

## Home-Made Concrete Fence Posts

WHERE cement is easily obtained and proper aggregates are available, which applies practically to the greater part of Canada, farmers are finding it profitable to substitute concrete posts for posts of wood. Wooden posts are temporary at best, and in some localities decay within a very few years.

Concrete posts are indestructible, keep in better alignment than wooden posts, and under normal conditions, cost little more if as much as the latter. In some sections of the country they can be made cheaper than a good wooden post. Their fireproof and everlasting qualities make them especially desirable. A simple type of post can be easily made on the farm. A farmer may

bles if the concrete is thoroughly mixed and of proper consistency. If desired, the exposed corners of the post may be beveled with an "edger," and the open face given a neat finish by using a trowel immediately after the surface water has been absorbed and before the concrete has become too hard.

The following are exceedingly important precautions:

Do not expose the newly made posts to wind, hot sunshine or frost.

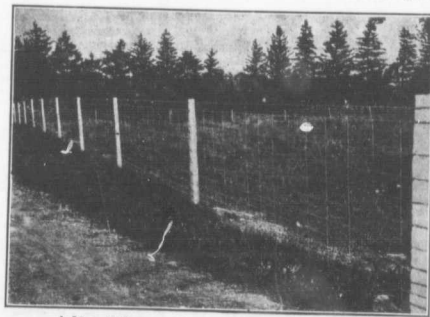
Do not remove the mold from the green post until thoroughly hardened, which generally requires two or three days. Even then the post must remain on the bottom board in the shade and not be disturbed for at least a week. During the first two days keep the post wet and covered with canvas, burlap or other clean material, and dampen it thereafter each day for about a week.

### THE MIXTURE

In mixing the concrete, if unscreened "bank-run" gravel is decided upon, it should be used in the proportion of one part of cement to four parts of gravel. For crushed rock or screened gravel (which is much better than "bank-run" gravel) the concrete should be in the proportion of one part of cement, two parts of sand, and four

parts of rock or gravel. All measurements should be made with the material poured loosely into the measuring box, and the box when full should be carefully leveled.

Let us draw more on the atmospheric wealth over our farms. Free things are not so plentiful that we can afford to neglect this one.



A Line of Concrete Posts with Wire Fencing Attached

I like to be on hand when the cows calve. I take a trip through the stable last thing at night, and if any are restless I wait up. If not, I get up early in the morning. Particularly do I like to be around when a heifer is calving. One point I would note here: Don't do what I found a hired man doing once—trying to assist the cow by pulling all the time. Pull with the cow and rest when she rests. I would not stay right with the cow or heifer; it excites her. Nor would I assist until it is evident that it is necessary.—"Herdsmen," Peel Co., Ont.

## Farm Homes Lighted with Electricity

THERE are half a dozen or more power companies willing to sell electric energy to farmers. As yet few have taken advantage of these offers to even a limited degree. The Seymour Power Company operating in Eastern Ontario is one of the companies that is making efforts to reach the people who live along their rural lines. Their plan is to place a small transformer on the pole opposite each home subscribing for power. This transformer reduces the high voltage of the main power line to voltage suitable for the requirements of the farm home. When in Durham recently, an editor of Farm and Dairy called on a few farmers who have installed lighting systems. All were pleased with the new system of lighting. Our conversation at a couple of houses will illustrate the satisfaction that electric lighting is giving.

The farm of Mr. Andrew Sharpe is removed a few rods from the main road along which the power line runs. He however induced the company to supply him with electric energy. When I called at the house Mr. Sharpe was away, but Mrs. Sharpe showed us their system. "It is rather awkward wiring an old house," she remarked. "There is so much tearing up of floors for the laying of concealed wiring. We have lights all through the living part of the house, but the wiring is not as good as it might be. If we were doing the wiring again we would do it differently and have our switches more conveniently arranged."

### THE COST OF ELECTRIC LIGHT

Speaking of the cost of installing electric light Mrs. Sharpe estimated the bill of expense at about \$30 exclusive of chandeliers. The monthly costs she told us vary from 55c to 83c, the latter charge being in the winter when much light is used. She spoke with special appreciation of the light on the veranda. "We would not be without that light for anything," said Mrs. Sharpe. "On a dark night when anyone is away we turn on the light and it casts a reflection right on to the road. One can see to unhitch the horse by that light."

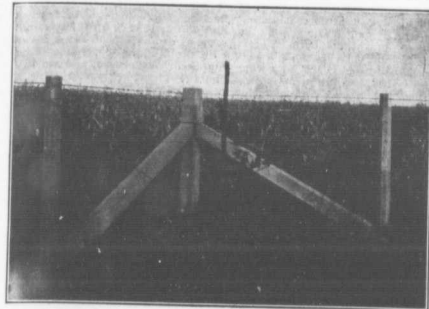
"Electric light is costing us more than did our old oil lamps," said Mrs. Sharpe in reply to our question. "We never spent over \$1 a month for kerosene oil, but in spite of its economy we would not go back to the old lamps under any consideration."

The electric light bill for the Sharpe household is larger than is common. The fact that old-fashioned carbon lamps are burned instead of the more modern Tungstens may offer one explanation of the larger consumption of electric energy.

### OPERATING COST LOWER HERE

Our next call was at the home of Mr. W. Hutchinson, son, who has had electric lighting since last December. Mr. Hutchinson told us that his charge per month had averaged 77c. The lights that are most used are all Tungstens with carbons in bedrooms and in the cellar. The wiring of the house cost \$66. Additional fixings brought the bill up to \$100. As will be seen by the illustration: Mr. Hutchinson's home is a large one, which would add to the cost of wiring.

"We use electric energy in other ways also," remarked Mr. Hutchinson. "We have an electric toaster and we use it every day in the year, and (Concluded on page 11)



Concrete Field Posts. Braces at Corner Post are Also Concrete

make his own moulds, or he can purchase them from one of the various concerns that manufacture moulds on a large scale. Farmers sometimes club together in purchasing factory or metal moulds, thus reducing expense to the individual. This is a very good plan as metal moulds do not warp or decay.

The easiest and cheapest wooden mold to make is the straight mold, or one for a post which does not taper. Such molds are merely long boxes having various devices for making the molding of the post a simple matter. On account of the amount of lumber saved and the ease with which these molds are filled, straight molds are generally made in "sets" or "gangs," by constructing several side by side with a continuous bottom and end pieces.

Posts should be reinforced with a rod or wire in each corner. In most cases round bars three-sixteenth or one-fourth inch in diameter are used.

After the molds have been oiled or soaped, the concrete should be placed in them at once. If for any reason the concrete stands for 30 minutes before using it should be thrown away and a new batch mixed, for cement if it has once partially set, makes weak, dangerous concrete, even though it is rettempered by turning or adding water. After the molds are filled evenly to the depth of three-fourths of an inch, according to the spacing of the reinforcing rods or wires, the reinforcement should be laid in, properly spaced by means of at least three "fool-proof" wire spacers. The concrete should then be poured in until the molds are filled within three-fourths of an inch or one inch of the top, when the remaining reinforcement is fitted in place in the manner described above and the molds are completely filled. To render the concrete more compact, a crowbar or a pinch bar should be placed under each corner of the mold successively and moved up and down quickly. This vibration makes the concrete more compact by shaking out the air bubbles, but there will be very few of these bubbles.