With wooden trusses, fastened with iron for timber, labor, paint and profit, $550
2,000 lbs. of iron fastenings, ............... 150.

Whole first cost, ................................... $700.
(Some have cost $1,000, or $12,000, and taken 3 to 4 thousand pounds of iron). .......
To renew $550 worth of perishable material once in 9 years, will require, at 5 per cent, compound interest, ............... $1,000.

Total for perpetual maintenance, ...... $1,700.

The reason of the apparent difference between this result, and that arrived at from the general comparison of the cost, &c., of wood and iron, is, that the bridges here referred to, have been constructed with a very large amount of iron fastenings, and with large quantities of casing and painting for protection and appearance. Were the comparison confined strictly to the expense of timber work, in the sustaining parts of the trusses, the result would be found not to differ so essentially from that of the general comparison.

The above estimate of $700, for the first cost of a 72 foot wooden bridge, though considerably below the average cost of canal bridges of that description, is nevertheless believed to be greatly above the minimum for which bridges may be built, dispensing with the parts which are not essential to strength.

It is probable that bridges may be built for $500, as nearly the same durability, as those hitherto built on the Erie Canal Enlargement at a cost of from $350 to 1,000 dollars. Upon this supposition, which may be regarded as an extreme case in favor of wood, the comparison will stand thus: