

Suppose the rails to cost, when delivered on the ground, \$30 per thousand, we have for rails, stakes, &c. ....	\$900
Labour of putting up .....	136
Total .....	\$1,036

In this calculation nothing is allowed for clearing stumps, logs or stones from the line of fence; nor for gates, bars, &c. According to the last census there were in Upper Canada, 3,697,724 acres under cultivation. Leaving woodland out of the question, and assuming that it would cost \$800 only, to fence each 100 acres, as above, we have nearly \$30,000,000 as the cost of fences alone, in Upper Canada! It may be said that Canadian fences are not all equal to my standard, and that timber being on the spot, and of little value at the time, the rails did not cost \$30 per 1000. But many thousand rods of fence have cost much more than I assume, and if you consider the number of times these fences have been renewed since their first erection, you will find that I am under rather than over the mark, as to the amount *now* invested in the fences of Upper Canada. In 25 years, or less, they will have been replaced at a cost that will approach \$50,000,000! And thus, sir, will the process go on; every quarter of a century this enormous sum must be re-invested where it yields no interest, but is soon lost forever. If then we can introduce more durable structures; if we can reduce the number of fences on a farm, or substitute living fences for dead ones, even though they may cost a little more at the outset, what an immense benefit will be conferred upon the agriculture of Canada!

3. *Dead fences*—are universally resorted to in this country for the purpose of protection. The few instances in which live fences have been brought to a condition that they could be trusted to keep off intruders, are, except as an experiment, hardly worth notice. In a country just reclaimed from the forest, and where timber is the cheapest material, we must expect to see the fences constructed of timber. In many parts of Canada the common rail, of pine, oak, basswood or cedar, is the cheapest and best material within the farmer's reach, and the only question is, as to the best mode of placing it in the fence. On the subject of cutting and splitting rails; the season of the year; the age of the moon, &c., &c., there is extant a good deal of what would be called "learning," if it related to similar notions two thousand years old. I have known Dutch farmers, for instance, stipulate when giving leases, that basswood rails should be split in June, and the bark immediately peeled off. Experience, no doubt, has shown this to be a wise practice. Summer is also preferred for cutting other kinds of timber. It is believed to be more lasting than when cut during winter. The "snake-fence" is not a very attractive object to the eye, but when well made is, in my opinion, *the* fence "best adapted to the wants" of the man who is clearing up a new farm. Another form of rail fence is sometimes used, and though less capable of resisting lateral pressure than the worm fence, is in some situations preferable to it. The rails are laid between two posts, which should be of oak or cedar, driven into the ground, and held together at the top by a piece of plank, with two large holes through which the ends of the posts are thrust. The top rails should rest on the block. The advantages of this plan are obvious. The fence is straight, and therefore requires less timber, and occupies less ground. There is no harbor for weeds, and it is more agreeable to the eye than the crooked fence. The objections are equally obvious. Being kept upright by the stakes alone, and offering a large surface to the wind, it is very liable to be blown down. The stakes will spread when the ground is saturated with water, and let down the rails. An improvement, I think, might easily be made upon this fence, and though I have never seen it adopted, I intend to try a few rods in an exposed situation next season. I propose to make the block, which is usually laid under the end of each bottom rail, perform a double office, viz: keep the rail from the ground, and the stakes from spreading. This could be accomplished by boring two large holes through the block to receive the ends of the stakes, allowing them to pass into the ground. A third object would be attained by this arrangement. You would give your fence a lateral basis equal to the length of the block. Its power of resisting lateral pressure, whether of wind or animals, would be at least doubled, probably trebled. A cheap machine has been invented, to prepare the stakes as well as the holes, which I understand can be adjusted to any power, and operates with great expedition. I would bore two holes in the ground block for each post, mortising out the obstructing wood between, so as to leave the post as large as possible in and near the ground. By using durable wood, and a larger and longer block than is commonly employed for the purpose, I think a very neat, substantial, straight rail fence can