

**Fencing.**

As rails decay fences are required. The attention of many is now turned to the question of what kind of a fence are they to replace the rails with. In some sections where saw mills are running, boards are extensively used; but there are sections where even the board fences are now expensive.

In England and in the States wire fences are now preferred. On our prairie land, on lands that flood, and along roads that drift in winter, the wire fence would be preferable to any other. The cost must depend much on the value of the posts; in some parts they are very cheap. A good, solid post, well braced, is needed at each end of the fence. Small posts can be used at a distance of 8 to 16 feet apart, to support the wires and keep them a proper distance apart. It is claimed that the barbed wire is avoided by stock. One scratch from one of the barbs is sufficient for a herd. It is also claimed that it does not sag as much as the single wire does, and that it is not as much affected by the temperature; the double wire being twisted, is less affected by expansion and contraction.

The wire sells at one cent per foot in this city. It is easily put up. The accompanying cut shows the proper form of bracing the end post and the mode of tightening and stretching the wire.

Years ago we recommended the planting of the Lombardy poplar for fencing. Those that now have them growing can string the wire along on them, and have a live fence that will be a pattern to their neighbors. If you have not yet planted a row of Lombardy poplars for this purpose, make up your mind that you will do it the first opportunity you have. Full particulars about wire fencing may be found in pamphlets supplied by the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Co., of Worcester, Mass., U. S., Dominion Barb Fence Factory, 63 College St., Montreal, P. Q., or Messrs. Reid & Son, their agents in this city.

**Corn Culture Now.**

If the soil needs stirring before the corn comes up, you can use some good harrow that will not interfere with the cornhills; if the soil is dry and inclined to be cloddy, put on the roller immediately after the corn comes up, and follow it with harrow or good two-horse corn-plow, with fenders and small shovels next the corn; we prefer the latter. Plow deep both ways; any good one-horse plow will do, but time is too precious to fool away with a one-horse plow in this day and age of the world, unless you want to farm a little for amusement. It does not matter so much what the soil is stirred with so it is stirred well and often. After the corn begins to take root don't plow so close nor deep. There is great sleight in corn-plowing. Use judgment, train your team for the business. Our agricultural societies ought to pay a large premium on best trained team to plow corn, and not quite so much on style and speed. Put some dirt on the corn at last, plowing to sustain the brace-roots; when the corn gets too large to plow with our two-horse plows, quit. If there are any stray weeds take them out.

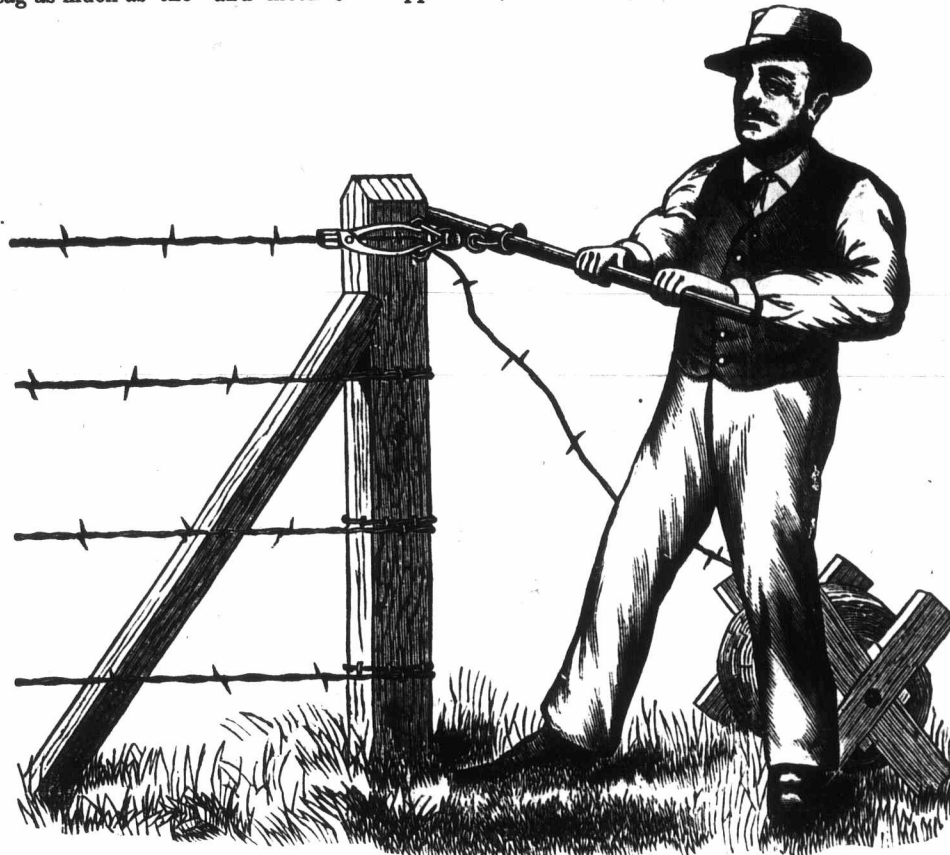
**Australian Wheat.**

Of the competition American farmers will have to contend with in their supplying the British market with breadstuffs, the *American Cultivator* replies to a doubting correspondent in this wise:

A Monroe County (N. Y.) correspondent expresses some surprise at our statement, in a recent issue, that South Australia is likely to become one of the most important wheat-producing countries in the world. It is true that what is called the Northern Territory is tropical in its climate, and not well adapted to the growth of wheat; yet it is stated on eminent English authority that, excluding that territory, the actual area of the colony is about 246,000,000 acres, and though one-half at least of this is available for arable purposes, not more than one-hundredth part is under any cultivation. The quality of the samples which carried off the prize at the Paris Exhibition was not considered by the Australians as extraordinarily good, since the prize wheat exhibited at the Colonial agricultural shows, during the last ten years, has averaged 68 pounds per Imperial bushel. In such districts as are provided with abundant labor and mechanical appliances, the average yield of

**Drains Clogged by Clover Roots.**

Some farmers think that clover roots are not the cause of the stoppage of tile-drains. I also thought my workman mistaken when he informed me those fine fibrous roots were clover roots, and told him if he would trace them to the surface and find the clover growing at the top I would believe in his theory—which he did; the roots produced ran from the surface in a good strong tap-root, at least 30 inches, to the tile; as soon as it entered the water in the tile it branched out in small fibrous roots, running in the tile about two feet in this case. The workman took pains to follow the roots to the surface wherever he found a stoppage, and in every instance found the clover at the top of the root. A neighbor also found one of his four inch tiles stopped, caused by a soke root running down and entering the tile three feet from the surface. The root was small where it entered the tile, and branched out like the roots of the clover, dirt and sand adhering to these fine rootlets until the tile failed to carry the water. This one stoppage removed, the drain has since worked finely.—[Ohio Farmer.]



MODE OF ERECTING A WIRE FENCE.

wheat is as high as 27 bushels per acre, which, however, is far above the general yield. With a population of but 211,000, and a total area under wheat of but 1,000,000 acres, combined with a great lack of modern machinery, South Australia is not at present a formidable rival to the United States in wheat-raising; though it will be well to bear in mind that we have no monopoly in supplying Europe with wheat, and in fact, that we shall be a richer nation when we consume more wheat at home, and, in its stead, export more manufactured goods.

A patent has lately been granted in Canada and the United States for a machine to sprinkle potato vines with Paris Green, mixed with water. The machine consists of a wheelbarrow frame carrying a tub holding the liquid. India rubber tubes convey the liquid to two circular brushes revolving in cups, which are on the ends of a shaft rotated under the barrow-frame by a pulley band from the ground wheel. The shaft and brushes have adjustability, so that the liquid is thrown in a very fine spray upward under the leaves to a greater or less angle, and extensible to any width between the rows of vines. The machine is guaranteed to give satisfaction by the owners of the patent. Application for the right to manufacture should be made to Henry Grist, Solicitor of Patents, Ottawa, through whose agency the patent was obtained.

**TOMATOES IN THE GARDEN.**—As soon as the land is warm, and all danger from frost is past, tomato plants should be transplanted in good soil four feet apart each way. The land best suited for the early crop is a rather light sandy loam. Stiff, strong soil bears a productive crop, but it will mature later. A little quick and fine manure in each hill will be found of service in bringing forward the plants. To hasten the maturity of the first fruit which sets, gardeners generally pinch off the extremities of the tops and all the secondary shoots which afterwards appear above the flowers. Trellises of stakes and hoops provide a good support for the plants, but where a large crop is raised covering the ground with hay or straw is usually adopted to keep the fruit clean.

**SMOKING SEED CORN.**—A successful corn farmer says that he always smokes his seed corn. After selecting his corn, he hangs it in his smoke-house and smokes it well. At times it is black.

The result of this treatment is that the corn is not liable to rot before it sprouts, and insects do not disturb it. Where he uses smoked corn, there is no necessity of replanting. He has tested this experiment for a number of years, and has always been successful. Last year he ran out of smoked corn while planting one field, and used a small quantity of corn that was not smoked. On the portion where the unsmoked corn was he was compelled to replant the greater part.

The Australian Exhibition is to open at Sydney, in August next, and will be largely, of course, agricultural, though other departments will be amply provided for. Special buildings have been erected in Prince Albert Park, and every facility will be afforded to exhibitors. Our makers of agricultural machines and similar wares should make use of this opportunity to present their wares to the enterprising farmers of the colony, and we hope that Canadian industry will be largely represented at this exhibition, as we think it will be profitable.

The Commissioner of Agriculture is said to have already distributed 50,000 young tea plants. It is thought that tea can be raised profitably in the United States.

D. O., of Sunbury, P. O., states that he raised 10 bushels of Red Fern wheat from one peck the past season.