

maintenance of such a fence would therefore be :

Interest on (say) \$1,300 at 6 per cent.....	\$78 00
Estimated average annual charge for repairs and for permanent maintenance at 6 per cent.....	78 00
Extra do., do., for gates at 10 per cent.....	9 60
Rent of land lost by fence 6 feet wide = 4.36 acres at \$5 per acre .	21 80

Total \$187 40

The foregoing estimate has been made with the assistance of a thoroughly practical farmer in the Township of East Whitby; and we are of the opinion, that although the cost of such a fence must necessarily vary much in different localities, the cost of material and labor here submitted may be regarded as a fair average for the whole Province.

5. Your Committee are of the opinion that the kind of fence as usually constructed in the back country, involves a much greater annual expenditure than the one here described. A common snake fence of the same length will require about 26,000 rails, and are usually made of Basswood, Pine, Elm, Ash, &c. Supposing these to be hauled a distance of one mile, they will cost about \$30 per 1,000, or \$780 00
 Labor in setting up at \$4 per 100 rods..... 48 00
 Preparing and setting 16 sets of Bars at \$2 per set..... 32 00

Total \$860 00

Such a fence is estimated to last about 10 years. The bars about half that time. The annual charge for such a fence would therefore be :

Interest on \$860 at 6 per cent....	\$51 60
Estimated average annual charge for repairs and for permanent maintenance at 15 per cent., or..	129 00
Extra do., do., for Bars at 20 per cent.....	6 49
Rent of land lost by fence 12 feet wide = 8.72 acres at \$5 per acre .	43 60

Total \$230 60

Showing an annual expenditure on a farm thus fenced of \$43 20 for permanent maintenance greater than on the fence as first described.

6. The estimate, therefore, in the second paragraph of the previous Report of two dollars per acre per annum seems a moderate one, and your Committee are of the opinion that if farmers were not compelled to fence against their neighbours' cattle, they could protect their crops and their own cattle by live fences, the trees forming wind-breaks, by the use of hurdles and otherwise, (which would add much to the general beauty of the country, and thereby greatly enhance the value of the land), at less than one quarter of the yearly expenditure above shown, or—in other words—that the farmer of every 100 acres of land in Ontario could realize a clear yearly profit over and above what he is now doing (if every owner of stock were compelled by law to keep them enclosed) of \$150.

7. That the foregoing figures, showing the unnecessary but compulsory annual expenditure of \$1 50 per acre for all cultivated land by the unwise laws at present in force in this Province, have been carefully prepared, and therefore, by applying them to communities of farms, we find that the annual loss from this cause to the large Township of London, in the County of Middlesex, having a cultivated area of nearly 70,000 acres, is over \$100,000. The Township of Mariposa, in the County of Victoria, having cleared land to the extent of nearly 48,000 acres, loses \$72,000 annually. The Model Farm at Guelph loses by the same means annually about \$800. These figures, when applied to the whole Province assume gigantic proportions, for we find from Official Reports that there are at the present time between eleven and twelve millions of acres under