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Testing Agricultural Implements.

A very suggestive paper was read at a recent meeting of the Central Farmers' Club, (London, England,) by Mr. Fisher Hobbs, on "The public and private Trials of Agricultural Implements; can they be made more efficient?"—Several of the leading Implement makers, as well as farmers, were present. The opinion seemed to be generally agreed to that notwithstanding the greater pains and more systematic accuracy that of late have been shown in testing implements, much yet remains to be accomplished, that may be regarded as practicable. Roughly competent judges, composed of Implement makers and practical farmers; more and fewer implements of different classes were tried, appeared to the meeting to be the chief desiderata. Each implement or machine should be tried in its proper season; that is, Reapers and Mowers when the grain and grass are sufficiently matured; ploughs, drills, scarifiers, &c., when the soil is in a suitable state for their practice; working in the ordinary routine of farm operations. Definite rules should be laid down for performing the work, and the motive power fully measured by the most accurate instruments procurable. In several minor matters relative to the carrying out of these objects considerable diversity of opinion prevailed. In Canada and we find, as in Canada, it is difficult to find competent people willing to incur the time and expense necessary in conducting trials in one

place; especially if they recur annually. The Royal English Society divides Implements and Machines into three classes, each of which is publicly tested every three years. Several of the leading members from some misunderstanding with the Society, refused to exhibit at the last Show at Canterbury. Some of them are opposed to the practice of giving premiums, and the old West of England Society has acted on this principle for the last two or three years, without, it would appear, diminishing the number of exhibitors. We doubt, however, the application of such a principle to Canada, and in England even, generally, and for a length of time.

The *Agricultural Gazette* argues that the number of improved implements is now so large and widely diffused, that the necessity for great central trials, however efficiently conducted, is every year diminishing; and that as good, or even better comparative estimates may be formed of their capabilities and special adaptations, by observing their working in the ordinary operations of the farm; since but few parishes in the more advanced districts that do not possess a number of the different kinds of improved implements and machines. This is a subject no doubt beset with difficulties, which it will be impossible, perhaps, ever wholly to remove. But what with as carefully conducted trials as circumstances will admit, and observing the working of different implements in ordinary opera-