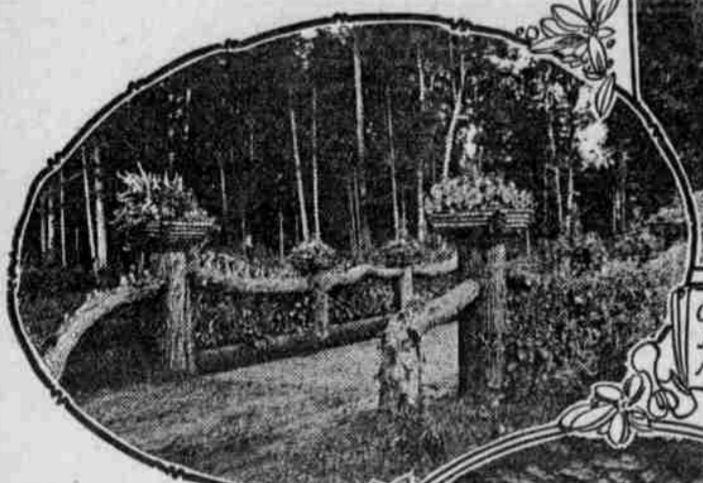


# HEDGES, WALLS AND FENCES IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS

**A** NUMBER of different factors have contributed directly or indirectly during the past few years to the appearance of American farms and rural estates as viewed from the highways and railroads. It is safe to say, however, that nothing has been more influential in this direction than the improved means introduced for marking the boundaries of fields and estates. Nor has the provision of better facilities in this respect been confined by any means to the wealthy folk who have taken up country life as a fad and have the means to indulge every caprice in that connection. The



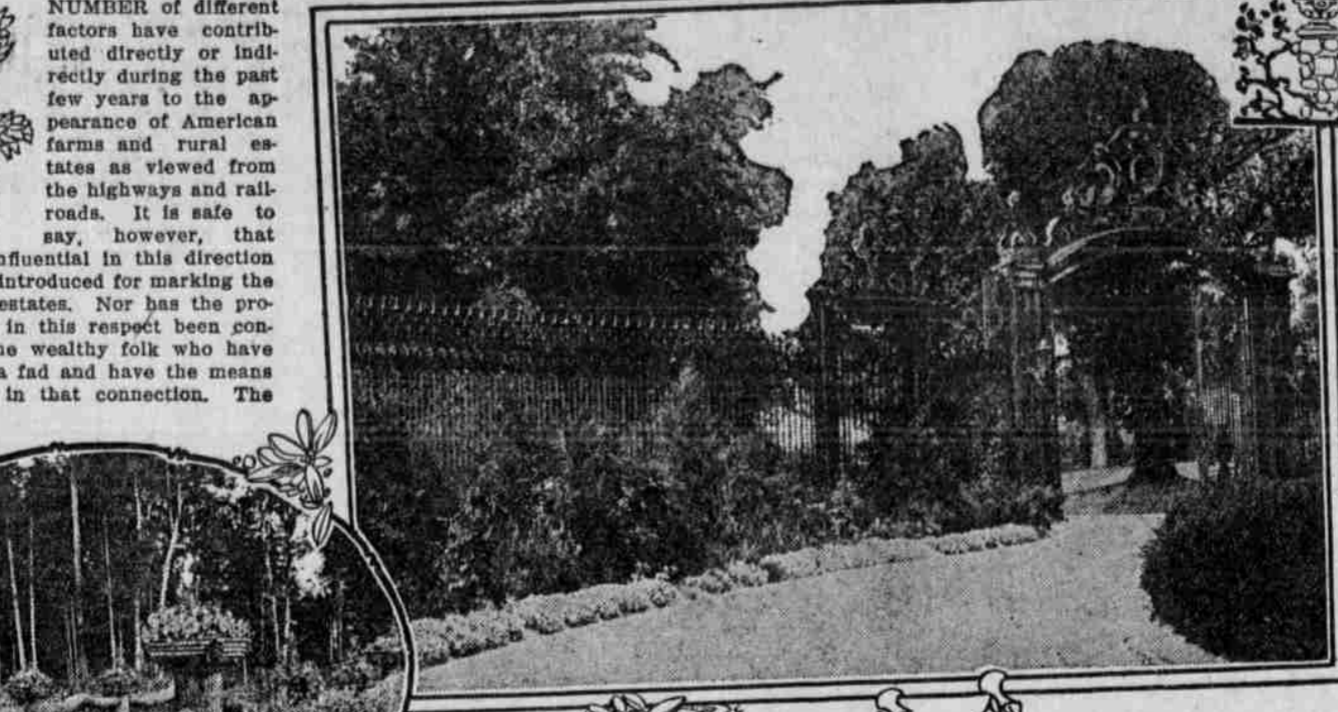
A TOUCH OF THE RUSTIC

common-sense, every-day farmer is fully holding up his end of the responsibility of providing a more orderly countryside. Until comparatively recent years in most sections of the United States and even yet in many of the more newly settled districts, farm fences were considered solely from the standpoint of utility. This was perfectly natural. A homesteader establishing an agricultural domain or a sheep and cattle ranch in territory recently opened to settlement has other things to think of beside providing ornamental boundary markers for his acreage. And anyway he has numerous heavy drains upon his pocketbook at such a time and probably can ill afford to go in for anything fancy at such a juncture, even though he have the strongest inclinations to have everything about the place in apple-pie order.

These considerations explain how it has been that as each section of the United States has in turn been settled the pioneers have availed themselves of the most economical means of indicating boundary lines. The farmer wants to have his lines, as vouchered for by a surveyor, marked clearly, since that forestalls trouble later on and he wants to keep cattle, etc., out of his cultivated tracts, even if he has no stock of his own that he wishes to restrict to a given area. But in the old days no farmer felt that he could afford to lay out much money in fixing such limitations. Almost invariably the pioneer or early settler in any community was anxious to find material for his fences on the place. This will explain the almost universal use in our whole broad farm domain of the old familiar type of zig-zag rail fence. And just here be it noted that it is an admirable type of fence, too. Cheap to construct, if the rails be split from timber on the place; easy to keep in repair; substantial and enduring; it is calculated to yield excellent service. This is the type of fence that Abraham Lincoln constructed and its fame may go down to posterity through the rails which are treasured as precious relics because he split them.

The early settlers in stony districts, such as New England and certain sections of New York, including the famous Mohawk Valley, in many instances made their first fences of stone. In this respect they were in one sense ahead of their times because stone fences are constructed nowadays because of their artistic and picturesque attributes and are preferred by people to whom expense is no object. As a matter of fact a fence of loose stones was never a cheap form of construction. On the fact of things it has always been an extravagance as compared with the rail fence, but the consideration that leads to its selection in many localities was that the land had to be cleared of stones ere it could be tilled. It was no more trouble to pile the stones thus collected in the form of a fence than in a pile which would serve no good purpose and it took less time to thus arrange the stones along the boundary lines than to cart them to some distant dump. So the average farmer working such land killed two birds with one stone, so to speak, and set up fences that in most localities have endured to this day.

The appearance of the wire fence and particularly the barbed wire variety marked a new era in fence building in our rural districts. Nobody has ever contended that the average wire fence was anything very beautiful to look upon, but it has proven a boon to thousands of farmers in the



ORNATE IRON FENCE ON A RURAL ESTATE



GATEWAY TO A FARM HOME



LODGE AND GATEWAY OF A SOUTHERN PLANTATION



COUNTRY SEAT OF A WEALTHY AMERICAN



AN OLD-FASHIONED NEW ENGLAND FARM FENCE

west where timber was too scarce to be wasted on rail fences and where there were no stones to be cleared. The wire fence has proven an even greater boon to stock raisers, many of whom must needs fence large tracts and who are not disposed to quibble over cost if they can get a fence that can be put up quickly and will stand hard usage. Of course the dramatic incidents of "wire cutting" days in the cattle country proved that the wire fence was as easy to destroy as it was quick to build, but of course that turbulent condition is not one that has continued.

And while we are on the subject of the wire fence it may be noted the regeneration of the wire fence has been one of the most marked features of the present era of more presentable farm fences. The treatment that has been accorded many of the old wire fences reminds one—in its ingenious expedient for covering up old material with new—of the scheme now so frequently followed in coating old brick houses with a layer of stucco or concrete that gives them a pristine freshness. In some instances ivy, roses, or rapidly-growing vines of one kind or another have been planted at frequent intervals along a wire fence—say at each post—and in a surprisingly short time the fence becomes a trellis for a luxuriant growth that is bound to charm even the most fastidious person and one to whom a wire fence unadorned would prove a perfect eyesore.

Another present day ruse for making the wire fence unobtrusive and yet retaining all its virtue as a boundary is to have the fence serve as a core for a hedge. The bushes, shrubs or other hedge-making vegetation may be planted on either or both sides (alternately) of the fence and in a few years the presence of wire strands and their supporting posts would be a complete surprise to a person who attempted to pass the barrier, so completely will they be hidden. Indeed, a close growing hedge reinforced by a wire fence has a twofold value as a preventive of trespass by man or beast and many persons of wide experience declare that it is the ideal form. The hedge may be permitted to grow to any height and there is, of course, no necessity for a farmer to keep such a hedge trimmed in symmetrical fashion as is done with those in the formal gardens of the rich.

The hedge, close-cropped, beautifully rounded

and with no wire fence concealed is seen much more frequently than formerly as one traverses the most traveled roads in America. Such hedges, however, usually bespeak the indulgence of some wealthy land holder who is willing to spend freely for the sake of appearances. The invasion of the country districts by this leisure class, retired men of means and so-called gentlemen farmers, has also resulted in the appearance of great numbers of stone and concrete walls. Of course such barriers, likewise the ivy-covered brick walls, are costly and particularly so when we take into account the massive gateways which have usually been provided in such connection. There is no doubt, however, that such walls add much, in the estimation of most persons, to the beauty of our rural landscapes. Indeed, it is the walls and hedges more than anything else which cause returned travelers to grow enthusiastic over rural England.

The iron fence has shared in the stimulated activity but the iron fence, alike to the stone wall, calls for a pretty heavy outlay, although if it is kept painted it will endure for so many years that it is rendered fairly reasonable in the long run. The picket fence, preferably painted white or white and green, continues to have many staunch friends among the farming class and the running board fence which is said to have originated in New England has spread to many other sections of the country and taken on a few frills suggestive of the designs of "barred ple." Rustle work when well done is always mighty effective in any rural surroundings and the picturesque appearance of the logs with the bark on is heightened by the introduction of some bright-colored poles. Another latter day development is seen in the latitude now manifested in the height of the fences in the rural districts. A generation ago pretty much all the fences were about the same height. Nowadays they vary greatly. In some instances where the fence or hedge is purely ornamental its height is very much restricted whereas on the other hand it is not unusual to encounter a wealthy land owner whose desire for privacy has prompted him to erect—at least in the immediate vicinity of his dwelling—a wall so high that a man on horseback cannot see over it. A comparatively low stone wall surmounted by a high iron fence is another form of construction that has been introduced extensively.

Sometimes the proverbial "small brother" proves himself a remarkably well informed if tactless person. The brother of a certain confident (damsel) thus recently addressed a shy and shrinking suitor.

"Mr. Jones, are you going to marry Sister Ruth?"

Mr. Jones (blushing and disconcerted)—Why, sonnie, I—er—I really don't know, you know!

Small Brother (with a giggle)—That's what I thought. Well, you are!

## HE KNEW.

Sometimes the proverbial "small brother" proves himself a remarkably well informed if tactless person. The brother of a certain confident (damsel) thus recently addressed a shy and shrinking suitor.

"Mr. Jones, are you going to marry Sister Ruth?"

Mr. Jones (blushing and disconcerted)—Why, sonnie, I—er—I really don't know, you know!

Small Brother (with a giggle)—That's what I thought. Well, you are!

## CHURCH BUILT OF FOSSILS

Building Constructed of Blocks Hewed From the Petrified Depths of a Nearby Swamp.

Mumford, N. Y.—In Mumford is a church building constructed of fossils. At first glance the walls appear to be constructed of rough sandstone smeared with an uneven coating of gritty, coarse plaster; but a closer view shows delicate traceries of leaves, lace-work of interwoven twigs, bits of broken branches, fragments of mossy bark, splinters of wood, all preserved against the wasting of time



Mumford Church.

and decay by being turned into the hardest of flinty limestone. Every block of stone in the four walls is a closely cemented mass of dainty fossils, literally packed and interwoven. There is no basic rock at all, but only fossil fibers, which give the rock cohesion and strength. Nevertheless, the stones are light in weight compared with granite and sandstone.

The blocks were hewed from the petrified depths of a nearby cedar swamp. Mumford is situated in the heart of the great area of rock, once the bed of an ocean, known to geologists as the Niagara limestone. It crops out either in the form of the soft, calcareous stone, or the hard and more serviceable blue limestone. The clear, cold water which gushes from innumerable springs or flows in frequent brooks throughout the Mumford country is alkaline from the lime held in solution.

## GERMANY'S GREAT MONUMENT

Colossal Memorial Nearing Completion Is Built to Commemorate the Battle of Leipzig.

Leipzig, Germany.—Perhaps the most colossal monument in all Germany is nearing completion here. Leipzig was the scene of three noteworthy battles—two in the Thirty Years' War and one in the Napoleonic wars. The monument is to commemorate the battles between the French under Napoleon and an allied army of Austrians, Russians, Prussians and Swedes. The monument will be dedicated in October, 1913, on the battle's centenary.

In the accompanying illustration the monument is shown as it will appear when completed. Some of the gigantic carvings—one of them forty feet high—are already in place. Even in-



Leipzig Monument.

complete, the monument thrills you with its colossal dimensions. It is three hundred feet in height, but it is built on such a mountainous scale that its tremendous height is minimized. It faces the city fronting a concrete lake several acres in extent. A broad boulevard will lead from it straight into Leipzig.

## THE DIMENSIONS OF HEAVEN

Preacher Figures It to Be the Equal of a 792,000 Story Building.

Louisville, Ky.—Heaven's exact dimensions were figured out in the sermon of the Rev. M. E. Dodd, pastor of a Louisville church, preached to his congregation recently. In the course of his sermon the preacher said:

"In Revelations, twenty-first chapter, sixteenth verse, nervous Christians have read where the dimensions of heaven are only 1,500 cubic miles. Immediately they jump at the conclusion that even this space will not accommodate the vast multitude of which the Bible speaks.

"However, calculation will show that this space will accommodate a building 792,000 stories high, and it is easy to demonstrate that such a building would accommodate an innumerable multitude."

## FAMOUS SUFFRAGIST

Began Life's Battle Handicapped by Fate.

Early Struggles of Dr. Anna Shaw, Head of the Suffrage Association Who Won Success Against Many Discouragements.

Boston, Mass.—One of the ablest leaders connected with the woman suffrage movement in the United States is Dr. Anna Shaw, president of the National Suffrage association. She started for Albion college, in Michigan, with just \$18 in her pocket. She had earned that \$18 by teaching school at \$1 a week, and after a year for the dog tax to be collected to get her pay.

Dr. Shaw was born in England, in those other pioneers of the suffrage movement, the Blackwells. But her parents took her into Michigan years ago, when she was eight, having stopped four years in Massachusetts on the way. They traveled days on days in an old-fashioned private schooner to reach their destination. Then they lived in a log cabin. The cabin was papered with spare copies of Horace Greeley's paper, and Anna learned to read from the paper on the walls, beginning with the big letters in the advertisements and progressing to the editorials.

Miss Shaw spent four years in college and another four in the theological and medical schools of Boston university. Her people were deeply opposed to the whole plan and to



DR. ANNA SHAW

her they could do nothing whatever to help her. During that eight year she had only \$91 that she did not earn.

She lived in an attic without a fire—in a Boston winter. She studied in bed to keep warm, her breath making frosty clouds upon the air. She had not food enough to satisfy hunger.

One day she was sitting on the stairs. She had sat down because she felt too weak to get to the top. A woman whom she knew slightly came along and asked her why she was sitting on the stairs. When she found out she went away and borrowed \$9 from another woman and gave it to Miss Shaw with the proviso that she was never to know from whom it came. That was the only help she had through her course. She repaid the money after she was graduated and never knew who lent it.

But about this time she acquired the warm friendship of Mrs. Persis Addy, a widow. During the final year of her course Mrs. Addy took her into her home, and though the student paid the same board she had been paying she had for it the comforts of a good home and the devoted care of Mrs. Addy. Mrs. Addy had planned to go to Europe and take Miss Shaw with her as soon as the latter should have finished her course. She died just before commencement, but in her will left Miss Shaw \$1,500 for the specified purpose of taking a European trip. When she was planning this journey Mrs. Addy's father said to her:

"Now, you will spend that money and it will be gone forever. Instead of cash, let me give you two bonds worth \$1,500. Then I will keep the bonds for security and lend you \$1,500 on them. When you get to work you can repay me as convenient, and when it is all paid the bonds will be yours again."

She did this, and having acquired a certain sentiment about the matter, has done the same ever since. She has left the bonds on deposit and let the interest accumulate, and they have paid the actual traveling expenses of her three trips to Europe.

Miss Shaw took the medical course because during her theological course she did missionary work in Boston. She found, to use her own words, that she "had nothing the people wanted." They did not want either her theology or her gospel. They wanted help in their material lives. She took the medical course in order that she might give them free medical treatment.

It was as a missionary doctor and preacher in the slums of Boston that Miss Shaw became convinced that there were certain defects in an all male government which called for political power in the hands of women. She had always believed in woman suffrage. Now she decided to work for it. She began to speak for the Massachusetts Suffrage association and from that grew her national work.