensive, secures deeper penetration, and gives better results, especially when the posts are split or checked. The creosote is heated to boiling point in a metal tank, and, if such is not available, a simple and effective apparatus can be made by boring two holes, about two feet apart, in the lower half of one of the staves of a water-tight barrel and screwing into these holes two pieces of iron piping three to four feet long, which are connected by a shorter vertical pipe with two elbow-joints, thus forming a complete circuit somewhat resembling the handle of a mug.

The barrel is then filled with enough creosote to cover both upper and lower pipe holes, and a fire is kindled under the lower horizontal pipe, which heats the creosote in the pipes, and creates a circulation which continues until all the creosote within the barrel is at boiling-point. The posts are then placed in this boiling liquid for about five hours, after which they are immediately transferred to another barrel of creosote, or else the fire is put out and they are allowed to remain in the tank until the creosote becomes thoroughly cooled.

In this process the preliminary heating drives some of the contained air out of each wood-pore, and when the posts are allowed to cool in the creosote, a partial vacuum is then created in each pore which draws the creosote into every fibre. Poplar posts, which ordinarily last but three to four years, after the above treatment, will last twenty years, and the same applies to all other tree species in Canada. All that is essential is thorough seasoning before treatment. Further information can be obtained on application to the Forestry Branch, Ottawa.

The witness on the stand was being subjected to cross-examination. In answering one question he nodded. Whereupon the court stenographer, who could not see the witness, demanded, "Answer that question."

The witness replied: "I did answer it; I nodded my head."

"Well, I heard the rattle but could not tell whether it was up or down or from side to side," answered the stenographer.—Law Notes.

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