

we have £3 2s. 6d per acre the produce of a good average corn crop in Illinois. The cost of twice ploughing, planting, horse-hoeing, &c., is at least £2 2s. 6d. per acre, and the prairie farmer has £1 per acre at this showing for himself for interest on his purchase money, fencing, buildings, &c. Mr. Caird has truly and admirably said (page 54):—"If a man buys 600 acres and has not the means of cultivating more than 60, the 540 acres are a dead loss to him. He has to pay either the price or the interest of the price of this large, unproductive extent of land. The produce of the sixty acres is called upon to bear not only 'its own burden, but that of the nine-tenths which are idle. The lean knave thus eat up the one fat one.'" Probably four-fifths of the settlers buy what is called one quarter section, (being 160 acres,) and are not able for two or three years to cultivate more than the fourth of it; thus, the forty or eighty acres under cultivation, or whatever it may be, have to pay the whole interest on the purchase money of the 160 acres, and buildings erected. The rent or interest of course will vary, but taking the price at £3 sterling, and the fencing at 16s. per acre, and the buildings, &c., at £100, the rent of forty acres cropped, with house built, would be about £42 10s.,—thus:

First cost of land, at £3 per acre.....	£480	0	0
Cost of fencing 160 acres, at 16s. per acre, being 640 rods, at			
4s. sterling.....	128	0	0
Buildings, Well, &c., &c.....	100	0	0
	£708	0	0

This £708 at six per cent. would be about £42 10s., or 21s. 3d. sterling per acre, leaving the farmer minus 1s. 3d. sterling per acre, on the actual cost, giving him barely labourer's wages, and no interest for his working-cattle, implements, &c., &c. The fencing of 160 acres requires 640 rods of fence, which at a very low calculation, is worth \$1 per rod, or 4s. sterling. Mr. Caird makes the expense of fencing £60 per mile (see page 55;) but considering that price too high, I have taken £40 per mile. If a whole section is purchased (a mile square,) the outside fence on all sides would be four miles, and the acreable cost of enclosing would be much less than where only a quarter section is purchased; but every prairie farmer as well as every other farmer requires subdivisions of his farm, and 16s. sterling per acre is a very low estimate of the cost of fencing on any farm. So that Mr. Caird's representation at pages 89 and 90, where he says, "The third year begins by the prairie farmer finding himself the unencumbered owner of his land, all fenced and improved, with a stock of horses and implements, and the whole of his original capital in his pocket," is a monstrous delusion, calculated to do immense injury to his readers, who may be thereby tempted to settle on the aguish, treeless, shelterless, and arid prairies of Illinois. The idea, too, expressed at page 90; that "he may continue to crop his farm with Indian corn, from which he will reap very large returns on his capital," is, to say the