However, the average cost in the district is about £500 per mile.

The Soil Conservator, Hastings, has supplied complete specifications and costs of the four types of fencing erected for testing on the Tangoio Soil Conservation Farm, and some details are given here. No allowance as been made for gates in the costs of the various types of fences.

Concrete fence: Concrete posts and strainers, three types of steel battens, four No. 8 wires, two No. 12½ steel wires, and a barbed wire on top. Materials, £464 per mile. Total cost erected, £753 per mile.

Hunter fence: Concrete posts and strainers, Hunter fence chain battens and foots, three No. 8 wires, two No. 12½ steel wires, two barbed wires (top and bottom). Materials, £301 per mile. Total cost erected, £488 per mile.

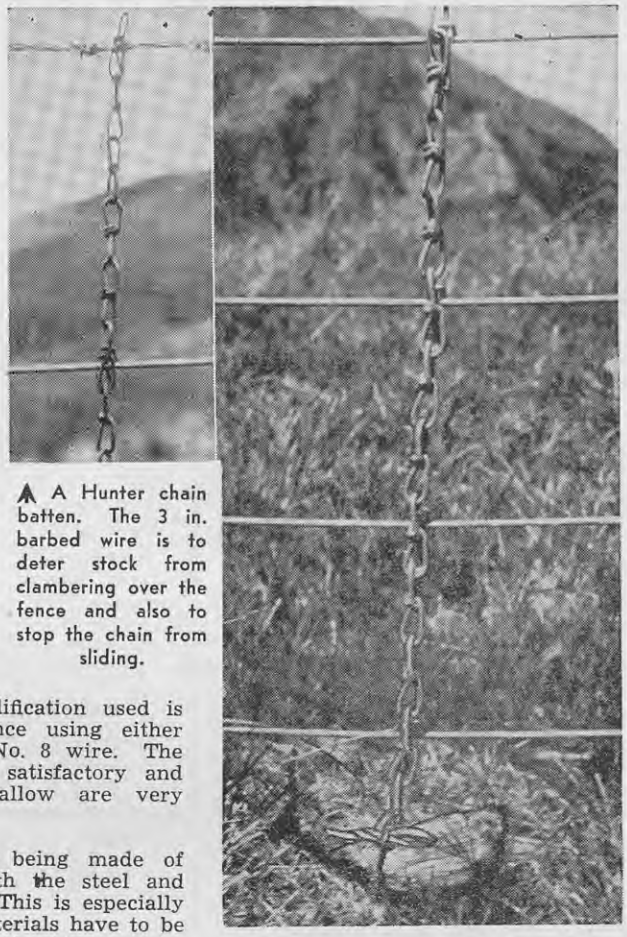
Wooden fence: Wooden posts, strainers, and battens; four No. 8 wires, two No. 12½ steel wires, and a barbed wire on top. Materials, £461 per mile. Total cost erected, £749 per mile.

Steel fence (aerial fence): Steel posts, strainers, angles, and battens; four No. 8 wires, two No. 12½ steel wires, and a barbed wire on top. Materials, £808 per mile. Total cost erected, £982 per mile.

In Central Hawke's Bay, too, concrete posts are being used in many fences. A wide variety of wooden posts is available from merchants, but first-class wooden battens are in short supply.

Southern Hawke's Bay

Methods of fence construction used in Southern Hawke's Bay form the basis of the general discussion on the subject later in this article.



▲ A Hunter chain batten. The 3 in. barbed wire is to deter stock from clambering over the fence and also to stop the chain from sliding.

This heavy-gauge chain on a Hunter fence is tied with stainless-steel wire to a block in the ground. Posts hold the fence off the rises and chains pull it down to the hollows.

Wairarapa

The costs per mile of three fences studied in the Wairarapa district were £691, £821, and £1,154, the last-named fence being particularly expensive, as £124 were spent on erecting flood gates.

Staples are used to hold the wires to an H-section steel post driven into the ground.

The principal modification used is the Hunter-type fence using either fine-gauge wire or No. 8 wire. The fences appear very satisfactory and the savings they allow are very substantial.

Increasing use is being made of metal standards, both the steel and wrought-iron type. This is especially important where materials have to be packed on to the line and on rocky country.

One farmer is experimenting with a lightweight fence, using tubular steel strainers, steel standards, No. 8 and barbed wire, and chain battens. With some modifications this could be useful on certain farms.

Generally the older established farmers continue to favour the standard post and batten fence.

Mr W. B. Hull, of "Waierua", Whareama, has for some years been using creosoted pine posts. These appear to be light and strong, and posts in the ground for 16 years have so far shown no signs of decay. Mr Hull has planted pines and other trees for many years and is an authority on forestry and timber.

The trees have been maintained as woodlots by thinning and pruning. A cold creosote treatment is used for the posts, which are round limbs with bark removed and the timber seasoned. The estimated cost, including labour for planting, maintenance of the plantation, felling, and creosote is £36 per 100 posts. Cold creosote treatment costs 2s. 3d. per post, about ¾ gallon of creosote being used per post.

Battens are made from split and seasoned pine, and the average quantity of creosote used per batten is ⅔ pint.

Farmers who have suitable trees could produce relatively low-cost fencing materials in this way. The trees need to be fairly young for posts, as the sapwood absorbs creosote, but heartwood does not.

Wanganui

Detailed specifications and costs of fencing were obtained from a number of farmers in the Wanganui area. The total cost per mile paid by the farmer was, in almost every case, much the same as in any other district. However, most of these farmers had either supplied their own labour or were using posts and battens split on the