

# Why Waste Time With "Taranaki" Gates?

By  
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**W**HY a district of such bounteous production as Taranaki should be nominally fathered, or should one say mothered, with one of man's most wasteful and slovenly devices—the "Taranaki" gate—is hard to understand. Surely the first wire gate was used and sworn at in an older world long before Taranaki found a home for our early pioneers.

In any case, these hardy forefathers of ours under Egmont's shadow probably had no wire which might suggest the invention of this contrivance of the devil. The worst they could do with the means at their disposal was to put slip-rails across the gateways; no very satisfactory method, in truth, but at least many degrees better than the abomination previously mentioned.

And, lest it be thought that such forceful language is unjustified, let us consider what a wire gate costs in point of time without allowing for wasted energy, torn flesh, lacerated feelings, and exploded temper.

## Wire Gates

### Waste Time

The average time occupied in opening and closing a wire gate is perhaps not less than ten seconds, and if the gate is used half a dozen times a day an expert mathematician, with his slide rule and logarithmic tables, will prove that in the course of a year about six hours of working time, or, for a dairy farmer, one full day between milkings, is spent in opening and shutting that one gate. If there are several such gates on a farm, the drag on economic operation is really serious.

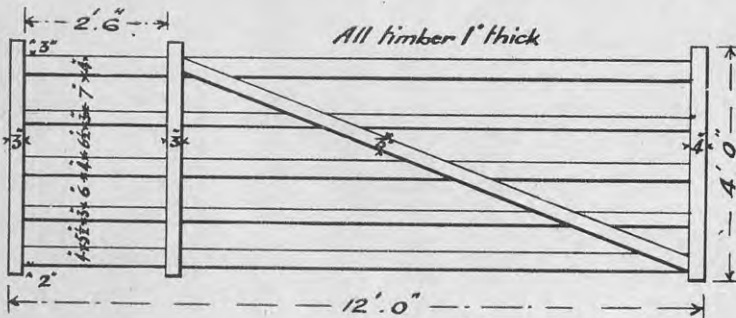
In addition to this waste of time when passing through wire gates there is also to be considered the time spent on repairs, for these gates are particularly susceptible to disintegration, and their average life is undoubtedly very short.

Why, then, are they so popular? Or perhaps it would be more accurate to ask why they are so commonly made use of, for it is hardly to be supposed that they are popular even with their creators.

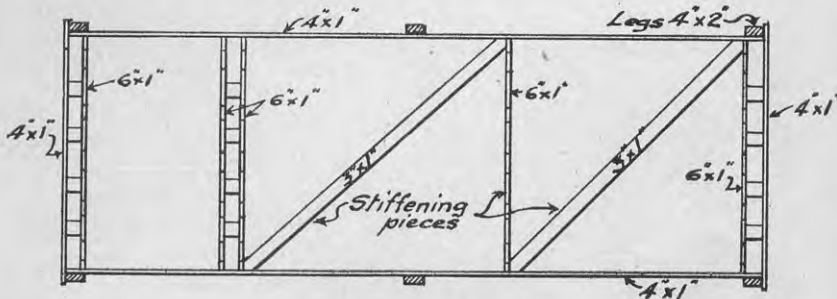
The answer, of course, is twofold, "apparent low cost and apparent rapid construction"; but these impressions are and can be shown to be entirely mistaken.

## Wire Gates Are Expensive

The first cost of these so-called gates may be small, but when a price is



Details of 12' 0" gate.



Plan of Frame.

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