

quite evident it will not pay at all; hence the folly of fencing. In this age of progress, farmers are learning that partial if not complete soiling is the most profitable method of keeping stock, and that as a result, inside fences can, to a great extent be done away with. Road fences and division fences between farms are equally unnecessary, and it will only require time to convince us, that, like our Yankee cousins of New York State, we can profitably get rid of all such fences. That they have remained so long is a reflection on our progressiveness.

Let us consider a few of the advantages to be gained by their removal. By doing away with fences we save time and lessen labor in connection with farm work. No time and trouble need be expended in their construction and maintenance; in the tedious mowing of fence corners with scythes; in opening and closing gates or bars; in breaking roads and shovelling snow-drifts in winter.

No one thing would so improve the appearance of our farms, and the country generally, as the removal of fences, and the improved appearance would enhance the value. In travelling through the country, who has not been more than a little depressed to see the usual dilapidation of fences? And who has not noticed what hotbeds they become for the propagation of weeds? Without fences many farmers would find another place than the fence corner for dumping stones and stumps removed from the fields. There would be no temptation to the greedy man publicly to manifest his selfish nature by crowding his fence into the road. The road-sides could be levelled, planted with trees and kept clean with the mower, thus giving a clean, airy appearance, with the view unbroken by unsightly fences. A home with no fence to divide the lawn from the road, has a hospitable look which never accompanies a home surrounded by a picket fence. The place looks as if the owner was honest, and also considered his neighbors honest.

The removal of fences effects a great saving of land and increase in crop returns. It is estimated that on a 100-acre farm divided into 10-acre fields, ten acres of land are taken up and rendered worse than useless. The average township of Ontario contains about 30,000 acres. At this rate, by the removal of fences, three thousand acres additional in every township might be brought under crop, or the produce of every township increased by what

can be grown on thirty farms of one hundred acres each.

By doing away with fences we remove a great shelter for such pests as skunks, weasels, squirrels and mice, which work much harm, and we destroy a nursery for the millions of insects, which, breeding in old fence bottoms, destroy annually a large share of the growing crop. Grasshoppers, when they first appear for the season, are always seen to be most numerous along the fences, where they live and breed undisturbed. Wire worms and cut worms, though they may be killed by cultivation, spread from the fence bottoms, where they multiply in security. Sparrows are short flighted, and seldom injure crops in the centre of a field, but often do great mischief to grain growing along the line of fences. And who has not seen the damage done to fruit trees and vines by mice which harbor before the snow falls in some adjoining fence bottom? Get rid of fences and you will to a large extent get rid of these pests.

Making a money calculation we see what a saving can be effected by farming without fences. From an Iowa Agricultural Report we glean the followings:—"There are in the United States 6,000,000 miles of fences. They have cost \$375 a mile, or about \$2,000,000,000. This is an almost inconceivable sum. Convert it into silver dollars and it would require 6,500 freight cars to carry it, or a train of cars sixty-one miles long." This is an emphatic way of showing the cost of fences to the nation, and in proportion to the number of farms Canada has as many fences. But let us look at the cost to the individual. After careful investigation it has been found that the average annual cost of building and maintaining fences on the farm is at least \$1 per acre. To the owner of one hundred acres without fences, this means an annual saving of at least \$100. Then if the 10 acres saved by the removal of fences be sown to oats, yielding say forty bushels per acre, or four hundred bushels, selling at 75¢ per bushel, straw paying for the cost of production, we have \$140. The owner of one hundred acres has thus, by the removal of fences, to say nothing of the increased value of property, or the value of crops saved from insects, an annual saving of \$240.

In consideration of these facts then let us give more serious thought to the subject of fencing and though we may not be prepared to make a clean sweep of fences at once, let us look the farm over this winter and instead of building up let us take down every fence we can possibly do without, and we shall hasten that time when farming will be carried on without fences.