

be constructed, that will cost but little, if any more, than a good worm fence. The "post and rail" fence is another variety worthy of notice. This has been much improved in the vicinity of Cobourg. Poles and sawed rails are used. The latter are made of a diamond shape, the ends rounded by machinery and placed in the posts in such a manner, as to present one of the acute angles to the descending rain. One advantage of this fence is, that any kind of hardwood may be used for the rails. The objection is, that like all other post-fences, it is expensive—liable to be deranged by frost—and when the rails begin to warp, they will, I fear, offer a great temptation to pigs to push through them. The common "post and board" fence is liable to similar objections, and, at the present price of lumber, is even more costly. But there is a way of avoiding the evil of winter "heaving"—a serious matter in all low soils—and, at the same time, saving one, if not two boards in the construction of the fence. The plan is as follows:—After clearing the line of fence, for a space of eight or ten feet, of stumps, stones, &c., you plant your posts from a foot to eighteen inches deep. Except in very stony soil, this can be expeditiously done with the post auger. Then, with a plough, you pass up and down each side of the posts, throwing the furrows toward them for a space of four or five feet. The process is repeated, until you have raised a bank at least eighteen inches high, and made two ditches of corresponding depth on each side of the posts. The spade is now used to level inequalities, and cut through any small ridges that may cross the line of fence. You may then nail your boards to the posts; if ten or twelve inches wide, three will be sufficient. Sow each bank with grass seed, and you will have not only a good fence, that will not be disturbed by frost, but you will also have a ditch at the side of each field, to carry off surplus water that may flow in that direction—a benefit second only to the fence itself. I consider this a cheap, durable, and efficient fence, and intend to make 100 rods of it as soon as the frost leaves the ground. This plan has been practised in the neighbourhood of Port Hope, with great success. I saw, last fall, in that vicinity, and also in the neighbourhood of Peterborough, long stretches of fence on this plan and was assured that it could be as cheaply made as any other description of post and board fence, and that frost never disturbed it. Its immunity from the effects of frost—the great enemy of all fences that penetrate the soil—depends upon an obvious principle: all the water being carried away from the posts, no sensible expansion of the soil takes place in freezing, and they are consequently not lifted from their bed.

I shall not attempt to describe those varieties of dead fence which belong to the "fancy" class. These can be constructed of any shape that the fancy of the owner may suggest, and cost any sum the length of his purse may warrant; but they are not within the purview of our present question. The wire fence belongs, in my opinion, to the fancy category. It has not yet proved itself worthy of adoption as a field-fence. The stone wall fence ought not, perhaps, to be passed over in a review of those adapted to the wants of Canada. Where stone is abundant, and timber dear, it may be advantageously employed—but even then it will be found expensive. It must have a good foundation, or the frost will soon crumble it to the ground.

4. *Live fences* must be looked to as our ultimate resort. It is in this direction that we ought to search for information, if we would confer real and lasting benefit upon our country. Feeling that facts and practical results would be more useful and more interesting than mere opinion, I took the liberty of addressing a few questions to gentlemen in different parts of the Province, who had attempted to grow hedges, and who, I was aware had had experience in the business in the old country. The time was rather limited for an extended enquiry of this sort, but I succeeded in obtaining answers from several gentlemen, whose statements are, I believe, worthy of your attention. The following copy of one of my notes will show the points to which I directed the attention of my correspondents:—

J. Beckett, Esq.

MILLBANK FARM, Feb. 28, 1856.

Dear Sir,—You were kind enough to say that you would furnish me the results of your experience in growing hedges in this country, to be read before the Farmer's and Gardener's Club, Toronto, on the 4th March.

The following are some of the questions I have submitted to several gentlemen in different parts of the Province. They may serve to classify the answers received, although any facts not indicated by these questions, which were hastily drawn up, will be thankfully accepted.—

1st. What description of fence do you prefer for ordinary farm purposes?