

received, \$98. Paid in premiums, \$78.86; expenses, \$19.14.

### *Extracts from Report.*

As regards the Agriculture of the township, that improvement which is desirable has never been earnestly sought after, much less arrived at, nevertheless a great advance from the former state of things has been effected. Much flat land, formerly covered, Spring and Fall, with surface water, is now producing remunerative crops, having been grubbed and laid dry by surface drainage. Thorough or underdraining has not been introduced. More attention is paid to hoed crops than formerly, and, as a natural consequence, farms are becoming annually less infested with noxious weeds, and are more productive generally. More stock is kept, and of better quality. There is in this township a great variety of soils, ranging from a very hard red clay to a light blowing sand; there is, however, but little of the latter, and that near the shore of Lake Erie.

The level or flat lands of the township, which in fact comprise the largest part, are generally composed of a red clay, covered with a black vegetable mould, varying from a few inches to several feet in depth, and this description of soil in Humberstone makes excellent farming land if properly cultivated. In general, after a few years cultivation of the soil in question, the plough will bring up a portion of the subsoil, which readily pulverizes, and is well adapted to the growth of all kinds of grain, as well as roots and grasses.

We have also a considerable portion of sandy loam and gravel, which generally rests on limestone rock, the surface of which is in many places intermixed with small flat stone belonging to the same strata. The latter description of soil was cleared up and put under cultivation by the early settlers, and is now many considered the best land in the township at the present time. The arguments in its favour are, that it is surest to produce an average crop, that the straw is shortest and grain heaviest. This soil is *naturally* underlain, the rock on which it rests being generally porous. Of all the lands under cultivation in this township, there are but a few acres injured to any great extent by subterraneous moisture.

There is in this township, and still in a state of nature, a considerable portion of marsh land, consisting of three distinct parcels;

namely, on the west side, about 3000 acres, known as part of the Great Cranberry Marsh; in the north-easterly part of the township, a tract of about 700 acres, called marsh, but which might more properly be denominated prairie land; and in the easterly part, about 3000 acres.

From the facts stated, it may be readily inferred, that the value of land in this township, per acre, must vary materially. We estimate farming lands in this township to range from \$20 to \$50, per acre, according to soil, improvement, &c.; and as an instance, we quote 50 acres that were sold this winter, 38 under cultivation, and 12 in a state of nature—neither orchards nor buildings of any description on the lot, for which \$1000 in cash was paid. The land in question lies about two miles from Port Colborne, and the soil is about an average of the farming lands in the township.

The wages of labor, as paid by farmers, varies very much, as there are many immigrants among us, the most of whom are not as profitable farm laborers as those that are naturalized. We may quote wages at from \$75 to \$120 per year. And here we beg to suggest, that it is the prevalent opinion of our Committee, that if the Board of Agriculture would, through their journal, urge upon farmers the propriety of giving a worthy servant, when taking his leave, a letter of recommendation to their brother farmers, striving to give the bearer's true character as a farm labourer, great good to the worthy labourers and farmers would be the result. Carpenters generally get \$1 per day, and board, other mechanics about the same. The above mentioned low wages have only prevailed since the existence of the present depressed state of financial affairs.

As regards crops in this township, *Wheat* has been materially injured for the last three years by the midge. It is the opinion of your Committee, that the harvest of 1858 did not yield more than *two bushels* to the acre; but the harvest of 1859, was somewhat better—average yield about *eight bushels*.

The common grasses cultivated are the red and white clovers and timothy. Of the red clover there are two kinds, a small and early variety, which produces two crops in a season—the second crop being generally cut for seed, or used for pasture; however, a second crop of hay is sometimes cut, yielding two tons to the acre, if the season is favour-