

All statistical information should be condensed as much as possible, and when practicable, put into a tabulated form. The main object of each report should be to afford any intelligent stranger that might read it, a concise, yet an adequately truthful view of the Agricultural condition and industrial pursuits of the county. While all unnecessary particulars are to be avoided in the preparation of these reports, completeness should, as much as possible, be constantly kept in view. Such reports as contain the greatest amount of useful matter, will be preferred; and it is recommended that they be made sufficiently comprehensive, so as to occupy 20 or 30 printed octavo pages. The Board will not award the premium for any reprint, although it may happen to be the best sent in, unless it possess sufficient merit.

The Reports must be sent in to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, accompanied by a sealed note containing the name and address of the writer on or before the 1st of June, 1854; Such reports as obtain premiums will become the property of the Board.

#### TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FARMERS' CLUB.

##### CONSTRUCTION OF FENCES.

(Reported for the *Cobourg Star*.)

At the monthly meeting of the Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club, held at Dickson's Inn-Court House, on Saturday, October 29th, 1853 P. R. Wright, Esq., President, in the chair.

Present—Messrs. Bourn, Newton, Masson, Bennett, Black, &c., &c., &c.

The minutes of last meeting were read. Mr. Wade introduced the subject for discussion, viz., the construction of fences, as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—

FENCING, although it may not occupy so prominent a position in the economy of farm management as many other operations, yet still must be considered of no secondary importance; for, without proper protection in this way, all other labors of the farm, no matter how skilfully or scientifically performed, are placed in constant jeopardy. And in no country in the Agricultural world are good fences required more than with us, from the great amount of our lands being still woods, or partially cleared and still in common, and also the great amount of road allowances set apart in our Township surveys, and which are in themselves a public convenience, yet, combined with all the other unfenced lands I have mentioned before, encourage our inhabitants generally to turn out a great proportion of their animals of all descriptions outside of their enclosures; consequently our fences must be of such a character as to stop a hunter from jumping, a bull or an ox

from throwing down, or a pig from squeezing through; and our common rail fences seem made on purpose to encourage these depredations. As our horses are taught from infancy to leap after their mothers two or three rails high, and often five or six, and if they try higher, and should still hang on the fence, they find it will yield to their weight; our bulls and oxen soon find their horns effective enough to throw the fence so low as to make it quite easy to get over; and the porkers, if of the weasel-shaped variety we commonly see grubbing on our road sides, find very little difficulty in squeezing themselves through between; or if they cannot manage that, they have ingenuity enough to burst out a broken or rotten rail, in order to make their way into our fields quite easy; and for some generations to come, maugre all our Township By-laws for the punishment of trespassers, good substantial fences must be our only safeguard.

The common zig-zag rail fence has been and will still continue to be, in spite of its unsightly appearance, while rail timber is to be got, our mainstay; and nothing but its expensiveness, when the rail timber or such timber as can be split is entirely exhausted on our own farms, and cannot be purchased under a certain price, within a given distance, will cause it to be superseded by something else: and on the front farms of our Township that time has already arrived. Split rails of cedar or pine or oak cannot be purchased for less than twenty-five dollars per thousand in the woods, and then probably to be drawn seven or eight miles, and when this is the case a rail fence costs as much or more than when made of boards or sawed materials.

Board or any description of straight fences, made by placing posts in the ground, are, in our frozen climate, subject to be hoven or raised out of the ground, and this has been hitherto a very serious obstacle to their more general introduction; however, this may be in a great measure obviated by raising a bank of earth at the bottom of the fence, say eighteen inches or two feet high, and which not only prevents the heaving, but also saves the lower board or rail, as well as making a gutter or water-course to lead off the surplus water that may collect on the field. I have myself tried this plan for several years with the greatest success, and many of my neighbors are following the example. The principle, in a philosophic point of view, is a true one, as the lifting of a post is simply done by the expansion of the ground by the post, and that in degree as it is wet or dry. If, for instance, the ground was entirely dry, no expansion could take place; but if wet at all, the expansion is in proportion to the amount of water the ground contains; consequently, by raising a dry bank at the foot of the post, even in rather low ground, when a post would in four or five years, in the ordinary way, be entirely thrown out, with this embankment it stands very well. This system of embankment is however attended with disadvantage on the road sides, from its liability to be rooted down by the hogs, which are always running on the roads; and while speaking on the subject, I must record my disapprobation of the common practice of