

marsh, where at the present time some 9,000 bunders (about 4,500 acres) are already reclaimed as grass land, mechanical mowing is a matter of the very highest moment, on account of the deficiency of hands not unfrequently felt in times of pressure.

The favourable arrangements of the direction were in chief part due to the ready concurrence of Baron Verschuer, who kindly placed his grounds at the disposal of the committee.

The influx of grass-mowing machines was numerous. Messrs. Keyser and Swertz, as the agents of Burgess and Key, had sent in three: a joint mowing and reaping machine of Burgess and Key, with two horses; one ditto for one horse; and an exclusive grass-mowing machine of the said manufacturers, the same instrument which obtained the first prize last year at Loosduinen. Cranston, of London, had sent one two-horse and one one-horse grass mowing-machine—Wood's system. G. Stout, of Tiel, the machine of Manning, which was tried at Loosduinen last year, and carried off the second prize; and one machine after Wood's system: they were not, however, made by the exhibitor. The "Domaine Privé Royal," of Berg, had also prepared a machine for competition. The model, which last year did not work well, was much improved, particularly in imitation of the one then exhibiting by Burgess and Key, and which gained the prize. Messrs. Gevers, Deynoot, and W. F. Ceshmisen had sent in their machines without competition. Announcements had been made of the arrival of machines from Mr. O. R. Van Andringa de Kempnaer, and from Messrs. J. Peignat and Co., but they did not make their appearance.

On Friday the trial took place before the committee of judgment and various members of the society appointed for that duty by the chief direction, or admitted for that purpose. On Saturday afternoon the trial was resumed before the members and the general public, on payment of an admission fee of 2 guilders. The whole of the machines did not then work, and but few of them for any length of time or regularly; so that only such persons as were present on the most of those days were enabled to form a complete and settled judgment touching the different merits of machines on trial. We would, therefore, rather wait the report of the committee of judgment than publish a probably ill-founded opinion of our own. This committee as composed, for the mowing machines, of Messieurs Hœufft van Velsen, Staring, Borgers, van Waneningen, Kakebeke, and Colz.

The decision as to the prizes was to this effect: First prize of 250 guilders to the joint grass-mowing and reaping machine of Burgess and Key, on Allen's system, for two horses, exhibited by Messrs. Keyser and Swertz.

Second prize of 200 guilders to the grass-mowing machine on Wood's system, for the two horses. As two of these machines were exhibit-

ed both of which worked equally well, this prize was divided between Messrs. G. Stout, of Tiel, and W. M. Branston, of London.

Third prize of 50 guilders to the joint grass-mowing and reaping machine of Burgess and Key, for one horse, exhibited by Messrs. Keyser and Swertz.

Messrs. Burgess and Key, therefore take precedence, precisely as they did last year.

The Royal Irish Agricultural Show at Belfast.

We had intended giving a report of the Exhibition, condensed from our excellent contemporary, the *Irish Farmer's Gazette*. That paper, however, unfortunately got mislaid, and we subjoin some account of the Belfast Show from the *London Farmer's Gazette*. The improvement which agriculture is making in Ireland is truly encouraging, and it is pleasing to see so many unmistakeable signs that that formerly oppressed and unhappy portion of the United Kingdom is rapidly taking a foremost position, both in agriculture and the industrial arts generally.

The energy and intelligence of the northern province of Ireland had been called into requisition at this year's meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland. It is needless to institute comparisons which affect provincialism, and which would only lead to no useful result. We have followed Royal shows in their itinerant progress through the various provinces of Ireland. We have watched their influence, and more especially the enthusiasm and public spirit which they have excited. We have seen more excitement among the warm Southerners, and more of the glorious rapture of the warm Celt in the West; but on no occasion have we seen that the show was made a more useful means of instruction than at this Royal meeting. We cannot speak with precision though safe in saying we have seen a larger attendance than at Belfast, but at no previous show have we witnessed the prevalence of so large a number of men earnestly bent upon gaining information. And this, after all, might have been expected by those who are conversant with the circumstances of Irish agriculture. In the North there is a race of industrious tenant farmers, whose prosperity has grown with the growth of industrial spirit and industrial enterprise in that province.

For our own part we cannot say the success of the show has at all exceeded our expectations. On the whole, perhaps, our hopes have not been realized. The meeting has, however, been successful and useful; and were the Royal Irish Agricultural Society to enter a little more into