

but experience has shown that to make a permanent fence that will not want repairing every three years or so it is necessary to wire them on the bottom also.

If first class free splitting cedar is plentiful, boards can be split 12 feet long, 1 inch thick, and from 10 inches to 12 inches wide, and nailed on the post the same as the boards of an ordinary post and board fence, either with or without barbed wire. The posts are usually set 12 feet centres. This is not quite so strong as a board fence of sawn fir boards, but it makes a good fence, particularly for cross fencing between fields, and is quickly and easily repaired and much cheaper. Use wire nails either for cedar or fir boards; they last twice as long. If split cedar boards are used it is better to use the boards on the bottom only for hog proofing and wire on the upper part of the fence. If cedar boards are used throughout they are apt to get split, owing to people climbing over them, although apart from this a good fence can be made from cedar boards alone. In practice it is found that 4 feet 6 inches is high enough for cross fences. (See Fig. 3.)



FIG 3 CEDAR BOARD & WIRE FENCE.

If it is intended to put up a post and board, or post, wire and board fence, then set heavy posts 16 feet centres, and after your lower boards are nailed on, drive light posts (sharpened) half-way between, so as to give a post every eight feet. There are various combinations of boards and wires, but a very serviceable and cheap one is made by using an 8-inch board four inches from the ground, then a 6-inch board about 5 inches above it, then three barbed wires; sometimes a 6-inch board is substituted for the middle wire, in which case a 6-inch board can be used on the bottom instead of an 8-inch board. The bottom board being fir should not touch the ground, otherwise it will rot. Fir boards more than 8 inches wide are apt to warp and draw the nails; split cedar boards do not warp and can be made 12 inches wide. If 6-inch fir boards are used get them, if possible, 24 feet long, as they are then nailed to three posts and make a stronger fence; use not less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wire nails, two nails to each board wherever it touches a post, and three at the ends if over six inches wide. If you do not use the boards as soon as they arrive, pile them neatly with small slats of split cedar between them, so as to prevent warping and twisting. Where fir boards are used, always saw off the top of the post to a slope after the fence is completed, so as to shed the rain on the opposite side of the post to the boards. Split cedar boards are the cheapest, that is of really good splitting cedar; galvanized barbed wire is the next, and fir sawn boards are the most costly, though many people think they make the best fence and look the best. For dairying and small fruits, hogs and sheep, any of the above fences are equally good, but if you are keeping high grade horses it is as well to use either a post and rail fence or a post and board fence with no barbed wire.