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*Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.*

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Whereas, The fencing of public highways in this Province entails heavy expense and labour on farmers, and causes snow to drift in at the roads in winter.

And whereas, It is considered that fencing public highways is unnecessary, provided the law be so amended as to prevent cattle from roaming on those highways in the summer season.

Therefore resolved, That at the next meeting of this Legislature a bill be brought in for the purpose of so changing the law as to dispense with the fencing of highways to protect crops growing on cultivated lands, and also, to prevent cattle and all kinds of farm stock ranging at large on the public highway.

It is further resolved, That during the recess the Representatives in this House ascertain the desire of their respective counties, through the county municipalities and otherwise, in reference to the subject of this resolution.

In the House of Assembly on the 11th inst. Mr. McGillivray moved the above resolutions in reference to Fencing. He pointed out that the country was being cleared and roads were multiplying, and that the expense of keeping up fences was increasing as the forest decreased. There was no necessity for highways being fenced. Where the land was cultivated there could be no hardship in having the cattle prevented from being pastured on the adjoining public roads. On the contrary, farmers would be induced to keep their animals enclosed, and would reap the benefit of this practice. Considering that farming was one of the most important industries, if not the most important, in the country, he thought it was the duty of the House to do everything in its power to advance it, and to welcome any suggestion that would lead to the adoption of the improved methods.

He spoke of their being such laws in the States of the Union, and read the following from an Ontario paper:—

"We have a just and good law in this State, prohibiting any person setting any kind of fence or run at large on the highways. It is a just law, for with it, one does not get to be troubled and expense of fencing the road, only for other people, and need not to do so unless he so chooses for his own convenience and to have it a good law for the general satisfaction to all concerned. If you have not such a law in your Province, I should strongly recommend one similar to ours as of great advantage to farmers and the public generally."

After some remarks by Mr. Harrington, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Kinney, Mr. Blair, (Colchester), rose for the purpose of seconding the resolution. He considered the question to be one of greater importance than some hon. members seemed disposed to think, and believed it to be one that required the serious consideration of the people of this country. It was a very serious matter to the farmers of this country if a man who had put up a hundred yards of fence to protect his own cattle, was to be obliged to put up two or three hundred yards to keep his neighbour's cattle from trespassing upon his crop and destroying the produce. The material with which fences were made in this country was not of a very lasting character. Unfortunately they were not situated as some other provinces were, and a fence once built was built for all time. Here the fence material was very poor, so much so that in his county it had to be renewed every seven or eight years, and if a man owned a farm of a hundred acres would

make a careful calculation, he would find that the amount spent in fencing in the course of forty years would equal the whole value of the real estate. The question had been agitated for some time in this country he had the honor to represent. Five years ago it had been discussed in his own neighbourhood and he was glad that the hon. member for Antigonish had brought this resolution forward in the shape in which it had been presented, so that the people would have an opportunity of discussing it and understanding it thoroughly before it was adopted as a law, and that was his reason for seconding the resolution. In some portions of the country the Municipalities had attempted to pass laws to compel the farmers to throw down their fences in the fall of the year in order to prevent the roads from being blocked with snow. He thought that in this House last year the point just referred to had been discussed. Another point worthy of consideration was the effect of the present system upon the scenery of the country. What could be more unsightly than the fences that were generally seen along the roads? What made matters worse was that the weeds and stones and brush from the farms, and sometimes from the roads, were collected and thrown under the fences, and he would like to see a law passed requiring that all this trash and rubbish be removed and ornamental trees set out, which would make a material difference in the appearance of the country, and render it worth fifty per cent. more than at present in appearance.