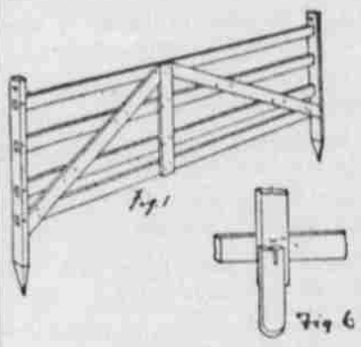
MANNER OF CONSTRUCTING PRACTICAL SHEEP HURDLES

Great Objection to More General Use of Devices Seems to Be Their Liability of Blowing Over—Materials to be Used.

The great objection to the more general use of sheep hurdles seems to be their liability to blowing over. I submit illustrations of some that offer less resistance or are better fortified against the effects of the wind, writes Richard H. Mitchell in the Country Gentleman.

Fig. 1, while not strictly a movable hurdle, is, nevertheless, considered as such, and is the one in most common use. I can only give measurements from memory, but should say that they were 10 feet long and 5 feet high when set up. The figure shown is made of sawed stuff, but they are more often made of split saplings; the construction, however, is precisely the same. Holes are made with a bar, and they are set end to end and pinned together at the top. These, like those supported on the A crutch, form a perfectly straight fence, which is not so proof against the force of the wind as one built zig-zag or worm fashion.

In Fig. 2 I have shown two panels that are intended to be set up in this



manner. The left-hand end of panel b slips in the right-hand end of panel a, and a section of the fence is shown in Fig. 3. These panels are supposed to be 10 feet long and 4 feet high, and the lumber 1 by 5-inch stuff, but these dimensions can be varied to suit the idea of the user. With these dimensions, however, the distance between the end uprights on panel ought to be 11 inches. On panel a the end uprights ought to be 15 inches from either end. This ought to make the fence worm about 4 feet. As can be readily understood, more or less worm will be given to the fence by moving the second upright from either end in panel a.

A panel using wire instead of lumber seems desirable, and in Fig. 4 I have shown one that seems to me the most desirable, as combining the great-

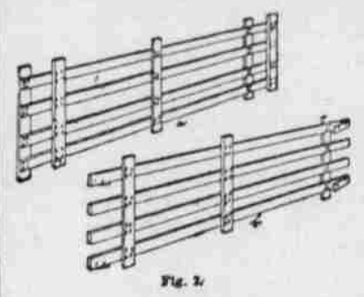


Fig. 2.

est strength with the least surface, and with the surface low. The panel, as there shown, can be used on the A crutch. Fig. 5 shows it modified, to meet the requirements of a worm fence. By substituting a post in the place of the end uprights, you have the Fig. 1 forms.

In Fig. 5 you will notice that I am not satisfied with cleats, but have introduced a bar sliding in a slot on the front side of the end upright and on the back side of the second upright. This makes a complete lock, and seems to me quite essential on that style of fence. I should also recomend the same device on the board

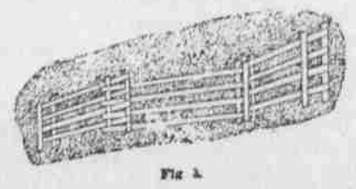
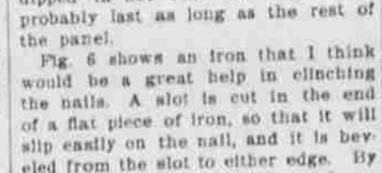


Fig 4.

panels, as on uneven ground one end might spring up and allow the panels to separate.

Of course on this skeleton any kind of wire can be used. Personally, I would not use barbed-wire of any sort as a gift. The illustration is intended to show a two-strand twisted wire, placed six inches apart, which is much closer than it is used on longer stretches, but that number of wires seems to me about right for a good job. They might be placed closer at the bottom and wider at the top, perhaps. That hurdle (Fig. 4) made with 4-foot uprights and 14 feet from end to end of upright, would weigh about 65 pounds, and cost about as many cents for material. The cost of the



all-board one would not be much different, and it would weigh 40 pounds more.

As to manufacture, I should say, as has already been suggested, that pretty close to where they are to be used would be the best place to make them, as one freight on the material would be saved. Machinery does not enter very largely into their construction; so nothing could be saved in that way. It ought not to require any great skill to saw up boards and nail them together, and also stretch wire on them, if that form was desired.

In drawing these hurdles, I have allowed the center uprights to come down as far as the others; in practice, it might be found better to make them shorter, especially if they were to be set up on uneven ground. The diagonals in Fig. 4, being on opposite sides of inch uprights, will of course be an inch apart where they cross. I should not fill this in, but draw them together in nailing, as it will make the frame all the stronger. Hemlock is probably the best material for making these, and it would undoubtedly last enough longer to pay to have it dressed. If ordered in carload lots, enough would be saved in freight to pay for

Fig 5.

the dressing. If the ends of the uprights that stand on the ground were dipped in hot coal tar, they would probably last as long as the rest of the panel.

Fig. 6 shows an iron that I think would be a great help in clinching the nails. A slot is cut in the end of a flat piece of iron, so that it will slip easily on the nail, and it is beveled from the slot to either edge. By slipping this on the nail, the end can be bent over at more than a right angle. The iron is then slipped back, as shown in the illustration, and the nail bent over and driven into the wood, as shown to the right. For fencing stacks and turning corners, both ends of the panels would have to be alike, instead of reversing, as shown in the cut. If this fence should prove reasonably wind-proof, it ought to solve a large problem in fence economy, as very much less fence would be needed if the fence could be easily moved from place to place as occasion demanded.

It would be absolutely wind-proof around a stack if locked with the sliding bar, and would have the advantage of being movable when the ground was frozen.

Choking on Oats.

Some horses eat so greedily that they become choked on oats. We have one that troubled us in that way, so we often had to send for a veterinarian, who inserted a tube down her throat to dislodge the grain, says a writer in an exchange. Later he told us how to avoid the trouble in this way: He advised us to place a dozen or more smooth stones, the size of a small hen's egg, in the feed box, taking care to have them well distributed through the oats. This compels the horse to eat less greedily, as he must eat carefully to avoid biting on the stones. We had no further trouble as long as we owned the horse.

Succulent Feed for Cows.

One of the most practical ways of supplying succulent feed for cows, when one has only a small herd and does not have ensilage, is by raising roots such as mangels, rutabagas or stock carrots.

WHERE WOMEN DRAW THE PLOW

A great many Russian peasants are going into western Canada, and as many of them are poorly equipped for farm operations, they work in the co-operative plan. These Russians settle in villages according to their custom in their native land and when there are not enough horses to draw the plows, the women of the village act as substitutes. It is said to be not an uncommon sight to see a dozen or more women attached to a plow by a long rope on which there are fastened at intervals sticks of wood which may be placed against the breast or across the arms to aid in pulling.

Stenography 2,000 Years Ago.

It seems incredible, but it can be proved, already in the olden times there were stenographers who took down the speeches made in the Roman senate or in public. They were called notarii and we find a place in Suetonius where Augustus is angry because the stenographers reported the speech of Caesar for Mettullus in a very imperfect manner.

Practical Christianity.

The story is told of a little house-maid, far over the sea, who, when asked whether she realized that she was in any way different after uniting with the church, from what she had been before, thought for an instant, and then, smiling brightly, said: "Well I sweep the corners." She could hardly have given a better demonstration of her religious life.—Christian Herald.

Rhode Island's State Farm.

Rhode Island has a farm on which are located all her state institutions, including the state prison, state workhouse and Providence jail. The workhouse prisoners have done much in reclaiming and cultivating land, removing stones, improving the stream and building walls.