

2. M'Cormick's machine, made by Bury, and also self-delivering by a revolving web (the machine that was used by Lord Kinnauld last year), belonging to Mr. Suttie.

3. A Dray's Hussey, belonging to Mr. Murray, Wardheads, and the delivering of the grain being by a person with a rake.

4. A Bell's machine, belonging to Mr. George Bell, Inchmichael.

5. Burgess and Key's improved M'Cormick, with the self-delivering screw apparatus adjusted to it by them.

6. A Crosskill's Bell, belonging to Mr. Brough, Mains of Inchtute. This machine was withdrawn shortly after the commencement.

The trial commenced about twelve o'clock noon, the field of wheat having been previously divided into portions of two imperial acres for each machine.

The first machine, which attracted much attention on account of its novelty, was the property of Lord Kinnauld, and was at work for the first time, having only been completed a few hours before the commencement of the competition. The leading peculiarities in this machine are—that it has a lever-power attached to it by which the cutters can easily be shifted so as to cut the grain high or low, and that it delivers the grain on an entirely new principle. Instead of delivering the grain by a sheet of canvas this is effected by means of three revolving canvas belts or bands, on which are placed small wooden bars at short intervals. This machine cut the wheat most satisfactorily, and left the grain at the side in a very regular way, so as to make the work of binding a comparatively easy matter.

The second machine, which is the property of Mr. Suttie, and which was exhibited last year by Lord Kinnauld, delivers by a revolving web of cloth, like Bell's, and is worked with great ease, the work being also well done.

The third (or Dray's Hussey's) machine, which belonged to Mr. Murray, Wardheads, and with which he has cut down all his crop this year, was also admired for the excellent work it made. It is smaller than any of the other machines, and therefore cuts down a less breadth of grain in a given time, and it has also this additional disadvantage, that it requires two men to work it—one to drive, and another to stand behind and deliver the grain with a rake. This, however, is partly compensated by the fact that the deliverer leaves the grain in neat sheaves all ready for binding, so that the time spent in gathering the grain into sheaves after the other machines is saved by the Hussey machine. It is also comparatively light, costs only £25., makes excellent work on all kinds of grain, and is altogether a very good machine for a small farm, as it cuts down from seven to eight acres a-day, and with nine persons in attendance to bind and stock the grain, besides the two who work the machine, the work is completely finished at once.

The fourth, or Bell's machine, the property of Mr. Bell, Inchmichael, was the largest and heaviest machine, and could evidently go through much more work than the others in a given time, though with harder work to the horses. It has this great advantage, that as it is driven from behind, it can enter the field at any part at once, while all the others require first a portion to be cut down by the scythe, as they are either driven by the side or front of the machines. Another advantage possessed by Bell's machine is, that as the grain can be delivered at either side of the machine, it can cut up or down the field with equal facility. The great drawback of the machine at work on Tuesday was its extreme weight, upwards of 17 cwt., while Lord Kinnauld's and the other machines were scarcely half that weight. We believe, however, that this description of reaper is now made of lighter construction, and in that case it is likely to keep its ground as an excellent machine, for general use, for although it is much higher in price than Dray's Hussey, or even than Lord Kinnauld's improved machine, it does its work much more quickly, and on the whole nearly as satisfactorily as these machines; for although Dray's Hussey leaves the grain in sheaf, it requires an additional man to do so.

The fifth machine, which was a M'Cormick, improved by Burgess and Key, and is the property of Mr. Suttie, divided the attention of the spectators with Lord Kinnauld's partly on account of its novelty, and partly on account of the neat method in which it delivered the grain by means of revolving screws. This machine gained the prize at Salisbury last year, and it has certainly many claims on the attention of the farmer, as it appears to cut the crop as well as Bell's machine, while it lays the grain out in a finer swathe.