

There are a number of different patterns of woven wire fence with horizontal wires connected by vertical wires, woven either in the factory or in the field, which possess varying degrees of excellence, and are rapidly taking the place of the other forms above mentioned.

In considering the value of such fencing, the following qualities are important:—(a) Efficiency in stopping horses and cattle without injury to stock or fence; (b) capability of adjusting itself to changes of temperature without unduly straining posts or wires in cold weather; (c) capability of yielding to weight of snow settling during a thaw, fallen trees, or persons climbing over it, without permanent injury; (d) liability of accommodating itself to inequalities of the ground surface; (e) low first cost; (f) low cost of maintenance.

If the horizontal wires are plain straight wires, it is necessary, in order to satisfy b, c, and d, that springs be introduced at frequent intervals, also that vertical wires be not so stiff as to remain kinked after distortion.

As the cost of cedar posts and labour is continually increasing and the cost of wire generally decreasing, the fence should be of such design as to admit of wide spacing between posts, in order to satisfy e and f.

The writer has for some years used largely a fence woven in the factory, in which the horizontal steel wires are like an elongated coil screw, with light vertical wires, and began some eight or nine years ago to space the posts 25 feet C. to C. This distance was selected so that intermediate posts might be interpolated if demanded by the Government to comply with subsidy contracts. Such intermediate posts were, however, found unnecessary, and the fences—where posts were properly set—have been eminently satisfactory, and experience has indicated that on level ground this spacing—with strong posts—could safely and economically be extended to even fifty feet. Spans should, however, be modified to suit local irregularities in the ground surface. The writer is also of opinion that true economy would be gained on a large percentage of railway fencing by limiting the number of horizontal wires to what is necessary to effectively stop cattle and horses (perhaps seven wires).

In considering the effect of such long spans between posts, it must be remembered that the longer the span between fixed points the more nearly do we comply with requirements c, e, and f.

Gates should be strong and light, capable of being locked when desired, and cheap.

These conditions appear to be fairly well satisfied by a frame gate, in which the top and bottom rails are 3" x 3", end posts 3" x 4", centre posts and braces 2" x 3", pine or spruce, fastened together