

Not only were the exhibitors obliged to go through the fiery ordeal of these tests, but the grain cut, and the uneven surface of the fields, all conspired to render the trial a most searching one. It was remarked to me by one competitor who had been to scores of trials in this country, and had even worked an American machine at the imperial trial in France, that this was the most rigid test he had ever been put to, and moreover, he had never competed with so many machines at once. The report of the Judges will be presented at the United States Fair at Louisville, Sept. 1, and from their intelligence and the close examination made by them at Syracuse, it will undoubtedly prove a most valuable acquisition to our manufacturing public. One thing is certain: the influence of this trial will be felt at all subsequent ones, and you may rely upon it, any uninformed carpenter to the contrary notwithstanding that the trial has been, in the accomplishment of the object sought, a most decided success.

It will have the effect of showing the farmers of the United States, that although they may nourish predilections for certain machines because they do good work in cutting, yet the only test of their excellence is to be found in putting them under a rigid examination, based upon scientific principles, and every sensible editor and farmer in the country can do nothing else than feel respect for the initiative taken by Judge Gould and his associates.

One test applied to the machines was to make the team walk as slowly as they could so that they put one foot ahead of the others, and causing the cutter bar to go click, click, tick, click, like the pendulum of a clock. The Jury would take particular notice how the grass was cut at this slow motion. The team would be gradually stopped, and then started again without backing the machine. Some of the competing mowers utterly failed in this test, thus proving that a high rate of speed was required for them to perform their work, and the team would consequently be the sooner tired out.

Of the new machines on the list there is one, a self-raker of very excellent principle and simple construction, invented by the veteran Pells Manny, of Freeport, Ill. He is the father of J. H. Manny, and original inventor of the widely-known "Manny's machine." The old gentleman has succeeded, he thinks, in obtaining a reaper and mower much superior to his son's, and, old as he is, fearlessly enters the lists. The patriarch of all reapers, Obed Hussey of Baltimore, was here with a novel reaper, which cuts a swath ten feet wide. There is no raker needed with this machine, for the grain as it is cut falls upon a tilting platform.

When enough for a gavel accumulates upon the platform, a hand riding behind the driver pulls a long iron bent lever, and the platform is caused to tilt up and drop its load behind it, while the machine goes on its way. I am surprised that so experienced a man as Obed Hussey should come to exhibit a machine so manifestly imperfect as this mammoth reaper, and cannot wonder at his quitting the field after going once around his lot. Besides these, there was the "Illinois Harvester," invented by Jonathan Haines, of Pekin, Ill. This harvester cuts off only about 18 to 24 inches of stalk with the grain head, and by means of a laterally travelling endless apron and elevator, the grain is loaded immediately into a waggon driven alongside. With five hands and three teams, beside the two employed to push forward the machine, thirty acres of wheat can be well cut and stacked per day. The President and some of the Judges and reporters went down yesterday to see it put to work, and the opinion was unanimous that it was entitled to much praise for its excellent performance. It is not fit to cut oats or barley or grass, but simply wheat, and therefore will be principally valuable to large wheat-growers at the West.

We in New York have no conception of the extent to which these wonderful reapers and mowers are made and sold. Why, Sir! what must be your surprise when I tell you that one single shop in Illinois has turned out this year, so far, *four thousand six hundred and fifty one* combined reapers and mowers, which, at \$145 each, the retail price for the average of the sales amounts to \$674,395, *nearly three quarters of a million of dollars.* And a rival shop in the same State has made 4300 this year at the same price. Old Pells Manny told me that there would be 20,000 machines made in Illinois this year! The widow of the patentee of a certain popular machine has an income from the sales of \$150,000 per annum. Is it any wonder then that manufacturers should gladly seize upon such occasions as this National Trial to enter for competition and bring their machines before the farming public? The fact is, the rush of emigration westward, and the