Miscellaneous

Cost of Fences in the U. S.

The cost of Fences in the United States is enormous, almost beyond the power of calculation, and it rises the inquiry, will the Legislatures ought not to be call d up i to e upon every man to keep his stock to himself. Then comes the question, if the stock would be forced to eat up his land (as is the ravages of his neighbor's stock.

Mr Biddle, a few years since, in an address before the Phila. Agricultural Society, stated that the cost of fences in Pennsylvania amounted to $100,000,000, and their annual expense he estimated at $10,000,000. A distinguished writer on National Wealth, says: "Strange as it may seem, the greatest investment in this country, the most costly pro[illegible] in our farms, houses, [illegible] the roads. Nor could this tariff be compared to the cost of fences in protecting monuments of human art, our cities and our towns, with all their wealth, are left far behind. In many places the fences have cost more than the farms and farms are worth. It is this enormous burden that keeps down the agricultural interest of this country, causing an untold expenditure, besides the loss of the land the fences occupy.

Estimating a fence post and rail fence to last 18 years, and including its labor and repairs, the *annual* tax to the farmer holding 150 acres, will be $130 to $140, and judging from the present appearances, the tax is and will be perpetual.

Did the intelligent farmer reflect a moment, and estimate the annual tax which his fences impose upon him, he would not rest till the system was abolished, or rise the live hedge to take the place of the present expensive fence of timber.

The system of compelling every landholder to enclose his property is peculiar to the United States, without [illegible] of England, where the fence [illegible] appears again under the form [illegible] and although these hawthorn hedges when they grow well tended—and not more than half of them are so—make a beautiful and answer all the purpose of public [illegible] [illegible] still the public [illegible] [illegible] supporting them. Each [illegible] with at its base, and taking [illegible] the amount of land they occupy in either side, the whole space [illegible] than twelve or fourteen feet wide. When it is reflected that the divisions and subdivisions of land in England are very numerous, the amount of arable land abstracted from the purposes of cultivation is very great. It has been estimated at several million bushels of grain. J. S. SANXAY

OX THICK AND THIN SOWING.—Many of the advocates of thin sowing appear to forget several circumstances which are not only unfavorable to that practice, but in some cases render it entirely out of the question. Thin sown wheat may be very successful on those rich and highly cultivated soils, so favorable to the development of the tillering or spreading property of wheat—and it may be adopted where the farming approaches to a garden-like state of husbandry. In such cases as these, there is very little doubt that thin sowing will be a great saving to the farmer, though in many other cases I am afraid it will have quite a contrary effect upon the farmer's pocket. One of the greatest objections to thin sowing in very many places is the number of vermin which abound in this game-preserving country. In the first instance the farmer is obliged to use a greater quantity of seed, as a provision for the partridge and other destructive birds; and when the corn has vegetated, it is frequently eaten off close to the ground by hares and rabbits; and thus any tillering that might take place is stopped; and, should the farmer have thin-sown his wheat, with the expectation of spreading out to a good plant, he will [illegible] wofully mistaken. And, again, when [illegible] advance in its growth, the damage committed by game is a [illegible] greater than in a thick one. Where [illegible] and other weeds abound, the thick plant will stand a good chance of choking them in their growth, and at harvest time we shall find a clean stubble; but, on the other hand, a thin plant of wheat may be hoed many times, and yet at harvest time plenty of weeds will be seen; this will more especially be the case in a wet season, for then the weeds (one may hardly doubt) our utmost efforts to put a stop to their growth. In a dry season and on dry land, the advantage will be on the side of the thick plant, for by its shading the ground it will be kept moist enough for the perfect growth of the corn. It must be allowed that the ears produced by a thin plant are large, yet the quality of corn will be coarse and in no way equal in point of value to the thick planted; and on land not particularly favorable to the abundant growth of wheat, the quality and quantity will be decidedly inferior. A thin plant of wheat is most liable to disease, and it is also liable to have some of it ripe long before some other portion of the crop is come to maturity—this is one cause of the sample being coarse and uneven. If we are certain of producing a fair medium plant of wheat, (what I have termed a thick plant) it matters not how little seed we use; but should we be unable to produce a sufficient plant, we must have recourse to a greater quantity of seed.

Materials for Manure.—When the labors of haying and harvesting are interrupted by cloudy weather, men and teams may be turned to good account in digging and carting muck, marl, or the coarse grasses of bogs to the barn-yard. Or these articles may be piled up to be used as wanted. Peat is much better for being exposed to the action of frost, which tends to dissipate the acid and render it fine.

Early Lambs may be taken from the [illegible] this month, & turned into good, sweet, [illegible] very long feed. They should be kept out of the sight and bearing of their dams, till they are weaned. Both the lambs and ewes will thus be much more quiet, and will become reconciled to their separation sooner, than if they were within the sound of each other's voices.

SALTING HAY.—The practice of salting hay for the purpose of *curing* it, or salting it for the purpose of *making it weigh better*, as it is sometimes done when damaged or cheap salt can be obtained,—we think improper. As a general rule, it is best to allow animals what salt they will eat voluntarily, rather than to force them to eat more than they want. It may do to salt a load of hay that has been injured, or which is of inferior quality to be fed to stock occasionally, as a relish.

Sheriff's Sales.

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NEW GOODS. AND NEW PRICES.

H. BURRITT has just received his general supplies of spring and summer goods, comprising as usual the [illegible] Dress Goods, Ladies' Cloths, Cassimeres and other Lady Dry Goods, and Printed Calicoes and other common Calicoes. Men's common Cassimeres, Kentucky Jeans, Tweeds, Satinets, Linsey, Cotton Flannels, and other common goods, which he will sell at the lowest cash prices. Also, a large variety of Ready Made Clothing, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, Hardware, Cutlery, Groceries, Crockery, Glass Ware, Stoves, Tinware, Iron, Nails, Paints, Oils, Dye Stuffs, Drugs, Medicines, Fancy Articles, Perfumery, Hosiery, Gloves, Ribbons, Lace, Cambrics, Muslins, Ginghams, Linen Cambrics, Linen Sheetings, Shirtings, Pillow Cotton, Tickings, Cotton Yarns, Cotton Batting, Wadding, Wrapping Paper, Writing Paper, Blank Books, Stationery, Hosiery, Suspenders, Combs, Brushes, Umbrellas, Parasols, Fancy Articles, Perfumery, Hosiery, Weekly Gazette, Cap Paper, Sheet Music, Cordials, Brandies, Wines, Gin, Rum, Whiskey, Cordials, Cordial Wines