

use of this material is to make it into concrete fence posts.

Concrete Fence Posts

What is known as a six post gang mould is very easily made and once constructed any number of posts can be turned out. Usually concrete posts are made four-sided, either square or tapering on two sides. The mould should be made so that the posts are 7 feet long and from 4 1/2 to 7 1/2 inches at the butt, tapering to 4 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches at the top. The mould is so constructed that the posts lie alternately top to butt. The ends of the gang are hinged so that they can be removed so as to allow of the posts being easily handled when set. A 1:2:4 mix is used and four rods of 1/4 inch round bars or single No. 8 or two No. 12 wires twisted together are put in for reinforcement. Ungalvanized wire or rods can be used since there is no danger of any rusting taking place because the reinforcing is not in contact with the air at all. To make the posts, fill in the bottom of the gang mould about three-quarters of an inch deep, tamp it and lay on along each side about three-quarters of an inch from the edge two rods or wires. These wires should be cut long enough to allow of about an inch at each end being bent back flat so as to give a good grip in the finished concrete, and the wires should extend to within about an inch of the top and bottom of the post. Then fill in with more concrete to within three-quarters of an inch of the top of the mould and lay on the other two reinforcing wires. This done, fill up the mould, smooth off, cover with bags or boards and allow to set. It is important not to disturb the posts for from ten days to two weeks so as to allow them time to set properly. While the posts are in the mould they should be kept moist, water being thrown over them every day or so. At the end of two weeks they may be carefully taken from the moulds and set on end preferably in a shady place to season. It is not advisable to put concrete posts in the ground immediately after they are taken from the moulds, it being found they will give better results if allowed to stand for about three months. One of the great advantages of these posts is that they can be made at odd times whenever the farmer has an hour or two to spare, then may be set aside and allowed to season in readiness for the erection of a permanent fence which will add so much to the appearance and value of any farm. It is impossible to mention here the innumerable uses to which concrete may be put on a farm; the different ways in which it is used will depend largely upon the ingenuity of the farmer. Little trouble will be experienced if the cement used is free from lumps, perfectly dry and fresh, if the sand and gravel is quite clean and sharp and if the mix is used up or placed in the forms as soon as possible after the first water has been added. If these points are adhered to and in addition the builder uses a certain amount of common sense the use of concrete will become an indispensable factor in the farm management and will be found to be among the most valuable assets to every modern farm. —E. J. T.

BETTER FARMING SPECIALS

The two "Better Farming Specials" equipped by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture are starting this week on a tour of the province to demonstrate and instruct the farmers of Manitoba in the art of better and more profitable farming. One train, travelling over C.P.R. lines, opened at Morris, Plum Coulee and Morden yesterday, and the second train, on the C.N.R., will be seen for the first time tomorrow at Union Point, St. Jean and Letellier. Both trains are under the direction of the Manitoba Agricultural College, and a large staff of lecturers will be kept busy delivering lectures and answering questions at three points each day from each train. Meetings will be held, as a rule, from 9 to 12, 2 to 5, and 7 to 10, but occasionally four points a day will be reached, when two meetings will be held in the afternoon. The program of the C.P.R. train is specially planned for the instruction of young men and

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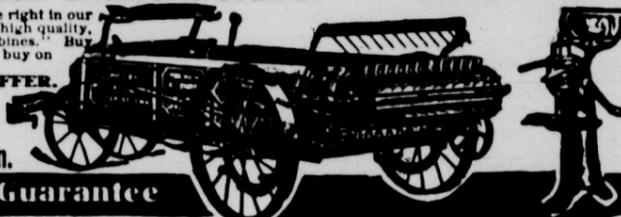
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