

The Guelph Fall fair was held on Monday last, and was beyond comparison the largest and best ever witnessed in the locality. Cattle changed hands at prices 20 to 25 per cent in advance of recent rates. Yokes of Oxen of fair quality fetched \$60 to \$65; three year old Steers \$45; and two years old \$35; cattle for the butcher were greatly in demand.

HIGHLAND SOCIETY'S SHOW AT PERTH. TRIAL OF REAPING MACHINES.

The trial of the competing reaping machines took place on Friday at Muirton farm, within a mile of Perth. Shortly before the time appointed two o'clock, the crowd collected on the ground could not amount to less than from ten to twelve thousand people—from the carriage-in-four, with outriders, to the most humble labourer—a large proportion consisting of females: all parties appearing to take the greatest interest in the exhibition. The judges appointed by the Highland Society were the whole judges connected with implement department. A few minutes before two, the first reaper, Mr. Bell, started in fine style on a field of potato oats; the crop rather light upon a clay soil, the surface of which had been rendered smooth by the roller in spring, but owing to the deep furrows with high-formed ridges, being rather a severe trial. The horses and driver being apparently familiar with the work got on in an admirable manner. Nothing could be cut more evenly and regularly, the height of the stubble not exceeding three inches. After the judges were satisfied with the machine in the oatfield, the next competing implement, Hussey's made by Crosskill, Beverly was tried. This machine, in crossing the ridges, could not surmount the deep furrows. It, however, cut the oats up and down the ridges in a very efficient manner, leaving the stubble perhaps one or two inches higher than that left by Mr. Bell, but it did not cut clean where there was much bottom grass. The machines were next removed to a barley field—a very full crop, partially laid and twisted. This was cut by Mr. Bell's machine in an equally efficient style with the oats, cutting the corn, when closely lying towards the machine, as neatly as when it was standing. Mr. Hussey's machine did not cut the lying barley satisfactorily. The next was a wheat field, which was a very luxuriant crop—the variety Fenton—and which, to appearance, will yield about six quarters per imperial acre, the crop being after beans. The variety of wheat made the cutting of the straw a severe test of the powers of the implement; while the furrows being also at an angle to the line of cutting, added to the difficulty. Mr. Bell's machine cut the wheat successfully, leaving a stubble from two to three inches high. Mr. Hussey's machine was rather overtaxed by the luxuriance of the crop. On Thursday, Hussey's machine made by Crosskill for Lord Kiinnaird, was tried near Errol, on a field of barley, and cut the crop in a very workmanlike manner. The crop and ground were

extremely favourable for the working of the machine; the crop standing rather light, and similar to the crops in America. This may explain the acknowledged success of these machines in America, and also wherever the crops are comparatively light. It may be necessary to explain to our readers that these machines were drawn by two horses, which went at a quick step, and as the grain was cut, a dozen of labourers followed binding and stooking up the grain. The judges in their report, unanimously found that Mr. Bell was entitled to the full premium for the following reasons—that his machine cut the corn in the best manner with the least waste, quickest as to time left the corn in the best order for gathering and binding, and was in every point superior to Hussey's reaping machine. After the machines were removed from the ground, not being permitted to approach them, we carefully inspected the work done, and we can state with regard to the oat field, taking into account that the variety was potatoes, that there was less shake and loss otherwise than ever we remember to have observed in the most careful hand-cutting. Where the barley was lying from the machine the stubble was clipt less close. In the wheat, though the cutting was very perfect, there was a loss, but perhaps less than in the average cutting of wheat in East Lothian with Irish reapers as the work is usually performed. A deputation from the Royal Agricultural Society having attended this meeting, were so satisfied with the performance of Mr. Bell's machine (Hussey's only being entered for their coming exhibition at Galway) that they offered to Mr. Bell to pay the whole expenses connected with a trial of his machine in the neighbourhood of their exhibition; they being satisfied that justice would not be done to the agriculturists in Ireland if they had not an opportunity of seeing the work of Mr. Bell's machine, compared with that of Mr. Hussey. As Mr. Bell's crop will be ready for cutting before the meeting of the Irish show, we trust that the machine will, in justice to his brother the inventor, the Rev. Patrick Bell, Carnyllie, as well as to our sister island, be sent. Here is an invention made twenty-six years ago, during a portion of which period, the exhibitor, Mr. Bell Inchmichael, has cut nearly the whole of his crop every season with it. Shortly after the invention, at least four of the machines were sent from Dundee to America. At the great national exhibition, American reapers were exhibited, of which Mr. Hussey's was one which afterwards beat Mr. McCormick's particularly this season at Lewes, at the English Agricultural Society's meeting. It is perhaps, however right to state that Messrs. Garrett had improved Hussey's reaper, by making the knives on the same principle as the original invention, Mr. Bell's being only bevelled on the one side. Here is an important fact which the farmers of Scotland have overlooked, that a farmer occupying land in the Carse of Gowrie, has been cutting his crops successfully with this machine which after going to America, and being adapted to the lighter crops there, comes to England with a flourish of trumpets, as something new and wonderful to help the farmers to meet the com-