



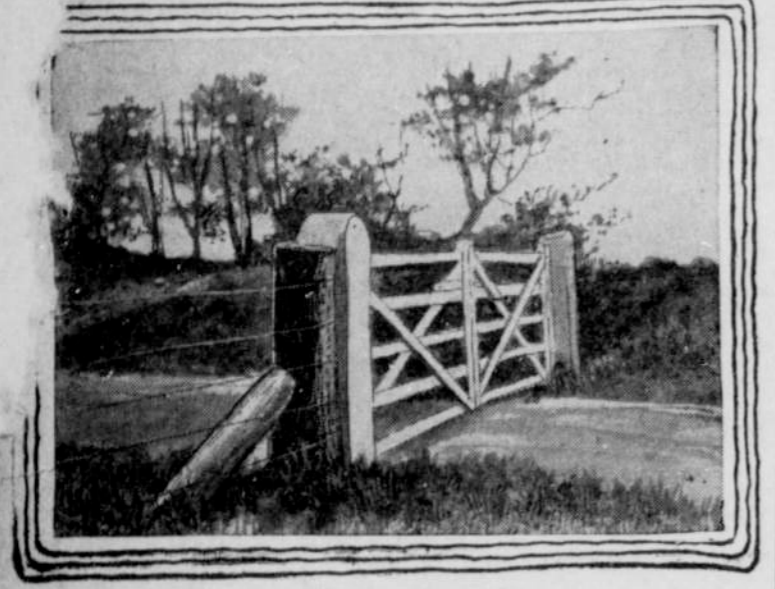
FENCES AND GATE POSTS.

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL.

depletion of the timber lot and gradual decrease in the supply of it, with the consequent increase in cost of wood, make the erection of a fence on the farm a matter of considerable importance. The material upon which a proper material is constructed of an effective fence—metal—that is, fence wire—has entirely replaced the rails which were formerly used. It is surprising how little time was considered necessary to make a fence stock-proof. We still, however, that timber is, in most localities, the cheapest material for posts, though the supply available is becoming scarcer each year. It is possible that in the future it will be necessary in every section

is possible to obtain from them fences constructed entirely of metal at small cost. While the unprogressive farmer is content to have a few bars to let down in order to admit of the passage of teams or wagons, no fence is complete without an entrance, and therefore without a gate, for at best bars are only makeshifts and a loss of both time and temper. It is surprising how common they are when excellent and serviceable light gates can now be purchased very cheaply and even where the lack of money is an obstacle to this a handy man can, with the aid of an axe, a hammer and some nails build and hang a strong useful gate with no

It will be better and a saving of time if the timber after being cut up for the gates is given a couple of coats of paint before being put together. After the gate is completed and hung, it can be given a final coat. The first or priming coat should be very thin; in fact, may be nearly all raw linseed oil. The second and last coats will, of course, be a little thicker, and in order to dry hard, and with a little gloss, should contain a small quantity of turpentine and boiled oil. While tastes may differ as to color, results have shown that white seems to give the most satisfaction, while the iron work painted black will make a slight contrast, adding to the improved appearance of the gateway.



A SUBSTANTIAL ROAD GATE.

of the country to use posts made of iron or concrete, even as is now done in many places. An essential feature of a rail fence is a comparatively short panel, but now that wire is, in the majority of cases, taking the place of the rail, it is questionable whether as many posts are necessary as was the case when rails were used. Recent tests were made at an English experiment station to determine upon the best method of constructing a fence. One point considered whether a fence constructed with droppers is as efficient and durable as one constructed entirely with posts. A second point under consideration was the minimum number of posts required in the construction of an efficient and durable fence when droppers are used and the character of the dropper required for best results. The dropper is a thin vertical brace used to strengthen the stretch of wire between posts. As metal is admittedly more durable than wood, an endeavor was made to obtain a suitable rigid metal dropper, but without success.

other outlay than the expenditure of a few hours' labor and certainly in less time than is required in the continual putting down and up of the bars.

Experiment has shown that it is advisable to have the openings of the farm gates 16 feet wide or thereabouts in order to admit of the transfer of the

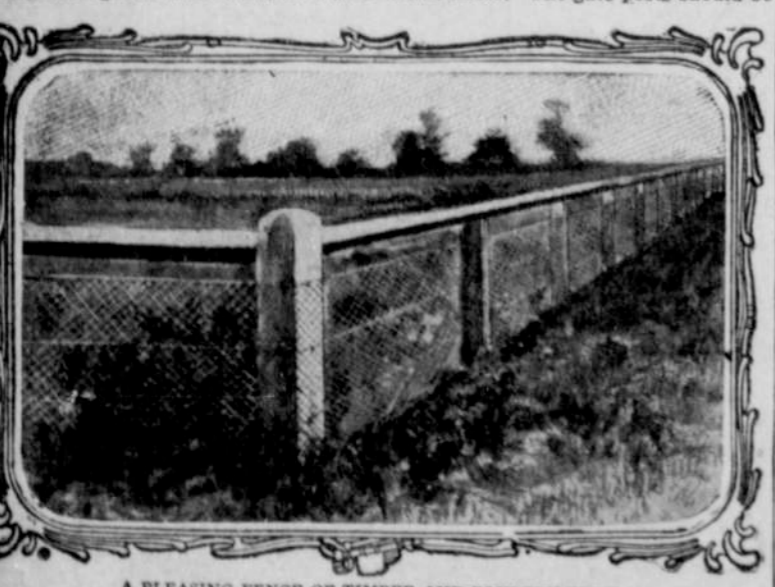
NOTCH THE CORNER POSTS LOW.
An error that farmers sometimes make in erecting a fence is that they place the corner supports or struts too near the top of the post, and consequently at too great an angle with the line of the fence, so that when the wires are stretched tightly the post is pulled out of the ground, notwithstanding that huge bowlders are piled against the post or hung on it, in an endeavor to keep it in the ground. One fence which has been found to prove very satisfactory consists of square posts and top rail, with three or four rows of plain wire fastened on the outside edges of the post, instead of through holes bored in the uprights. To these wires is fastened ordinary poultry netting with say, an inch and a half or two-inch mesh. This netting may be strained very tight and will lie as flat as a board, the appearance of the fence being thereby greatly improved.



Fence Distorted by Improperly Placed Corner Supports.

While the use of barb-wire in the construction of fences is regretted, owing to the injury which it sometimes inflicts upon the live stock, there is no doubt that its employment under certain conditions prolongs the life of a fence, deterring stock from rubbing against it and unduly straining the plain wires. It has been argued that stock soon get to understand how dan-

farm implements from one field to another. Where some fields are planted with small green crops from which the farmer desires to keep his poultry it is thought best that the bottom rail of this gate should be within an inch of the ground so that the poultry cannot crawl under. The gate posts should be



A PLEASING FENCE OF TIMBER AND POULTRY WIRE.

gerous barb-wire is, and when in a quiet condition are rarely injured by it; but once excited by panic or play they forget its danger and often suffer in consequence. While there may be some styles of woven fence which will enable the farmer to discontinue barb-wire, the new material must have sufficient elasticity to recover from occasional very severe and unusual strains and also sufficient to respond to our varied conditions of heat and cold, and so require no straining after its erection. The American fence manufacturers seem to be ahead of the Europeans in the production of wire fences, for it

quite separate and distinct from any posts used in the construction of the fence, as a better effect is obtained without additional trouble if they are slightly higher than the uprights in the gate and higher than the fence posts adjoining the gateway. The main entrance to the farm and also the gateways around the dwelling may be still further improved if a little additional trouble is taken to square the gate posts and round off the tops.

No gate can be said to be finished until it is painted, for not only does painting aid in giving a nice appearance, but prolongs the life of the wood.

butter, and who make it, of course, with a hand churn. Some of these farmers might make more butter than they would require for their own use; and they would their surplus eggs, to the country store.

And you find larger farmers, too, and farmers perhaps keeping many cows and selling the bulk of their milk to a creamery, still continuing to make the butter that they need for themselves and making it, as they have always done, in a hand churn.

Such churns are sold to people living in suburban or country homes and keeping cows, who make their own butter because they prefer to, anyway, and they are bought by various people everywhere who want sweet or unsalted butter and who make it for themselves in hand churns.

America exports churns to the West Indies and South America and to New Zealand and Australia and to dairying countries in various other parts of the world; but we still supply our own people with the old-fashioned dasher as we did twenty years ago.

TO TACKLE HAZERS.

The hazing trials at Annapolis, followed by the long discussion of the subject in and out of Congress, have served to widely advertise the Academy, and, as a result, there has been an unusual rush of applications from ambitious young men who aspire to become admirals. Many of the applicants breathe defiance to all hazers and recite instances of their physical prowess to demonstrate their fitness for appointment. One of the letters recently received at the Navy Department ran as follows: "I play football, have been captain of the basketball team these last two years. I am also an expert with boxing gloves, and would like to have some of the Annapolis fellows try their hazing tricks on me. I imagine they would have to get real busy if they tried to stand me on my head and make me eat soap."

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS.

Assistant Secretary Hays Points Out Necessity for More Thorough Farm Education. Is in Effect a Country High School.

The consolidated school question is a feature of the country school education problem which is rapidly coming to the fore, especially in the northwest, and it promises much for better farm education. The proposition is that six or seven or ten of the cross-roads schools in any rural district shall be combined into one larger school and were it not for the question of transportation of the scholars to and from the central school, it would undoubtedly meet with universal favor. From an educational point of view the advantages of the consolidated school plan are very great. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Hays is an enthusiastic advocate of the plan and states that where the plan has been put into operation the beneficial results have been manifold. The question has been agitated to a considerable extent in his own State of Minnesota, due largely to his own efforts. Professor Hays is thoroughly alive to the fact that a better scheme of education is needed for the farm boy if he is to keep his foremost position among the world's agriculturists.

FOR BETTER FARM EDUCATION.

The time, Professor Hays says, has gone by when an "ordinary" school education will serve for the farm boy. The three R's are not sufficient to enable him to succeed in life. He must have special education for farming just as the young man or woman who is to enter professional life has special instruction along the lines he expects to follow. And so the consolidated school comes in, with its better educational facilities.

Canada has taken an advanced stand on this question and is consolidating her country schools. In a word the farmer's children are being given the advantages of a high school education. As President Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College has pointed out, the system undoubtedly is, from a standpoint of dollars and cents, more expensive, for the first few years at least; but the rural ratepayer has it to decide for himself whether he would rather pay five dollars more per year and secure for his boy or girl such increased benefits as the consolidated school can give or leave them in the hands of an inexperienced girl teacher who perhaps does her best in a little one-roomed school, without facilities of demonstration of any kind.

PRACTICAL FARM SCIENCE.

One of the most important features of these schools is the school garden, where practical farm science is taught in a practical way. Such gardens are not, however, confined to the consolidated schools, but are now being kept in connection with a number of the more progressive district schools in various parts of the country. They are usually from two to three acres in area, divided into experimental and individual plots for each of the pupils, ranging in size from six feet square to six by ten or even twenty. The general plan of laying out each garden involves (1) a belt of native trees and shrubs surrounding the grounds; (2) a half-acre playfield for the boys; (3) a lawn bordered with shade trees for the girls; (4) a shaded walk each for boys and girls, about a hundred yards long; (5) an attractive approach to the school, consisting chiefly of a piece of open lawn, with shrubs and flowers on either side; (6) a suitable reservation for individuals and class plots; (7) an orchard plot or border; (8) a forest plot in which the chief native trees are grown from the seed.

PLANTS GROWN BY PUPILS.

The ordinary range of vegetables and a selection of flowering plants are grown in these gardens, the pupils themselves furnishing the necessary work. In the large schools two hours each week are found sufficient for the garden work, and one hour in the smaller, in both cases under the supervision of the teacher or a special instructor. The school garden serves a double purpose, since it not only provides the most practical form of nature study but acts as a valuable incentive in the general school work. It is no uncommon sight during the summer season to see a public school in session out of doors, not with slate and pencil but with hoe and shovel. The pupils thoroughly enjoy it. They are allowed the proceeds of their plots as their own property and in addition may take home the plants left over from thinning out. The class plots are reserved as a source of revenue for the school and as a supply, in some cases, for the school lunches.

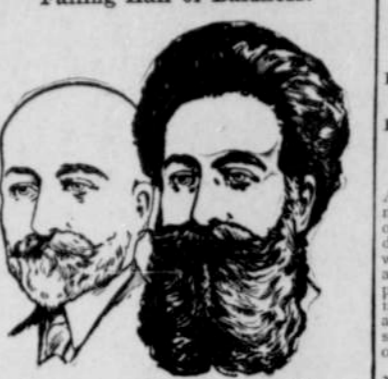
Former Iron Master Andrew Carnegie has endorsed the idea of phonetic spelling—making the words sound as they read, or read as they sound—either way.



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JOE, THE INDIAN DOG.

From Sunset.
"Did he ever make friends with the battery boys?"
"No," said Sergeant Wright, "he never did. I understand dogs, and I know that our dog Joe died of a broken heart at Fort Stevens, at the mouth of the Columbia, and we gave him a sort of informal military funeral and buried him where the moaning of the bar is always heard.

There had been a battle near the Yellowstone, and the Nez Perces had gradually had to give way and retreat as the dusk drew down to hide the damage of the day. But all the warriors did not go. Among the rocks up the cañon, nine of them lay in one heap, seven in another, at rest at last. Four dogs were there doing the Casablanca act, and a soldier lassoed one of them in form and color like a fox, and brought him into camp.

Joe was the name given him, and day after day he was led by some member of the company until the long fifteen-hundred-mile march was ended. He tolerated the portion of the rations handed him, but never smiled in return, and merely ate to live. He conformed to constituted authority as a matter of common sense, and on the long steamboat trip down the Missouri to Omaha, across by rail to the Pacific and up the coast to Oregon, he was the same dignified dog, always with an ear askance, anticipating the footsteps of his Indian comrade.

But he never came.

No soldier had learned to love him, but all respected him for fidelity to his dead master.

IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION.

The Committee on Immigration of the House of Representatives has reported a bill raising the head tax on aliens from \$2 to \$5, requiring each male adult to possess not less than \$25 and each female \$15, providing that every immigrant over 16 years shall be able to read and write in some language, and placing in the excluded class imbeciles, the weak-minded and manual laborers of poor physique. The Department of Commerce and Labor is given discretion to admit or exclude immigrants under 16 years of age coming to this country alone. The proposed law, it is stated, would sift out a good many undesirable persons.

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