

thick paper-like pasteboard, the seams between the sheets being pasted to make the whole air tight. A floor of boards can be laid if desired, but the greater number of the houses in the new settlements have no wooden floors, and the partitions, where there are any, are made of cotton sheets. The Mennonites make

VERY NICE PARTITIONS

with sun-dried brick and whitewashed with lime. The cost of the kind of house which I have been just describing and of the ordinary size, twenty by twenty-four feet inside, with side walls eight feet high, and four feet pitch of roof, is about as follows:

Boards for walls, 850 feet, at \$28 per M....	\$23.80
Roofing boards, 650 feet, at \$30 per M....	19.50
Boards for flooring, 500 feet, at \$28 per M....	14.00
Paper lining, windows and door.....	12.00
Cost of frame.....	5.00
Twenty days' labor in building, at \$2 per day.....	40.00
Nails and binges.....	6.00
Total cost.....	\$120.30

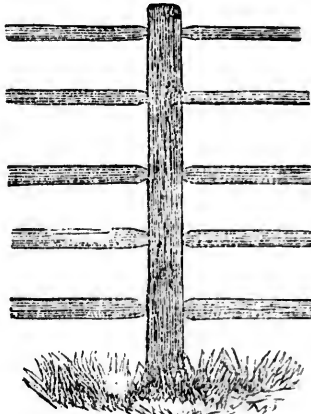


FIG 5.

In some parts of the country and at some seasons of the year, the cost of drawing the material to the place needed would probably exceed \$50 more, while if the settler wished to have more accommodations he could make his house two or three feet higher and floor his garret, putting a small window in each end and partition the lower story into three parts at an additional cost of about \$50, making a total of about \$220 in all.

In parts of the country where timber is plentiful, the houses have been built with very little cash outlay by their owners. The houses in Winnipeg are nearly all shingled, the shingles costing about \$6 per 1,000. The stables are often very temporary affairs with four walls built with poles and plastered with mud. The roof is also formed of poles on the top of which a large quantity of wild hay or straw has been piled. Sometimes straw in large quantities is piled all over and around the stables, so that they resemble large straw stacks with a door placed on one side.

THE FENCES IN THE NORTH-WEST

are more varied than even the houses, but the most common kind is the zig-zag rail fence, like the greater part of the fences in the eastern provinces, but with the angles more obtuse, and having upright pickets at each corner (see figure 1). For the cost of this kind of fence see a former letter dated May 2. The pickets are usually of tamarac or oak, as poplar rots too readily near the ground. The pickets are bound together in two or three places with withes, (Fig. 2) which also serve to hold up the ends of the fence poles to the proper height, when they are very small, or when less than six poles are used in each panel.

In figure 3 a post about five inches in diameter is used having three notches cut in the side (see figure 4), to support the ends of the fence poles, which are also flattened at the ends and nailed to the post with very large nails; sometimes they are pinned with oak pins. This fence keeps out cattle very well, but pigs and sheep have no difficulty in passing such a barrier.

In some places east of Red River I saw fences as represented in figure 5, the upright posts being of tamarac five or six inches in diameter, having five two-inch auger holes bored through them, into which are fitted the ends of small tamarac or spruce poles. This forms a good fence and very symmetrical, but can only be used to advantage in places where small tamarac or spruce is plentiful. All these fences have panels of about twelve feet in length, but in tight-strung wire fences the posts are from twenty to thirty feet apart, with from two to six strands of wire fastened to their sides.

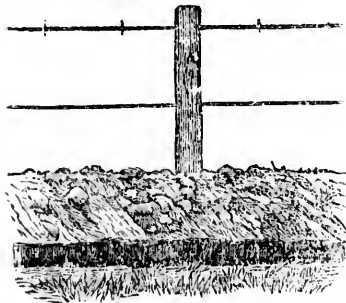


FIG 6.

Figure 6 represents the kind of wire fence which I believe to be the cheapest as well as the best kind of wire fence. The posts are first placed in their proper position, then two or three furrows are turned up with a plough on each side and the furrows thrown up in the line of fence, and on the outside a moderately-sized ditch is made, the earth from which is also piled up in the line of fence. Two or three wires (one of them barbed) are then strung on the posts and the whole is completed at a total cost of about four cents per running foot or sixty-five cents per rod. Wire fences without any ditch are dangerous to young horses, which sometimes run against them and are badly hurt.

Before leaving this subject let me state how