

have proved the matter myself. The *Maclura Aurantiaca*, commonly called Osage Orange, is a native of North America and grows to the height of twenty feet.

1st. I have grown both the Osage and the English Thorn as hedge plants, in Hamilton. The Osage Orange thrives well on good ground. The English Thorn did not prove itself so thrifty as the Orange.

2nd. It requires protection from cattle during its early stages of growth, by slight temporary fences on each side, until able to stand in its own defence, but it requires no protection from the winter. I never used any myself, nor did I see any occasion for it.

3rd. The Osage Orange is not subject to blight, nor to attacks of insects, that I ever have noticed to retard its growth. I have noticed some very few plants attacked by mice during the winter. The English Thorn was every summer attacked by the green fly, the black fly, and the blight. I have seen them so thickly covered that I could scarcely tell what color the plant was, and the mice attacks the stems severely during the winter.

4th. The Osage Orange I prefer far before the Thorn for fencing. The Osage takes far less time to make a fence than the English Thorn, and is not so infected with insects. The Thorn is quite liable to all these pests which naturally exhausts the young shoots and very frequently kills the whole plant.

5th. At \$5 per thousand, I think, I could plant a hedge and cultivate it for the first year for about 3s. per rod.

6th. The second year's cultivation, allowing the hedge to be cleaned three times, 1s. 3d. per rod; the third year, 1s. 6d. per rod; the fourth year, 2s. So that a rod will cost 7s. 9d. at the end of four years, without the fencing. That I shall say nothing about the cost of, as I have but little experience in fencing.

7th. The Orange will make a good fence in five years, if in good soil. But the English Thorn will take eight or ten years, and if it is not kept clean at the bottom the mice will have killed the whole hedge by that time.

8th. There is another plant which I think is well worthy of cultivation for fencing purposes. The Honey Locust, properly called *Gleditsia Triacanthos*. This is a hardy, deciduous ornamental tree, and grows about thirty feet high. It is a native of North America. I have seen a hedge of the plant about four years planted and it promised to become a very thick substantial hedge. It grows a foot or fifteen inches in a season, and the wood is very hard. It is raised from seed sown in March after being soaked in warm water, and it grows freely on common soil.

Yours respectfully, &c.,

GEORGE READING.

[*Honey Locust* grows spontaneously in Missouri and Western States, sometimes 60 ft. high, and 1 ft. diameter. Spines three or four inches long. They grow out of the trunk and limbs in clusters.—Ed.]

Mr. McDougall exhibited specimens of the Native or Cockspur Thorn, the English Thorn, the Osage Orange, the Wild Plum, &c. He also exhibited to the Club, as connected with the subject, the plan of a new double-rolling, self-acting gate, which he thought superior in some points to any he had yet seen.—He did not claim originality in the adoption of the *rolling* principle, for a gate on that plan had been patented last year in the United States, but he claimed the improvement of the double gate, each rolling in an opposite direction. He concluded by stating, as the result of his inquiries and observation, that for the man who was engaged in the noble work of carving for himself a farm out of the wilderness, the common zig-zag rail fence was not only the cheapest and best, but the only good fence within his reach. For the older townships where timber is rapidly disappearing he thought the *banked* "post and rail," or "post and board" fence the cheapest and most durable form of dead fence adapted to the wants of the farmer. In the neighbourhood of cities, and even in some of the front townships, he believed, the time had come when serious efforts should be made to introduce *live* fences, and from all he had seen, heard or read, he had no doubt, the Native Thorn, intermixed with Wild Plum, Beech, or some other native plants, would make a good hedge, and require even less care than the Thorn hedges of England.

The President presented the thanks of the Club to Mr. McDougall for the very interesting remarks with which he had favoured them, and hoped they would be followed up by observations from other gentlemen. The subject was a most important one, and from the number of practical farmers and gardeners present, he was satisfied the facts brought out in such a meeting would be of great benefit to the country. Mr. Allen mentioned a case in his own experience, which showed the vigor of the native thorn. He had a piece of hedge of English thorn, which from want of care and other causes did not make a very