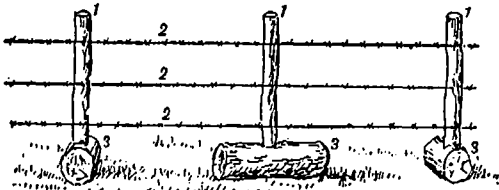




Portable or Movable Fence.

MR. JOHN HENRY, Oak Farm, Minnedosa, Man., writes us: Receiving as I have some enjoyable hours from the perusal of your paper, I thought perhaps you would receive from me as a slight return a sketch of a new portable or movable fence, which I think supplies a long felt want in this country, as it can be moved easily, is very strong, and is much more durable than when the posts are driven into the ground. I find it very service-



able when feeding green fodder in the fall, as little by little the stock eat it off. 1 and 2 are the wire and posts; 3 I call the bunks, which are logs 4 ft. long by 8 in. diameter, with a 2½ in. hole bored through the middle. The posts are axed round to go into the holes, the post and bunk are fixed as shown in cut, and the staples driven home, making a good solid fence. Secure the ends firmly. I have repaired considerable wire fencing this winter by this method. To remove, pull out the posts, lay all down, roll up the wire and posts together, lift into your wagon, put in the bunks and take away. The bunks just stand on the ground. It is not patented.

Aids to Better Roads.

WERE it not for the cost of handling by the expensive process of slow shoveling, gravel would be employed much more extensively in road making. Two cheap devices suitable for universal use commend themselves to the road builder. In practice they save twenty to twenty-five per cent. of the time required for shoveling, while men and teams experience less fatigue than by the old-time process. The first help, shown in Fig. 1, is merely a platform of boards with cleats beneath, like a door, six feet long, having wings at the ends, which are held in an upright position by an iron rod running

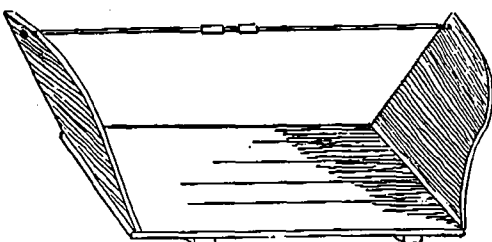


FIG. 1. WINGED PLATFORM.

from one to the other. It is laid flat on the gravel to shovel on while working into the bank. By using a hoe the gravel may be cleared from behind it, a few inches at a time, and the platform pushed up. As the bank caves, it falls on the hard, smooth surface of the platform, and each shovelful may be taken up with much less strength and time than if shoveling in the bank with nothing to aid the edge of the shovel. The wings, projecting outward, catch additional quantities, and shoot it on to the floor for the shoveler. The second help is made in two ways, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Fig. 2 is a platform the length of a wagon box, or longer, if the gang of shovelers be large enough. It has legs in front that are high enough to raise it above the wagon. Its rear side rests in the bank. Men stand on it and rapidly fill each wagon that drives under it, and without lifting any of the gravel. If the bank does not hang over this platform, the gravel may be expeditiously loaded by being thrown on it, and hauled off into the wagon by one or two

men with large hoes. The other form of this device, Fig. 3, is built much heavier. Its legs are made in the form of braces, so that it cannot be pulled toward the wagon, and instead of resting on the sloping bank, heavy legs support it. These are

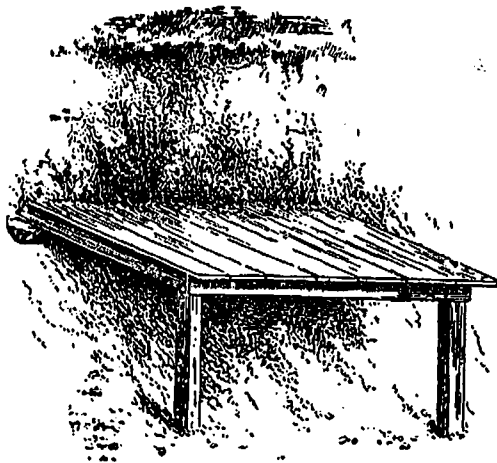


FIG. 2. PLATFORM WITH PERPENDICULAR LEGS.

first buried in the gravel as a further protection against force. All this precaution is taken because the wagons are to be filled by horse power; and an extra horse or team will be required. A common scraper does the work, but the team is not used on the platform. Its place is on the ground beyond the wagon being filled, and a heavy rope connects it with the scraper. A pulley on a convenient tree can be made to lighten the draught and elevate the rope above the wagon. With wagons enough to keep the scraper-team at work, highways may be very rapidly graveled and swamps filled. Loose planks for sides and bottom should be used on the wagon instead of the regulation box. These may

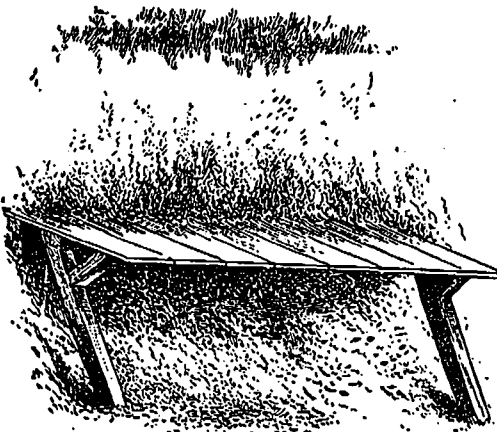


FIG. 3. BRACED PLATFORM.

be removed piecemeal, allowing the load to fall where it is wanted, without handling. Where a team and scraper are employed, the winged platform, shown in the first figure, will be found useful as a chute to lead the gravel from the platform to the wagon if the bank is high, or when it becomes difficult to get the wagon close to the platform. When road makers become accustomed to the cheap handling of gravel, the system of scraping up loam from the gutters for teams to wade through will be given up, and good country highways, better teams and larger loads will become common.—*American Agriculturist*.

A QUICK, safe and cheap way to destroy the apple-tree caterpillars' nests is given as follows: Take a suitable pole, say ten feet long, and attach to the end a coarse woollen cloth by winding it with strong twine, so that it will not slip either way. Take from one to three quarts of wood ashes, pour on hot water, and thus get a strong lye. Take an old pail, turn in the lye, adding one pint or more of soft soap, and stir well. It is then ready for use, and is warranted to deal the death-blow instantly to all caterpillars by thrusting the saturated swab straight into the nests.

THERE are four purposes for which evergreens and evergreen screens are especially valuable.

First, and nearest home, to shelter the exposed sides of a dwelling against winter winds; secondly, and on the score of comfort and economy, on the windward side of cattle yards; thirdly, shielding orchards and fruit gardens from sweeping storms; and fourthly, as timber screens on farms exposed to the long sweep of continued tempests. The shelter of the dwelling protects the occupants from cold, and saves fuel; cattle-yard protection saves fodder; fruit trees live longer and bear heavier; and timber belts on farms protect crops and furnish fire wood and valuable lumber.

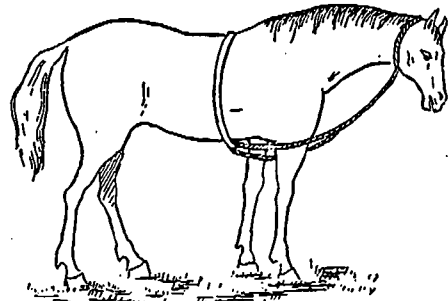
ONE of the great and most frequent mistakes made by gardeners is to delay the thinning out of plants too long. Instead of leaving this work till the plants have made a second or third pair of leaves, the thinning out should be done as soon as the plants are nicely up, and before the true roots of the plants are formed. If done early, the plants that are removed will not disturb the remaining ones, as the first root is perfectly smooth, while, if left until it is a mass of fibrous roots, it will disturb all the adjoining plants, so that growth is checked, and, in many instances, to such a degree that the plant never recovers its full vigor. This is particularly true with root crops; and "fingered" carrots and parsnips can be attributed to this more than any other cause.

By cutting early for hay, a much better seed crop can be got than if the cutting is deferred; and clover seed is a profitable product. Outside of the harvesting and threshing, very little cost is involved in the crop. The haulm is readily converted into an excellent fertilizer. The chances of a seed crop, as well as the crop itself, are increased by early cutting of the first crop; and this would justify early cutting, though the hay was somewhat reduced in value thereby. But early cutting increases, rather than diminishes, the value of the hay crop. The quality of the crop deteriorates very fast after full bloom, and the quantity is usually less on account of the loss of the foliage, and other delicate parts that are the most valuable portions. It should not be forgotten that as cutting is delayed, more of the clover will lodge, especially as it is subject to storms; and when clover is lodged, the parts in contact with or near the ground are rapidly damaged, and soon rendered worthless. Better weather is often had for curing by cutting early; and the sun soon becomes too hot for the best curing—burning out rather than drying out the clover.

Libe Stock.

Tethering a Breachy Horse.

FOLLOWING is a sketch and description of a method for restraining a breachy horse while at pasture. A rope nine or ten feet long, according to the size of the horse, is knotted around the neck of the horse: one loose end is passed through between the forelegs, under the surcingle, and tied



TETHER FOR A BREACHY HORSE.

to the other end of the rope, outside of one foreleg. The rope is drawn just short enough to restrain the horse from raising its head higher than the withers. It does not interfere with grazing or drinking, but keeps the head so low that the horse will not try to jump a fence when thus equipped.