



A section of a Hunter-type fence. The sixth chain from the left is heavy gauge and is tied down to a block.

Hill Country Fencing

THIS article, the first of two articles discussing the results of a recent investigation of farm fencing on hill country in the southern half of the North Island, describes conventional designs of fencing and some modifications. The second article, which will appear in a subsequent issue of the "Journal", will deal with the development and possibilities of electric fences on hill country, as recently there has been a revival of interest in electric fences because of technical improvements in their construction and working and because of the high cost of orthodox fencing.

THIS investigation was undertaken because despite the fact that even now many miles per day of new subdivision fencing are being erected on hill country, the demand created by aerial topdressing is being curtailed by the mounting costs of the standard post, wire, and batten fence, the scarcity of long-lasting posts and battens, and the shortage of labour for transporting materials and erecting the fences.

Further, it is known that there are a considerable number of modifications of the standard fence, but until recently no testing had been done of the strength and lasting qualities of modified fences, and farmers were

naturally hesitant to make changes which might later prove to be unsatisfactory.

An Old Problem

The high labour requirement and cost of farm fencing have worried farmers for years. Many miles of modified fencing have been erected, but such fences have not met with widespread approval, and paddocks remain too large because of time and money limitations.

Concentration on the problem has produced from the farmer such ideas as the Hunter lightweight post, wire, and chain-batten fence, and from the

manufacturer a steady flow of machine-made products—lightweight and thin wire; metal gates, posts, and battens; and electric fence units—insulators, batteries, and recently a wind-driven battery charger.

Farmers' supply merchants, the Aviation Industry Association of New Zealand, the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council, the Department of Agriculture, and the agricultural colleges have all given attention to fencing.

The Airworthiness Division of the Civil Aviation Branch of the Air Department in 1953 issued a report comparing the total costs for wood,

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