

Movable Fence—Color of Barred Plymouth Rocks.

CHARLES MITCHELL, JR., Bruce County, Ont.:— "1. Would you please give me a plan for a movable fence which would give the good satisfaction to turn cattle and pigs? 2. What color should the Barred Plymouth Rock cockerel be—dark, like the hens, or light color? Would say I am wonderfully pleased with the ADVOCATE; would not be without it on any consideration."

[Where old fence boards can be used, hurdles like the accompanying illustration (Fig. 1) can be used for sheep and hogs, but a higher bar would be necessary in hurdling cattle or horses. The fence

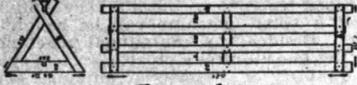


FIGURE 1.

from which this cut was made has panels 12 feet long and 3 feet 2 inches high. The standing pieces, which are placed across the fence, into which the panels fit, are 4 feet high and 3 feet 4 inches wide at the base. The ends of the panels fit into notches in the end pieces. Under ordinary conditions the fence will stand sufficiently strong just placed on the ground, but if exposed in windy location or to unruly stock, such as hogs, there should be stakes driven into the ground beside the standing pieces, which should be nailed to them. To hold hogs, stakes should be driven at every panel, but in no other case will they require to be driven nearer than every three or four rods. Fig. 2 represents the hurdle fence now in use upon the Agricultural College Farm at Guelph. The figure at A repre-

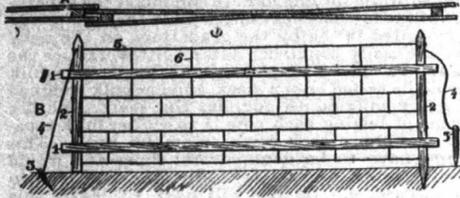


FIGURE 2.

sents the connection or junction of the hurdles viewed from above downwards. They are the side bars (marked 1) of inch lumber, 3 inches wide and 12 feet long, nailed to headpieces, one each side at top and bottom. They are also nailed together at the center of the hurdle to give strength. 2 indicates the headpieces, 4 feet 3 inches long, 3 inches wide, and 1 1/2 inches thick. It will be noticed that the right hand end piece has an extension to enter the ground a few inches. 3 and 4 show wire braces and anchors or pegs. The pegs are 16 inches long by 2 x 1 1/2 inches, one at either end of each hurdle. The wire braces are about 4 feet 8 inches long. 5 and 6 show No. 12 wire twisted the same as for fences. The stays can be easily put on by unwinding the wires at the ends and twisting them firmly around by means of a pair of pincers.

2. The American standard of perfection gives the color of the Plymouth Rock male as follows: Body color grayish-white, each feather regularly crossed with parallel bars of blue-black, the barring also showing in the down or under-color of feathers. The barring of neck and saddle hackle narrower and closer, and running the entire length of the feather. The color of the plumage of the female is given as the same as described for the male. We frequently see the highest scoring cocks and cockerels a shade lighter than the females, which, however, does not disqualify them.]

For Killing Lice on Cattle.

SUBSCRIBER, Bruce Co., Ont.:—"What is the best preparation for killing lice on cattle?"

[Any of the sheep dips and cattle washes advertised in our columns are effective in killing lice and in cleansing the skin and promoting a healthy condition. Any kind of grease or oil will exterminate them. A simple and effective remedy is the common insect or fly powder "Pyrethrum," applied by sifting from a flour or pepper dredger.]

Young Pigs Dying.

HAMILTONIAN, Wentworth Co., Ont.:—"Can any of your readers give me a remedy to prevent young pigs dying from cold in bronchial tubes and lungs. The symptoms are thick throats, disinclination to any exercise, and in its advanced stages hides turn black?"

[Prevention in such a case would have been much more profitable and possible than any remedy that can be prescribed. It is probably the old story of mismanagement while the pigs were with the dam and after weaning, in not giving them sufficient exercise and access to the earth, and perhaps overfeeding with cold, sloppy food, or too rich food, inducing indigestion and derangement of the system. We can only suggest a change to more natural conditions. Give greasy swill warm, ground oats or barley and bran dry; get earth for them from root cellar, also ashes and charcoal kept in a flat box in the pen. Get them out in the sunshine if possible for a few hours on fine days, on the lee side of a stack or building, with a dry bed of straw to lie on. A little sulphur in the food would no doubt be helpful.]

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Central Eastern Ontario, Leeds Co.

This section is the center of what is one of the best cheese producing areas in Canada. As a natural consequence pork is produced in large quantities. Prices for hogs of the required bacon type have been very encouraging this season, hence farmers are carrying over more brood sows than they have for many years. Berkshire-Yorkshire cross-breeds seem most in favor just now. The snowfall has been almost unprecedentedly heavy; wheat, rye, and meadows have had ample and constant protection since about December 1, they should come through in good condition. With the expectation of paying prices this spring, farmers are feeding a comparatively large number of steers. As a rule they are not of the right type, being in many cases bred from dairy stock. As the tide of N.-W. emigration has again set in there is some enquiry for good, serviceable farm horses weighing thirteen to fourteen hundred pounds. Prices range from seventy-five to one hundred dollars. There are more mares in foal this spring than for many years past; supply and demand seem likely to be fairly well balanced for some time to come. A number of cheese factories in Brockville district are equipped with supplementary creamery plants for operation in winter. Our creameries are nearly all fitted with separators. Farmers are not willing to accept \$12.00 or \$13.00 per ton for winter milk, this has been the set price in some cases. Public opinion is strongly against the production of "fodder cheese," indications point to a small output this season. At present there is a very active demand for potatoes for export, those who held their crop are realizing a small margin of profit, ruling price 30c.

J. J. F.

Niagara Peninsula.

There has been a general stiffening up of prices in most farm products in this section since Christmas. An exception or two, however, might be made. Hay still offers freely at from \$5 to \$6 a ton. Pork is selling at about 6c. for 150 to 180 lb. hogs, and 4 1/2c. live weight. Young pigs are pretty scarce yet, and are changing hands at \$5 a pair. Not much is done in this district in the fat cattle line; a good many are shipped in at \$3.40 to \$3.50, what local trade there is being from about 4c. for good stock. There are very few silos in the country. Farmers are hardly alive yet to their real value. A stronger interest is, however, being manifested in the silo question, and I look for the erection of more during the summer and a consequent development of the dairy and stock business. Fresh milk cows are anything but plentiful, good animals selling from \$35 to \$40. Oats have steadily advanced to 35c. Bran too has been constantly advancing since Christmas, and is selling now for \$14 per ton. Fall wheat looks well. There has been a fair covering of snow most of the time, and little or no frost in most of the wheat ground. Potatoes are keeping very firm at 80c. to 90c. per bag. Butter has advanced lately, and is now at 18c., eggs bringing 16c. to 18c. a dozen. Apples are scarce and dear, first-class fruit bringing 83c. a barrel. Last year's immense crop has left many of the peach orchards in bad shape. Some growers have been discouraged with the low prices. Better methods, better fruit, better packing will have to be the watchwords. The winter has been pretty favorable, and fruit buds generally are in good condition, but we are not at all likely to see a repetition of last year's crop.

M. B.

P. E. Island.

The season so far has been favorable for the work of the farmers—plenty of snow to make good roads and keep the grass lands well covered. Farmers are now busy lifting and drawing mussel mud onto the land. It is also being drawn to the center of the country on the railroad cars. Not so many cattle are being fattened as usual, farmers supplying milk to creameries instead. Creameries doing a good business, about twenty of them all told, besides several separating stations.

Winter dairying and winter hog-feeding are on the increase. A good many pedigreed cattle of both beef and dairy breeds are being imported from Ontario. Coarse cattle feed is plentiful and cheap. Grain is advancing. Potatoes are scarce.

Prices: Best fat cattle, live weight, 4c. to 4 1/2c.; best quality bacon hogs, 5c.; other qualities, 4c. and 4 1/2c.; carcass pork, 6 1/2c.; butter (factory), 18 1/2c.; wheat, 80c.; oats, 32c.; potatoes, 30c.; eggs, 15c.; hay, \$3.00; bran, \$18.00 per ton. Some of last season's make of cheese is still held here. A series of agricultural meetings arranged by the Minister of Agriculture, and addressed by R. Robertson, Supt. Exp. Farm, Nappan; W. Saxby Blair, Horticulturist, and W. Pethick, V. S., are being held at central places on the island.

Weather very mild during the last month. Stock wintering well. W. S.

Toronto Markets.

The offerings at the Western cattle market were lighter in character for the past two weeks, causing prices to be a little firmer for the best class of cattle. The City Council, after long discussion, with several aldermen on the fence, have at last decided to keep the market franchise in their own hands, for the majority of cattle-men are strongly averse to its removal. The receipts for the past week at the Western cattle yards were 1,777 cattle, 277 lambs, 6,567 hogs.

Export Cattle.—The trade in this line was slow, the quality not first-class. For best export cattle 4 1/2c.; bulls from 3 1/2c. to 3 3/4c. per lb. One of the notable features of this week's market was the buying by Mr. Joseph Wilson of forty head of thoroughbred Shorthorn bulls for Messrs. Conrad Bros., of Lethbridge, Man. The prices ruled up to \$80 each.

Butchers' Cattle.—Everything sold before the close of the day. Prices were a little firmer for choice steers and heifers, 3c. to 3 1/2c. per lb.; 4c. was paid for a few extra choice. Three carloads were taken for the abattoir at \$3.65 per cwt. Very few buyers from Montreal were on the market to-day; in fact, the market was very dull.

Stockers.—Light stockers for the Buffalo market are in request. Prices are quoted at \$2.90 to \$3.30 per cwt.

Fedders.—Good feeding steers are in request, and sold at \$3.20 to \$3.60. A few bulls for tying up wanted at \$3 per cwt.

Sheep.—The market for sheep was barely steady, at from 3 1/2c. to 3 3/4c. per lb. for butchers' and export.

Lambs were firmer and in good demand, at 5c. to 5 1/2c. per lb.; in some cases a little more, 5 1/2c.

Cattle.—A better supply; choice in good demand; poor difficult to sell; at \$2 to \$3 for choice.

Milk Cows were in good demand; choice, at from \$40 to \$46. Springers and mediums sold at \$35.

Hogs.—Indications are for shorter supply. Reports are that a new packing house is to be erected at Markham, Ont. Prices are firm, but the milder weather has a depressing effect. Choice sold at 5c. to 5 1/2c., weighed off cars; light hogs, 4 1/2c. per lb.; thick fat, \$4.50 to \$4.80 per cwt.; stores, \$4.55; sows, \$3 to \$3.25; stags and rough hogs, at 2c.

Grain Market.—The receipts of grain on the market were small. Bad roads prevent a good many farmers from reaching town.

Wheat.—Easier, 800 bushels selling at 78c. to 82c. for white. Oats.—Steady; 500 bushels selling at 39c. per bushel. One load at 41c.

Peas.—In good demand; 1,000 bushels selling at 39c. to 41c. per bushel.

Barley.—Quiet. There is a good demand for export. Car lots are quoted at 43c. for fancy bright, and feed 32c. per bush.

Hay.—Receipts fair; moderate enquiry; 25 loads selling at \$3 to \$3.50. Baled hay quiet, at \$3 to \$3.50 per ton.

Straw.—Only eight loads on the market to-day, at from \$6 to \$7 per ton.

Dressed Hogs.—The receipts were barely sufficient for the demand; the market steady, with sales quoted at \$6 to \$6.35 per cwt.

Butter.—The receipts of all sorts of butter are small; the demand for choice dairy good; prices are firm at 17c. to 18c. for large rolls. Creamery is in good demand; very firm at 22c.

Cheese.—Steady; prices range from 8 1/2c. to 9c.

Eggs.—The receipts of new laid are more liberal; there is a good demand; the market a little lower, at 14 1/2c. per dozen.

Poultry.—There is a good demand for fresh dressed stock; the market is firm at 12c. to 12 1/2c. for turkeys; 50c. to 65c. per pair for chickens; supply not equal to the demand.

March 11th, 1898.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:—

Table with columns: CATTLE, Extreme Prices, Top prices (Two weeks, 1897, 1898). Rows include 1500 lbs. up, 1200 @ 1500, 1000 @ 1200, 800 @ 1000, Fed Westerns, Stockers and feeders, Fat cows and heifers, Calves, Texas C. & B., Corn-fed Texas, Hogs, Mixed, Heavy, Light, Pigs, SHEEP, Natives, Western, Lambs.

In a general way the live stock interests have not been in as good shape for many years.

The U. S. Government report on the amount of live stock in the country is out, and contains some surprising facts. The following table showing the number of cattle, hogs and sheep in the United States, January 1 of each year for the past ten years is of interest:

Table with columns: Jan. 1, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep. Rows for years 1889 to 1898.

The report makes the hogs 39,750,000, a decrease of 850,000; the cattle 15,840,000, a decrease for the year of 100,841; the oxen and other cattle, 29,364,000, a decrease of 1,244,000; and the sheep, 37,656,000, an increase of 838,000. The number of cattle is 9,000,000 less than six years ago.

The hog supply is the smallest since 1881, when there were 36,227,603 reported, and 7,000,000 less than the yearly average for the sixteen years since then. Not only that, but the number of hogs reported is 1,715,000 head less than the average for twenty-three years previous to this year. As some one says: The hog receipts at the principal cities have never shown any relationship to these January 1 supplies as reported by the Government.

An authority on the cattle situation says: From present indications there will be a wider range of prices in the cattle market. The supplies of strictly good kind are so small that buyers are having great difficulty in filling orders, while the offerings of low-grade sorts are proportionately large and the demand for them is very weak. As there are very few choice cattle coming or in the country to come, the range of prices between poor and prime beefs is bound to be very wide. While the prices at which choice young feeding cattle sell seem very high, it looks as if this might be one of the most profitable summer feeders have had in a long time. There is no question about the demand being very good and there is not much question about the supply being very small. While the market will doubtless be filled with medium and "pretty good" cattle, we do not think there will be many days when there are too many really good ones to meet the demand.

The marketing of calves is decreasing. Calves received at Chicago the first two months of this year, 10,277, against 11,766 a year ago, and 15,284 two years ago. The supply in the country is not large, and owners are not so willing to have them converted into veal as they usually are. While the best cattle lately offered sold at \$5.85, buyers said they would be glad to give \$6, or even \$6.25, for strictly fancy cattle.

The hog situation is not so strong as it was. Receipts at the big markets are not large, but there is a bearish feeling just now among packers that is hard to understand. They seem to think there is danger of hog prices getting too high. Present prices for hogs are about 25c. to 30c. below the extreme high prices of the season.

The decrease in sheep supplies throughout the country is stronger than it has been in many years.

The horse trade is in very healthy condition, and prices are stronger all along the line, with not enough good ones to meet the demand. The long depression of the past six years has been a valuable school to horsemen, the oversupply has become exhausted, and an active movement has started in all sections of the country to return to horse breeding. The prices for plugs and scrubs are stationary, but prices for good horses show liberal improvement. The future profits in the industry will be largely controlled by the quality and not the quantity of the offerings. The good horse is high, and unquestionably will be still higher in the near future, but inferior grades will be eliminated from the market. To him who sows the good seed a bountiful harvest is assured, and at no time in the history of the industry have greater inducements been held out to the breeder to raise fine horses for home consumption and exportation.

TIVERTO

"I've come, Judge, one on earth don't know like this, 'tain't often comfort and luxury. "What do I know Judge, time they open found the bank vault not a dollar gone. I've got my share of talking but never been no one but me. "I brought some p all written down, and want them never used comes up as would me if I had a good a right have 'em too. I wasn't fair means seemin' to "Yes, Judge, I prospered fairly in a with me for some time Lord, but it was a give it up as would me and out then, the old little ones. "Then, Lord know for the sake of my wh thing and came here over again. I don't see opposite the bank 'long as I didn't see them and I'd hu be crazy for a while 'bout my old pals get "Time came, tho' early, and to feel my old life begun ter "I long as I thought all fixed up. I thought "Then they come First I knowed of 'em, I'd been breath away. The nothin' wouldn't do it they wanted. "The biggest I Durk'd come on to ex Durke, the new mill and the money for I warn't anything else havin', and me bein' I do think the great iron door sleep, and just coult taters by mornin' lay 'in' to keep me out lay. "Lord, it makes me think of it. "You see, them hunch best part of t people, and the mill worked in the mill, he's sick. Christmas warn't a bank officer even to the watchmen somehw. I'm bound to rob her but comin' just when I and all. "Twas awft "Well, Judge, y was rented to start solemn as my name out and give 'em pol to be cautious. "They found o' greed on the night mapped out for em boards of the floor through and lower come. Then yer see the great iron door. "Everything w money was paid. "Do you hear t ten years ago to-n wind a perfect huc might for any sort of "Twas a fortune sur to comfort and safe excited. Nothin' ha "We had senti but there warn't m "We had plann to blow open when I his fire. I knowe often from my hous the bank; but to r could give the signa man downstairs and ry below us, 'twar human to hear us. "Twas planned, me and one of the lanterns and tools a and be on hand to "Lord, but it w and after I had exa dangers better than and lowed the h vault. 'Twas well worth much if any "Tom Doolan he half way down he whispe: "Who called m