

REAPERS AND MOWERS.

So many machines, more or less "improved," are now before the public, that it is becoming rather difficult to determine their respective merits, and purchasers are at a loss to know which will best answer their purpose. As we remarked in a former number, no one machine will be found the *best* under all circumstances; and it therefore becomes important to ascertain the distinctive traits and peculiarities of each. We observe that in the trials of Reapers to be made this year in several of the adjoining States, a scale of "points" has been decided upon, to enable judges to give a more intelligent and satisfactory decision than under the hap-hazard system. We would recommend a similar plan for trials in Canada, and it should also be adopted as far as practicable at Shows. The State Agricultural Society of Illinois propose a trial of Reapers and Mowers, to begin with the harvest in the southern part of the State, and go to various places north as the grain ripens. Three persons are to be placed at each place of trial, when decisions are to be made upon a scale of points annexed; and are to seal up their decisions, and to deliver them to the Superintendent appointed by the Society; and at the close of the season, the decisions are to be opened by the Executive Board, during the State Fair. The machines on trial are all to be present at the Fair. Six entries are required by the 15th of May, to insure the trial. Entry, \$100; premiums of Reaper, \$50, \$25; Mower, \$50, \$25; combined Reaper and Mower, \$50, \$25.

This will be a good opportunity to test machines; and should the Judges be discreet and disinterested men, we should hope for a decision that would prove valuable.

SCALE OF POINTS IN TRIALS OF REAPERS.

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| No. 1. | 9 | Cost of machine. | * |
| 2. | 8 | Simplicity of construction to do its work. | |
| 3. | 10 | Facility of management, including time and room required for turning. | |
| 4. | 30 | Durability and reliability. | |
| 5. | 16 | Adaptation to varied and uneven surfaces, and to cutting at different heights. | |
| 6. | 30 | Freedom of the knife from clogging by fibrous or gummy matter. | |
| 7. | 9 | Motive power, or power required for a given amount of work. | |
| 8. | 45 | Manual labor in raking. | |
| 9. | 26 | Rapidity, or amount of harvesting in a given time. | |
| 10. | 45 | The manner of leaving the grain for binding. | |
| 11. | 72 | Saving of grain in cutting, binding, and handling. | |

300

SCALE OF POINTS IN MOWERS.

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| No. 1. | 9 | Cost of machine. |
| 2. | 8 | Simplicity of construction to do its work. |
| 3. | 10 | Facility of management, including time and room required for turning. |
| 4. | 30 | Durability and reliability. |
| 5. | 10 | Adaptation to varied surfaces. |
| 6. | 16 | Adaptation to cutting close, &c. |
| 7. | 70 | Freedom of the knife from clogging. |
| 8. | 9 | Motive power, &c. |
| 9. | 20 | Rapidity, or amount of cutting in a given time. |
| 10. | 30 | Manner of leaving grass for curing. |

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SCALE OF COMBINED REAPERS AND MOWERS.

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| 300 | Reaper scale. |
| 212 | Mower scale. |
| 38 | Ease of convertibility. |

550