

CONCRETE FENCE POSTS

Concrete has taken the place of wood in so many instances that one is no longer surprised at its adoption for any purpose. The latest use to which it is being put and with great success is its substitution for wood as fence posts. Nearly all the farmers in the Middle West are adopting the concrete fence post on account of its permanent qualities, neat appearance and low cost. Many of the railroads are fencing their right-of-ways with it and the use of it has grown to such an extent that the government has gone to the trouble and expense of getting out a bulletin of several pages recommending its use to farmers, giving full and explicit details as to how to make the concrete post, what materials to use, the proper method of re-enforcing and how to make the forms. The principal agricultural colleges of the country, after thoroughly testing it, advise its use and the Iowa State College of Agriculture at Ames, Iowa, perhaps the leading agricultural college in the country, gives the concrete fence post its unqualified endorsement and is preparing 529 concrete fence posts to enclose a new farm purchased by the college.

There is no question but that within a few years wooden posts will have been supplanted by concrete for the reason that a concrete fence post can be made at a cost not to exceed that of a wooden post and when a farm is once fenced with concrete fence posts the problem of fencing on that particular farm is over for all time.

The government bulletins show that when a wooden post has been installed for two or three years its strength has depreciated fully 50 per cent while a concrete fence post continues to get stronger for a period of seven years until it is so hard that it is absolutely impervious to the elements and it becomes a permanent portion of the farm, adding not only to its attractiveness but to its value.

The average life of a wooden post is from three to six years and the expense of re-placing them is as fixed and certain as taxes and in many instances the cost of repairs each year amounts to as much as the taxes on the place.

In many of the prairie states there is no native wood out of which to make posts though there are a few being manufactured from osage hedge. It is only in a few localities, however, that this material can be obtained and besides it is very expensive. The most of the posts used in those states are shipped from a long distance, and by the time the farmer has placed them in the ground the cost to him is excessive. When a person takes into consideration the millions of posts in use in those states and the fact that from 15 to 30 per cent have to be replaced each year it is no wonder that the farmer is looking for something permanent.

Another advantage of using the concrete fence post is that it makes it possible for the farmer to burn over his fence row each fall, thereby destroying the home and breeding ground of the numerous crop-destroying bug and insects, infesting such places. From numerous tests made by government experimental stations it has been proved that the clearing out of such places makes the adjoining tracts free from these pests.

As stated above, the first cost of the

concrete post is no more than the wooden post, and in many states where wood has to be shipped from a distance the cost is less. The only materials that go into a concrete post are sand and gravel or if sand and gravel cannot be obtained, crushed rock, wires for re-enforcing and cement. Sand and gravel can be found in almost all localities and the cost is very small. The government advises the use of old bale or barbed wire for re-enforcing, claiming that it is better than new wire or rods. The cost of cement varies in different places, but as the proportion used is one of cement to about five or six of sand and gravel, this cost does not exceed 10 cents a post. Labor is of no consequence for the post can be made on the farm at spare time when the help is not busy with something else. The form in which they are made can be constructed out of any old boards handy and takes but a few minutes to build. They are exceedingly simple in construction and anyone able to use a saw and hammer can make a satisfactory mould.

One of the greatest difficulties heretofore has been in arriving at a satisfactory method of securing the wire to the post. A number of different methods have been tried, such as placing a strip of wood in the post and attaching the wire to the wood. The objection to this is that the weather causes the wood to swell or shrink and decay and the government advises strongly against its use. Another method tried has been imbedding staples in the post while it is green but the staples rust or break off rendering the post useless. Fastening the wires to the post by means of tie wires going around the post is not satisfactory because of the difficulty of securely fastening them and the fact that under pressure they will move up and down on the post.

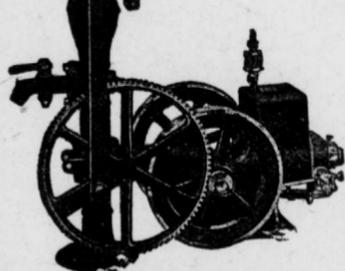
A Seattle man, William R. Kirkwood, has recently patented an improvement consisting of a diagonal receiving slot on the face of the post, leading into a transverse slot running through the post which seems to have solved the difficulty. By his method the wires are self-fastening and can be removed at will. No staple or tie wire is required and it has met

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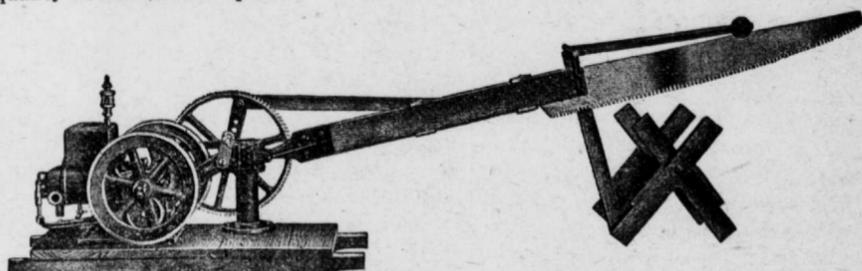
and carry water and saw wood by hand power. Elbow grease is all right in its place but should be devoted to better purpose. The distillate engine is the most economical motive power.

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with universal approval. The feature that most commends this post is its simplicity and the fact that any farmer or farmer's boy can make a successful and practical post without any outlay for special moulds, yet can produce a post which requires no staples, fasteners or accessories whatever for holding up the wires.

THE AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

Southwest Washington—Centralia-Chehalis, G. R. Walker, Secretary, Aug. 24-29.

Vancouver, B. C.—H. S. Rolston, Secretary, Sept. 3-12.

Vancouver, Wash.—Geo. P. Larsen, Secretary, Sept. 7-12.

Interstate Fair, Spokane, Wash.—Robert H. Cosgrove, Mgr., Sept. 12-20.

Walla Walla, Wash.—Robert H. Johnson, Secretary, Sept. 14-19.

Washington State Fair, North Yakima, Wash., Sept. 21-27.

Helena, Mont.—A. J. Breitenstein, Secretary, Sept. 21-27.

Victoria, B. C.—Geo. Sangster, Mgr., Sept. 21-27.

Nelson, B. C.—Geo. Horstead, Mgr., Sept. 24-26.

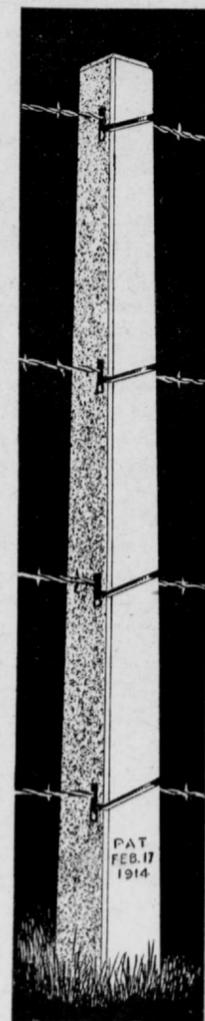
Oregon State Fair—Salem, Ore., Frank Meredith, Secretary, Sept. 28-Oct. 3.

New Westminster, B. C.—D. E. Mac-Kenzie, Secretary, Sept. 28-Oct. 3.

Salt Lake City, Utah—Horace S. Ensign, Secretary, Oct. 5-12.

Olympic Peninsula Fair—Port Townsend, Wn., Arch C. Tweedie, Secretary, Sept. 10-12.

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The new method of fastening is simple, easy to work and absolutely sure. It allows perfect adjustment of wires and if necessary, the wires can easily be removed.

This post will settle the fence question for you. It will cost no more than wood and when your fence is put up with KIRKWOOD RE-INFORCED CONCRETE FENCE POSTS it is up to stay. You can make them on your own farm. No forms or accessories to buy.

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