

Turnip Culture.

While turnips need not be sown before the middle of June, and are generally safer from attack by the fly if sown between the 15th and 20th of that month, the land should be worked in the meantime, to start and destroy as many weeds as possible while they are young, and also to aid in conserving moisture in the soil. It is almost essential to success in turnip-growing, on most soils, that the land shall have been plowed in the fall, having had the benefit of the effect of the frost of winter in rendering it friable. If manure has been applied in the fall or winter all the better; but if not, fresh manure from the barnyard at this season may be spread, plowed under, and incorporated with the soil by cultivation. By frequent use of the roller, harrow, and other implements, the land should be reduced to a very fine tilth before ridging or drilling up for sowing. A double-mouldboard plow is a great advantage in ridging, but a good plowman can make neat work with a single-mouldboard plow, and, where the acreage is small, this answers the purpose very well. The ridges should be not less than 26 inches apart, and 30 inches may be preferable. These need not—and had better not—be high, but must be sharp at the top to fit the ordinary turnip drill, in order that the seed may be sown at a uniform depth of about an inch or an inch and a half, and the ridges may be flattened by the use of the roller after sowing. Two pounds of seed per acre is abundance to sow, and where there is plenty of moisture in the land, a half pound less is quite sufficient, and will facilitate the process of thinning the plants, though it is considered safer to sow liberally, in case the fly should make a heavy siege on them. If there is considerable moisture in the land, it is a good plan to sow in the evening of each day the ridges that have been prepared that day; but in clay soil, especially, unless there is considerable moisture present, it is better to wait for a shower, and sow after the rain, as the packing of the land by the rain, and the tendency to crust the surface is liable to prevent the tender plants from coming through, and delays their growth, while if sown after the rain, they come up in a few days, and, having plenty of room, moisture and air, grow rapidly, without any check.

As soon as the plants are well up, especially if crust has formed, the scuffer should be started to destroy young weeds and admit air, to aid the growth of the plants and help retain moisture in the soil. For the purpose of breaking the crust, it is sometimes well to use the roller, but the most effective implement for this, and for destroying young weeds is the wheel hoe, a light hand implement, which straddles the row, and has sharp knives which cut the crust on both sides of the plants. This, no doubt, with a little ingenuity, may be arranged to be drawn by a horse; but next to this, the common horse hoe, going a round to a row, answers the purpose well. Too much importance can scarcely be attached to this matter of preventing crust formation, and of breaking the crust and frequently moving the surface soil early after each rain, as upon this depends largely the success of the crop. Singling the plants to a distance of 10 to 12 inches apart should be commenced soon after they are in the rough leaf, and, with a little practice, this can be done rapidly with the turnip hoe, with the blade set square to the handle, and with a pulling and pushing motion, without touching the plants with the hands, but cutting out with each stroke the full width of the hoe, and selecting the strongest plant to be left. A second hoeing later on may be necessary, in order to cut out any weeds that may have escaped, and will pay well for the doing, though if well done at first, and the horse hoe used frequently, and especially after rains, the crop will, as a rule, go on well, and prove one of the most profitable on the farm for feeding purposes.

Sow Clover.

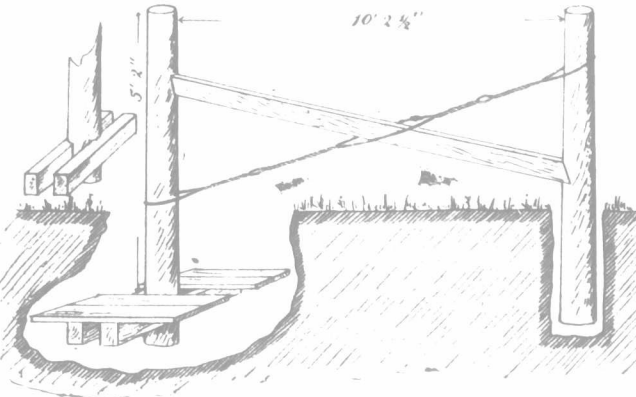
Many weeds are now showing themselves around our buildings and lanes and fence corners, and this is the time of the year for the farmer to see that these pests are destroyed. In a very short time the rush of farm work will be in again, and no time will be available for anything but pressing duties. The old-fashioned grub hoe or a "spud" with a foot attachment is the burdock's foe. A pocketful of clover is a splendid thing for the farmer to take with him on his campaign of extermination. For every weed uprooted let a few seeds of clover be sown in its place. This will mean later on not only that colts and cows will be free from troublesome seeds and burrs, but that many a mouthful will be available for cattle and hogs and fowl, and that the farm will be freer from those pests who find in the weeds their most congenial hiding place. A very few hours' attention now will accomplish what will look like a formidable task in a month or six weeks. C. J. Wentworth Co., Ont.

The wealth, beauty, fertility and healthfulness of the country largely depend upon the conservation of our forests and the planting of trees.—J. G. Whittier.

How to Anchor and How Not to Anchor Corner Fence Posts.

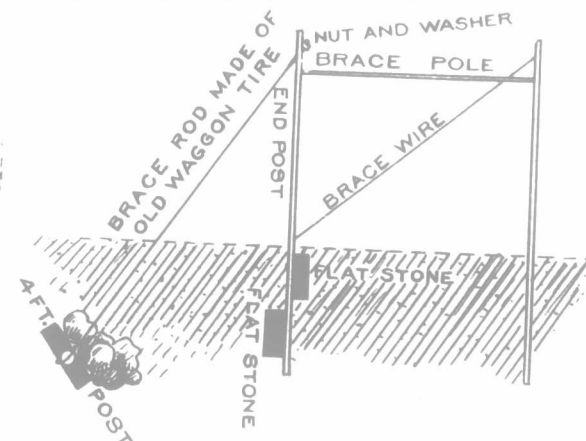
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

My experience and observation has taught me some methods to adopt and some things to avoid in the anchoring of wire fences. One method in very general use of which I do not approve is style No. 1, shown



No. 1.

herewith, as those mortises for scantling will soon rot off, and that brace pole placed on a slant, as in cut, gives the end post a lifting tendency, and throws a heavy strain on the brace wire. Observers, see if in nine cases out of ten where a fence is braced in this way, the end post is not more or less raised? A speedy and economical way I find is as shown in cut 2.



No. 2.

Keep the brace pole straight. Put 4-foot post through ring at lower end of brace rod, 2 1/2 ft. below ground, and load with stone. Bore hole for brace rod in end post nearer the side on which fence wire will be put, and use a heavy washer. E. C. R. Perth Co., Ont.



First-prize Yorkshire Boar.

Ayr Show, Scotland. Exhibited by Mr. Wallace, Broomhouse, Midlothian.

Use of the Weeder.

It has been noted that the Breed weeder, as well as other makes of this useful implement, are less talked about than some years ago. Some men have bought it, or tried it, and been disappointed, saying that it was not all it was cracked up to be. In those cases the dissatisfaction arises from a misunderstanding of its utility. The farmer on heavy land, who lets a solid crust form in his cornfield before working it, need not expect the weeder to do effective work. The utility of the weeder is to prevent crusts from forming, not to break up stubborn ones after they are formed. For the former purpose it is worth nearly if not quite all that the manufacturers claim for it. About the only land, we believe, on which it is not satisfactory is a stiff clay, and even here it can be employed to some good purpose. The weeder is a fast-working implement, highly profitable to use, and even though a discarded at present seem to be increasing in value, it is bound to be appreciated and used by and-by, unless something

better comes to take its place. The up-to-date corn-grower's motto is, "Don't let the crust form," and the weeder is a valuable means of serving the purpose.

Our Western Letter.

It rained all night last night in the Province of Alberta, and to-day it still threatens to continue. Everybody looks glad, for the earth was dry, and, in the poetic language of a local paper, "The golden raindrops fell from heaven all night, and the thirsty earth reached up and licked it in." Even flowers grow in the newspapers after such refreshing showers! The question of farming in this Province is largely one of moisture. We only have an average of from thirteen to twenty inches rainfall, but you have to reckon that that does not come as it does in Ontario. We have no big April floods or November rains. The most of it gets here in May and June, and that's when we want it, and when it does the most good.

The Calgary spring sale is the big event in the live-stock world out here. Prices this year are away ahead of last year, or, in fact, of any year since the inception of the sale. Better quality is one reason. Keener demand is the other. The people are more optimistic this year than ever, and right good cause they have for feeling so, for everything looks rosy just now.

The first Legislature is over. It was quite a novelty to us for some time to have a Government of our own, but the newness will wear off in time. The estimates look big, but when simmered down to actual facts, agriculture has come out pretty much at the small end of the horn. There has been a good big appropriation to bolster up the sugar-beet industry, but live stock and other things are expected to look out for themselves.

Preparations are being made for the summer shows. We have them pretty early in the West. Last year the exhibitions were proverbial for the accumulations of mud, raked up in the form of side-shows. This year there will be a change. The shows will be cleaned up, and the Pike and Midway have seen their best—I beg your pardon—worst days.

Land values continue to appreciate steadily, especially along the new lines of railway. The C. P. R. has recently raised the price of its land along the line of the G. T. P. and C. N. R. to exorbitant figures. This is a piece of downright cussedness, inspired by the one object of putting a choke-band around the throats of these two railways, by preventing settlement in country tributary to them. Such conduct is detrimental to the country as a whole, and the C. P. R. should learn the fact that it is a dangerous policy to muzzle the ox that has been so patient in treading out the corn, as the people will tire after a while, and the C. P. will find the mistake it has made. After all, it is the people who rule.

R. J. D.

How the Seed Control Act Works for the Farmer.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Please permit me a small space in your valuable farm paper just to explain how the Seed Control Act appears to the farmer. It has controlled the little profit that was in growing timothy and clover seed right out of our reach, and will be the cause of more weed seeds being sown than was before, as farmers cannot afford to pay the big price for seed that comes out of a bag with a tag on it, and he will buy his seed from a neighbor who sells his seed dirt and all. I don't know of timothy seed bringing more than \$1.00 per bushel this spring to the farmer, and cleaned seed is held at \$3.75 per bushel, and we don't know if it is any cleaner than our own. Who gets the \$2.75? It is not the farmer. Red clover was bought from farmers last fall for \$6.50, right from the huller, dirt and all, without seeing it, and farmers cleaned seed that tested 94.18, and in 16 grams of which there were only three curled docks and one catch-fly (two weeds that are on most every farm), only brought \$7.25, and Government-stamped seed was held at \$12.00. Now, who got the \$4.25, and what did they get it for? It was not the farmer. Why don't they pay the farmer according to how his seed tests, and reclean it or sell it out again accordingly? It is no encouragement for a farmer to grow clean seed, and it is an encouragement for the buyer to buy dirty seed. Someone is making money out of the Seed Control Act our Government framed for us; but it is not the farmer. But what does the Government care for the farmer? We are not dragging after them for a job. Thanking you for this space, I hope to hear how it suits the recleaner. Lambton Co., Ont. LAMBTON FARMER.

Insurance inspectors, to be acceptable to some of the companies, should be picked from amongst a company of blind men.