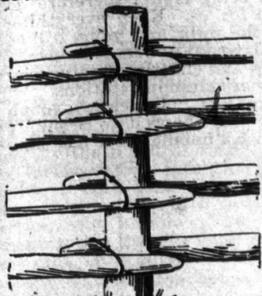


Cheap and Substantial Farm Fences.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:



We have tried two ways of rebuilding old rail fences, always, of course, straightening them. One plan is to set posts about 11 feet apart, or as long as rails will allow, giving the posts a slight inclination from the side on which the rails are, then drive a good stake just close enough to the post to admit rail between. We use annealed wire, about No. 10; put on first wire about a foot from ground, crossing it between stake and post, and twisting up post and tight.

Commence and lay up your fence until three rails high, then put on another wire and two more rails, and you have a fence good for 10 to 20 years, according to quality of rails. Posts should always be sharpened to admit of driving in spring when heaved by frosts.

Another way we have rebuilt old rail fences is to set posts perpendicular, at least 3 feet in the ground, and as far apart as rails will allow. In making this fence use No. 10 galvanized wire, and, to explain it, suppose you are building a fence running north and south, commence at south end by fastening first rail by a wire loop securely stapled to east side of post, then the man who handles rails carry rail around and over second post, then man with pliers makes a loop with sailor knot long enough to take ends of both rails; keep loop at south side of post, and, by putting in second rail slanting, tighten up to post so that both wires may be stapled to post, then carry end of second rail over third post, and so on to end; put rail over so tight that they will carry their own weight. Four rails of this makes a good horse or cow fence, especially if banked up. It requires two men to build. End of rails being on each side of post tends to keep it straight.

When wire is so cheap, we question if it pays to rebuild old fences.

A good, serviceable wire fence may be built with six wires, two bars on top and four plain ones at bottom, or all plain. Divide wires thus:—Two bottom wires, 4 inches apart, next ones 5 inches, next 6, next 7, and top ones 10 inches; this makes a good, neat-looking division. Plow three good furrows before putting on wires; shovel up one furrow on each side, clean up bottom, and seed down with a mixture of grasses, and you have a fence that will give good satisfaction. The great thing, and most important in building wire fences, is to get end posts solid, and always put your wire on so that it will draw from center of post. Setting end posts in cement would doubtless be a good plan. We got an idea from a neighbor the other day that he has had in use some 10 years with good results. It is this:—Take an old wagon tire, have it straightened and a small loop made on one end to slip over top of post; have a large loop on the other end; bury it deep in the ground, and lay on it a good heavy stone. Where there was a gate this could not be done, as the iron tie would be in the way. It could be used on second post, and the ordinary double brace be used as well. A fence like this, including post, can be built for about 25c. a rod, or even less. Why throw away money in expensive patent fences that soon get out of shape and are most unsightly!

Mr. Pickering's Fence Endorsed.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have just read with much interest, in your issue of last inst., the various letters on Farm Fencing. I think that I rather prefer Mr. Pickering's letter on wire fencing, especially in the part in which he refers to anchor posts. I favor it all the more because it is very similar to the manner in which I put my own anchor posts in. As I have somewhat over 20 years' experience with wire fences, both in this and in the Old Country, perhaps a few remarks may not come amiss from me at this time. In the first place, I put all my end posts in 4 feet deep, oak posts if possible. At back of posts in bottom of hole I spike on a block of wood 2 inches thick, or so, and entire length of hole, post being made flat to receive said block. Fill in hole to about a little over a foot from top, put on another block of wood, oak or ash preferred, in front of post this time, and right across hole, hammer in well and cover up hole; this will, if soil has not been disturbed, make a very firm job. I never use any brace to such a post, and I have seldom seen such ever give. Have just last season put up a little over 100 rods smooth wire fence, 7 wires, and wires all put through the center of post and either rolled around post or fixed with patent lock, by which you can either tighten or relieve wire with a monkey wrench. Wherever fence makes a curve wires again go through center of post, which is always a little stronger than the others. Posts kept in position by block sunk in ground about 2½ feet from post, and about the same in depth; strong wire twisted around this and around the post keeps it in position.

THOMAS MURRAY BELL.

P. S.—Would, however, if building more fence, use 2 top wires of barb, as these would very materially protect the fence, both from foolish people and animals.—T. B.

The "Gem" Fence Recommended.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The fence I have had most experience with is the "Gem." It can be built 5 feet high for 35c. per rod, including post and putting up. It requires eleven No. 9 wires, with No. 13 cross wires, 18 inches apart. The corner post should be 3 feet in ground, with a good flat stone or plank in front just below the surface, and a smaller stone or piece of plank at the foot at the back to keep it in its place. Set

a brace post 10 feet from corner post, with a good strong brace between and a good cable wire to hold in place. Set posts 32 feet apart. I prefer cedar from 6 to 8 inches in diameter. S. G. BROOKER. Essex Co., Ont.

Fencing Material at Thirty-One Cents per Rod.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—As there is considerable discussion at the present time among farmers as to the best and cheapest fence to build, you will kindly permit me to give my experience with the Jones Lock Wire Fence (sold by the London Lock Wire Fence Co.). I have had one in use for four years, and I must say that it has given the utmost satisfaction. Seven or eight wires, with four or five stays to the rod, makes a substantial farm fence. I have eighty-four rods of the former and about sixty of the latter.

The material for a fence with eight wires and five stays (if 4½ feet long) to the rod will cost about 31 cents at factory, with less or more wires and stays in proportion, and any good man can build it. The firm will be pleased to sell machine for putting on stays, probably loan one if given a good order.

I also have a number of gates of same material on frames of 8x4 in pine scantling, painted and hung, which cost me about \$1.60, complete. This includes all labor. Now, as regards the posts. They are cedar; size about 8 in. at small end, with larger ones at the end of fence. They are about 21 feet apart, except the end ones, which are 11 feet. The end posts are set about 4 feet deep, and are anchored at the bottom with a piece of cedar about 3 feet long, and then the holes are filled with stones well rammed down. This is the great essential in wire fence building. I believe it would be a good plan to use cement, as you suggest in March 15th issue, instead of earth in setting end posts. The rest of posts are 3 feet deep. They should be set a week or more before wire is put on.

I use 4x4 in scantling for braces, which are let into the posts about 1½ inches at each end; it is then assisted by two strands of wire same as fence, drawn diagonally from the ground level of end post to within about 8 inches from top of fence on second post; it is then twisted from the center into a perfect cable. As to the rest of construction, any firm who sells wire will be pleased to give instruction for building. Northumberland Co. A. E. HOSKIN.

"Page" Wire Fence has Good Features.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have had some experience in wire fencing during the last four years, and would recommend "The Page," manufactured at Walkerville. This fence, if properly put up, I consider has more good practical features than any in the market. The material used is of the very best quality. The coiled spring in this fence is the one feature that, in my opinion, places it a long way ahead of other varieties. It is made in a number of styles, that used principally for general farm purposes being the 11 bar, 58 inches high. This style is always right and satisfactory when well constructed. It has an elasticity given it by the coiled spring which provides for the changes of the temperature in our climate, and prevents any sagging or slovenly appearance so often seen in almost all other styles. The great and all-important thing in wire fencing is the setting of the end posts. I would have them 9 feet long and at least 10 inches at the butt. Holes for these posts should be 4x4x2 feet; spike 2x4 scantling on either side of post, about 6 inches from end, well gained in, and at right angles to running of fence. Place your post, and fill to the top surface of scantling, tramping as solidly as can be done; nail inch boards on scantling, and finish filling; brace from second post with 4x4 scantling from just above surface of ground to two-thirds up on end post. Posts so set will not heave with frost or move in any way under ordinary circumstances. Would recommend round cedar posts, 8 feet long and not less than 7 inches in diameter, placed one rod or not to exceed 20 feet apart. A good deal of this fence is put on posts two rods apart, and is very satisfactory. Two men, with proper stretching tools, can put up from 75 to 100 rods per day. Once up it is a thing of beauty, and will remain so for many years. Numbers 7, 9 and 11 are the wires used, which I consider amply sufficient to withstand any test liable to be brought upon them.

With regard to gates: Very neat, light and substantial ones are made by this firm, and at a comparatively small cost. However, I may say I prefer a well made wooden gate; they answer a good purpose, and are cheaper.

The time has arrived when wire must take the place of wood for fencing. The old rails won't stand another laying over; many of them have done good service for nearly a hundred years, but must now become a thing of the past. Land in our section is too valuable to be monopolized by this old method of fencing. W. H. NELLIS. Wentworth Co., Ont.

Carter Wire Fence.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In reply to the enquiry in the ADVOCATE of March 15th re farm fences, I will refer to the Carter Wire Fence Machine. This machine will weave any number of wires. The number used for farm fences is nine No. 9 hard steel corrugated wires, making a fence five feet high. The wires are spaced 4, 4½, 5½, 6, 7, 8½, 9½ and 10 inches apart. The cross wires are woven 12 inches apart, of No. 12 or 13 soft galvanized wire. It costs fifty cents per rod to weave this fence on the posts. With this machine you can make a fence as high as you desire or as low as you like, using any number of wires. The cross-wires can be woven from 6 to 24 inches apart. The end posts should be at least 10 inches in diameter and set 4 feet in the ground; the hole should be dug 12x24 inches, and a piece of plank 2 feet long placed on edge in front of post at the surface of the ground, and another piece the same size at the back of the post in the bottom of the hole, the earth to be well tramped down. The second post may be from 8 to 12 feet to receive the brace; the brace should not be less than 4x4, and placed near the top of corner post and midway between ground

and top of second post. The brace wire should be No. 9. The gate posts are treated same as corner posts. The gate is made by taking a gate-frame made of scantling and weaving the wire on it. SAMUEL CROUCH. Elgin Co., Ont.

Plant Trees for Future Fence Posts.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In regard to your method of setting end post for wire fence, I would first put in a strong crossbar about a foot from the bottom, then pack solidly with cobblestones and concrete if convenient, set another post 8 feet from the first and place a strong 3 x 4 in. scantling horizontally between the posts, 10 or 12 in. from the top; then take No. 9 plain galvanized wire, and using 4 strands, form a cable by twisting from the top of second post to crossbar of the end post. Set posts a rod apart and plow two furrows on each side, and make the grade as uniform as possible.

The Bowen Cable Stay Fence (which I see advertised in the ADVOCATE) comes as near my ideal of a wire fence as possible. Use 10 horizontal No. 9 plain galvanized wires, which will weigh 10 lbs. to the rod, and for stays use No. 10 wire, three feet apart, requiring about 2 lbs. to each rod of fence; place a strong coil spring in the middle of every 40 rod stretch of fence, one spring (costing 15c.) to each wire, and a ratchet (costing 5c. each) on each wire at end post; cost of building fence, 5c. a rod, or a total, exclusive of posts, of 37c. a rod, and all done by ordinary farm help, a saving over ordinary fence prices of the cost of a fence machine to every eighth of a mile of fence. If two or three farmers would co-operate and get a machine amongst them they would save considerable.

When farmers overhaul old rail fences let them plant trees a rod apart, not poplars or any other tree that will sprout from the root and become a nuisance, but maples (hard or soft), apple, cherry, basswood, or any other useful or ornamental native tree, nail a hardwood strip 1 x 3 in. to the tree and staple fence wires to the strip. Then they would have a substantial fence that would grow into beauty and usefulness each year. W. J. PATTERSON. Wentworth Co., Ont.

Cable Stay Fence Satisfactory.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I enclose description and cost of the fence we built, known as the Bowen's Cable Stay Fence. We use 8 or 9 horizontal wires and stay it every three feet. The stays are two wires fastened at the top and bottom, and are twisted together between the horizontal wires, and on every third horizontal wire there is a small stay to hold the stay in position. It makes a very strong, durable and cheap fence. We also use on every horizontal wire a spring in the center, and a ratchet at the end post. We put the posts from 25 to 30 feet apart, and they are better than posts put every rod, as the fence will stand more strain and is stronger. We use the common brace and cable used in most of the patent fences, and, if properly put on, will never give.

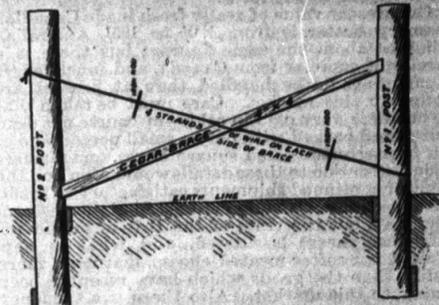
Now, as to cost. Such a fence, with 9 horizontal wires and stayed every 3 feet, posts 25 feet apart, with springs and ratchets complete, cost us 25 cents per rod last year. I understand wire is cheaper this year, which will reduce cost of fence. And we used the best American galvanized wire we could buy. The machine for building this fence can be bought for \$15, all complete, and you have no patent right to buy. Any farmer can build his own fence and save from 25c. to 35c. per rod, and have a fence second to none that is built. W. R. WALKER. Halton Co., Ont.

Posts and Stays for Wire Fence.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In the March 15th issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, an article on Farm Fencing attracted my attention, and as I have had some little experience in building that description of fence, I might offer a few suggestions to those who require information in that line. As you truthfully remarked, that "metal fences are gradually replacing wooden ones," and, along highways, perhaps it is well it is so, as in many places the wooden fence causes the roads to be blocked in winter, and the only recourse is to take to the fields, and many bad weeds get into the farm in that way.

In getting new material for a fence now, posts are about the first requirement, and I would say, select those split from large cedar for lasting qualities. But, if for appearance sake, should prefer the round posts, see that they are taken from old timber, as the second growth is more perishable. Select those that are sound and straight as possible, 6 inches diameter at small end, and not less than 9 feet long.



For terminal stays or anchor posts, select four good, straight, sound posts, not less than 8 inches at small end, and 9 feet long. Flatten a small space at foot of each post, and spike on a piece 2x10 inches, 3 feet long, at a point reaching to 4 feet from foot of post. On the opposite side, spike a piece 2x10 inches, 4 feet long. Use two of these posts for each anchor, by placing No. 1 at the end of fence, and No. 2 at ten feet distance along the line of fence; put them four feet deep, and so that the top edge of the upper plank will be flush with level of earth; fill in properly, and then place between the posts a cedar brace 4x4 inches,