

more in and so on until the hole is thoroughly packed right up to the top. Posts in slight depressions or dips should be footed in a similar manner to the strainers, and all posts in dips and soft boggy ground where footing would be ineffective should be tied down as described in the specifications and illustrated in Fig. 15.

In preparation for wiring the erected posts a gauge stick 4ft. 6in. long should be made from a light, tough piece of wood such as white pine, on which marks can be cut lightly with a saw. The first mark should be 6in. from the top end to represent the

height of the post, the second 2in. below the first, and further marks made at spacings of 9in., 8in., 7in., 6in., 5in., 4in. All wire positions can then be marked on posts by using a 4in. nail.

A coil of plain wire is put on the spindle, which should be near a strainer post so that it will serve two lengths of strain. Take the loose end of the wire over one shoulder and walk to the next strainer post, where the wire is passed through a half driven-in staple indicating the position of the particular wire. The wire should be passed round the post and, after allowing 8in. to 1ft. over, bend

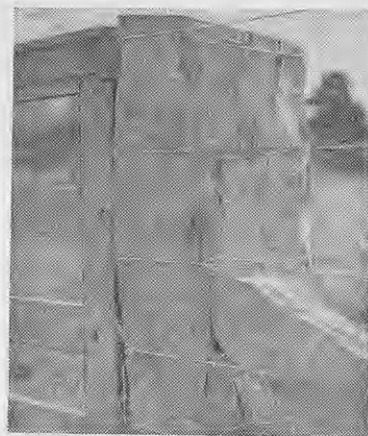


Fig. 16—Method of attaching wire to strainer.

it down over itself and staple the double strand into the post not less than 5in. from the edge. The loose end should then be bent back towards the wire face and tapped down to the wood, and the staple driven well home. The method of fastening is illustrated in Fig. 16.

Straining and Stapling Plain Wires

The placing of one wire should be completed before going on to the next. Having two wires (the guides) already strained, begin with the bottom wire and follow on until all are in position.

In long strains it is preferable to strain in the centre, bedding the wires well into the wood of each strainer post by tapping in with the hammer, beginning at the staple and finishing at the loop. In short strains the tightening is done at a strainer post. As the wire is being placed around the post after being strained sufficiently, it is hammered well into the wood, beginning at the face side of the fence and following the wire around until it is bent over itself to form the loop. Before stapling and releasing the strainer on each plain wire it is advisable to pull the wire outwards from the fence somewhere about the centre of the strain to take the curl or twist out of it; the amount of slackness that will have to be taken up on returning to the wire strainer is surprising. All wires should be stapled in all hollows and steep rises and along level areas, but if stapling is left on small rises until the fastening or joining has been completed and the wire strainer released, any slackness that may have occurred during fastening or joining can be taken up.

Wires are more pliable and will strain better after the middle of the day than they will in the morning, particularly in cold weather.



Fig. 14—How posts and battens should be placed on a steep hill face. The line of the string suspending the hammer shows the perpendicular.



Fig. 15—Method of fastening down a post in low place where the land is wet. Two strands of No. 8 wire are fastened at ground level to each side post planted on solid land, and passed over the top of the post in the hollow, and tightened by twisting with the two pieces of wood.