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The Field.

Lewis's Patent Gates.

THE plans of gates we herewith present to our readers are from Mr. Richard Lewis, of Melbourne, Province of Quebec.

Mr. Lewis has devoted special attention to the construction of gates, has had considerable experience, and met with encouraging success in obtaining prizes at agricultural exhibitions, and in securing a large share of public patronage.

The two sketches of gates shown in the adjoining column are only a sample of a photographic view of a group of gates which is now before us, all of which have originated with Mr. Lewis. Among the group we notice the ornamental or gothic gate, as exhibited at the Provincial Exhibition held in Montreal in 1863. There is also the turned picket gate, and a batten gate—both of which are double (sliding) gates. The former makes a very neat frontage gate, especially when there is a like fence to match.

These gates were exhibited at Hamilton in 1861, where they competed with a self-opening and self-closing gate; but the premiums, both first and second, were awarded to Lewis's gates. At the Provincial Exhibition held in Montreal in 1865, double premiums were awarded on account of their adaptation to the country.

Then there is the incline-slide gate, which is particularly adapted for dangerous places, or where a railroad passes in close proximity to a dwelling, as it cannot be left open by children or careless persons. It is adapted to pastures in common, as it cannot be left open by negligence.

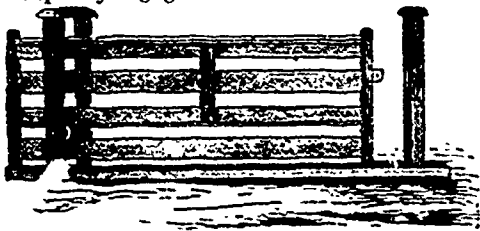


FIG. 2.

All Mr. Lewis's gates are made to be raised up in the winter to clear the snow, which proviso is covered by his patent in 1862.

But the gate to which special reference is now made, is the economical gate (fig 2), patented the 10th of July, 1867.

This mode of hanging a gate is, of all others, according to Mr. Lewis's experience, the best for a farm-gate, inasmuch as it is easily effected, cannot

get out of repair, is much cheaper than any other, and is, therefore, decidedly the most economical arrangement for a farm-gate: not only does it commend itself to the farmer, but to every one requiring a gate to work in a small space, as it can be made to work in a space that no other gate can, it will slide its whole length laterally, will turn on the centre as a swivel gate, and then slide its whole length crosswise, at a cost for hangings of not more than ten or fifteen cents.

The following are Mr. Lewis's description and directions:—

Fig. 1. represents the general plan of a double gate, showing the frames (between which the gate

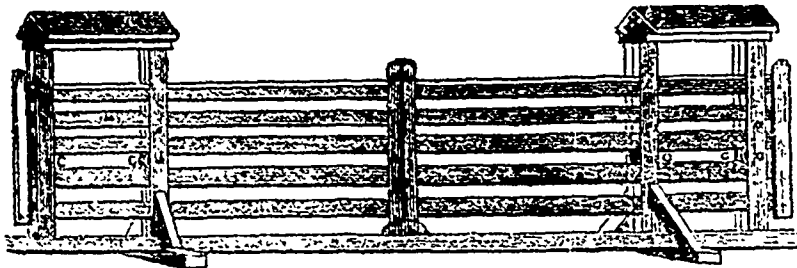


FIG. 1.

slides); the ground sill into which the posts are set; the rollers on which the gate is hung, at *cc*; the extra holes above to receive the pins of the rollers so as to raise the gate in the winter; the two cross pieces under the sill to which the diagonal braces are attached, the cross pieces being first well secured to the sill. The cut also shows a batten, one inch thick and three inches wide, nailed flatwise on the top rail, and one of a similar description nailed to the lower edge of the third rail immediately over the rollers; these battens stiffen the gate, and serve as guides between the frames. There should be half-an-inch play between the frames and gate, so that the gate may pass through easily. The rollers are turned about a quarter of an inch, rounding on the face, so that the bearing of the gate on the roller may be in the centre of the batten. The rollers should also be turned convex or rounding at the ends, so as to prevent friction between the posts.

The dimensions recommended are, for the ground sill, 4x10; upright posts or frames, 2½x5; posts to be dovetailed through the sill; tenons, two inches thick, and to be the whole width of the posts, the tenons to be dovetailed half-an-inch, and set up with a hardwood key at the back of the post, so that the hook of each dovetail may be toward the centre of the gate. This method of fitting the posts or frames is calculated to resist the strain when the gate is wide open. The battens of the gate are five inches wide and one inch thick; the openings are about five inches wide; the rollers three and a quarter inches long and five in diameter. The pins may be of wood or iron—the latter is preferable; five-eighth iron may be

used—and they should be greased occasionally. The top covering or finishing should correspond with the style of the gate.

A picket gate will admit of a more ornamental finish. Pickets should be about one and a quarter inch diameter. They can be made very readily with a mooting tool. The hanging frames and rollers are the same as those described above. Picket gates and picket fences, as represented in Lewis's group of gates, to which we have already referred, are becoming general around or in front of most respectable residences, especially in the vicinity of Richmond and Melbourne, in the Province of Quebec.

The economical farm-gate, as described by Fig. 2, is of the most simple description. It is made of four battens, one inch by six, and hung between two posts which are placed in a particular position. See Fig. 3.

The economical farm-gate is especially recommended by the maker as both cheap and useful. It works on a roller between two posts, the relative position of which together with the shape of the roller, is more definitely set forth in Fig. 3, where it will be seen that the posts are separated from each other about four inches both lengthwise and crosswise. The roller on which the gate hangs being placed between the posts in an angular direction, an iron or wood pin passes through the posts and roller in the direction shown. The posts are keyed into the mortice, as shown by the white line across the mortice. If, however, the posts are to be let into the ground, the lower ends should be fastened together like the upper ends.

Mr. Lewis's advertisement and address will be seen by a reference to the advertising columns. If, as we understand, it is his intention to be again an exhibitor at the Provincial Exhibition, farmers who visit Kingston on the occasion, will have a better oppor-

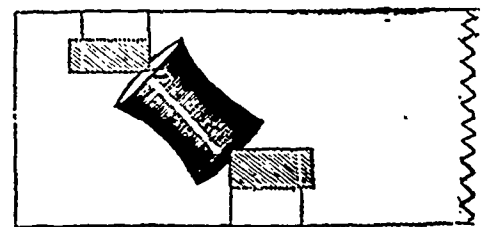


FIG. 3.

tunity of judging of the merits of the contrivance than we can give by any mere description. Mr. Lewis proposes to make a tour of this Province, for the purpose of introducing the invention to the notice of the people of Ontario. This matter of gates, is one of no small importance; and the inventor of a cheap, durable, simple, and really efficient gate, confers a valuable boon especially on the agricultural community.