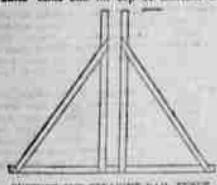


RAIL FENCES.

Helpful Hints for Repairing Old Fences at a Small Cost.
In sections where old rail fences are only a temptation and not a hindrance to stock, some system by which they may be made good at slight expense will be welcome. We therefore present a plan suggested and described by a Connecticut farmer in The New England Homestead:

If a number of frames be made like the one shown in the engraving a single fence may be strung, laying the rails end one on top of another be-



REPAIRS FOR OLD RAIL FENCES.—The uprights and the material will be sufficient usually to more than repair the whole fence. One will also reap the advantage of being able to clear up the woods and brush along the old fence row and crop it more closely. A slab or plank 3 ft. long, averaging 2 by 6 inches, will do for the bottom piece; strips 3 by 2 inches for the uprights and others 1 by 3 or 4 for the side rails.

Wire strips, that may be bought by the yard for almost nothing, frequent wire will serve admirably, and may be woven and nailed together in the barn or shop when storms prevent outdoor labor. The uprights and braces are nailed to the bottom piece and to each other one foot from the top of the uprights, a space of not over five inches being left between uprights. No fence is better for sheep. Unless the rails are cleaned wire nails should not be used, as they draw out so easily, endangering both stain and rendering the fence weak. Light piles can be laid up between these if desired instead of rails.

Cleaning Poultry Houses of Insect Pests.

The poultry house should be thoroughly cleaned out before extreme cold weather, and every louse and mite in the walls, nest boxes, and perchures destroyed with kerosene. Care should be taken to see that shucks or grain in the straw used for nests, for if a hen finds a single one she is almost certain to lay the next to give her seeking for more. When there is no nest in the poultry house clean free from vermin and nicely lined with soft material the pullets will naturally go to them when they begin laying. When they are fed or fumigated or infested with vermin the pullets drop their eggs in the corners of the yard, off the perchers and almost anywhere. Some of them are broken, the hens get a taste of egg and the trials of the poultry keeper have just begun, writes an Illinois correspondent in The American Agriculturalist. For destroying insects he advises burning the straw, and the straw must be clean, cheap and sure death to lice, mites and every other insect that touches. First thoroughly clean out the house and then spray it with the kerosene. A good spraying apparatus with cyclone nozzle is best for doing this work, but it can also be very effectively done with a common garden sprayer fitted with a fine rose spray. Draw slowly while drawing in the liquid, but force it out as hard as you can. This will make a fine spray, which will penetrate every crack and crevice, however small it may be.

Oxides of Hay.

The different grades of hay, as generally understood by the trade, are as follows: Chopped timothy, to be timothy, and not more than one fourth of other grasses; second, good timothy, well cured and free from mold; timothy, to be sound, well cured, good color and free from mold; mixed hay, to consist of tame grasses, mixed; good color, well cured and free from mold. All kinds of hay, badly cured, moldy, or in any way out of condition, are regarded as no grade.

Weevils in Corn.

A Texas correspondent in Inset gives the following as a successful plan for keeping weevils out of corn: "In putting up his earthen bin he placed two open bottles containing linseed oil of carbon about four feet apart on the floor of the bin. The bottoms of the bottles were covered with a single layer of charcoal, so that each bottle would stand with its head above the surface. The bin was divided with ears to fit snugly against the walls. The bin was then filled with ears to fit snugly, and the result of the experiment was highly successful. What live weevils were admitted from the field were destroyed and none further appeared. It is also claimed to have kept mice and rats out of the bin."

Things That Are Old.

California is to be honored by having a section of one of her famous big trees made a prominent feature in the Government building at the Columbian exposition.

An invention that attracted attention at a recent winter transplanting meeting for overhauling and transplanting other plants and firming the soil around them also automatically watering the roots of the plants.

Times are changing. Two or three years ago self-squeezing frames were not considered practical, and the reversing features of the latest honey extractors were regarded as just so much surplus machinery. But beekeepers are thinking differently now. Honey is being produced on larger scales, and better and more rapidly operated appliances are demanded, and these things come of necessity.

Note for Him.

Clerk of furnishing store.—Is there anything else, incident, that you would like to get for your husband today?

Mrs. Bingo.—No, I believe not. By the way, when you send the package home, be sure and have the pajamas done up separately. If you don't we'll get the idea in his head they are for him.

The Draining.

To tile draining a good man or enterprising plan from Uncle Farmer, with a description by one who has tested its efficacy. He says:

I use either five or six inch tiles, according to the amount of water to be carried. Lay the main with the natural slope, if practicable, and a foot deeper than the lateral, just to make the connection on



OUTLET FOR TILE DRAINS.—top of the main, giving a free flow. Make the connections perfect, so that water will not earth working through. The accompanying cut shows the arrangement—A is the main; B is the connecting arm; and C the lateral. A flat stone will close the top of the arm all right. Place lateral about two feet deep, never less, according to soil, etc., and place stones to seven rods apart, and if possible across the natural flow, thereby cutting off surface water more quickly.

In the Furniture Trade.

In reply to the oft-repeated query, "How to obtain white soap," the agricultural editor of the New York World says: "Specimens hatched in February and March. Keep them in warm place. Feed with plenty of animal food, such as sound grain, not too moist nor too dry and not change their surroundings." The "Furniture World" makes the following statement: "Put the pellets that are produced in the same manner as the larvae of the caterpillar, so that they will become accustomed to the buildings and surroundings before winter. Give them the last of sun and frost, so that by Nov. 1 they will be in condition to commence laying in dead corners. Give them free range if possible, and they will pick up the kind of food. Once you have more meat than you can supply, it is to the caterpillars. The numerous insects that make their appearance this month will prove a luxury for the birds, and the caterpillars will be useful. Give them a good grain diet each morning and evening, feed oats, wheat, buckwheat and a little corn, rather occasionally by a mush composed of boiled vegetables mixed with bran or shorts."

As the cold weather approaches all growing stocks ought to be culled. It will not pay to feed chickens that are diseased, but better the profit will be.

Says the Farmers' Journal, which gives the following advice: "It is well to keep all growing chickens on unlimited range as long as snow is off the ground, and even the quarters at night should be roomy and well supplied with pure air. A tight shed open only to the south is about as good a place for chickens as we know of, but care should be taken to prevent the depreciation of shanks and other vermin."

Notes and Notes.

Colonel James Wood, of Mount Kisco, N.Y., president of the New York State Agricultural society, will serve as director of the agricultural exhibit of the state of New York at the coming Columbian exposition at Chicago.

The British board of agriculture has issued an order that in future imports from the United States will be allowed to land without being subject to inspection or quarantine.

Discrepancy accounts are made of the results of experiments in Great Britain.

The styles of horse and animal industry describes a new cattle parasite which lives in the follicles of the root of the hair, and produces disease in the skin of the animal affected.

We are rapidly coming to the conclusion that horses need more ventilation in stalls than many suppose.

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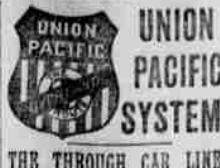
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