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the surroundings, was ever held before in any country.

The MASSEY-HARRIS COMPANY, whom we understand are very large manufacturers of these machines, and whose factories are located in Canada, are said to have a world-wide export trade, and like most large firms, and especially American firms, they have a keen eye to effective advertising. It appears their Australasian representatives have for some considerable time been under instructions from their head office at Toronto, to furnish, if possible, an effective Australian harvest scene, to constitute the prominent feature of an advertising poster, to be used throughout the whole of the company's home and foreign trade. There are many beautiful districts both in New Zealand and in the Australian colonies, but after due deliberation it was decided the Ballarat district was most suitable. The farm on which the trial was held is a part of Sir William Clark's Dowling Forest Estate, and was chosen on account of the peculiar beauty of the surrounding landscape. Sir William Clarke has for many years given prizes for the best kept farms in the Ballarat shire, whether his own or otherwise, the first prize having been awarded for fourteen successive years to Mr. Richard Grills, the tenant of the farm on which the trial was held.

The trial has been talked of about the district for some months, and as the time drew near, the excitement increased to a surprising pitch. The day before that fixed for the trial, dozens of farmers could be seen in the neighboring paddocks and on the adjacent hillsides, anxiously practising so as to get their binders into the very best working condition, whilst along the roads leading to the Trial farm machines were being brought from Kingston, Bungaree and other outlying districts, and we afterwards learned five machines were actually brought from Geelong, seventy miles distant, and competed for honors. Early on the morning of the trial all was bustle and excitement. The sun rose bright and clear, giving promises of perfect weather, which fortunately was enjoyed throughout the day.

Hither and thither the sturdy competitors drove their binders, hauled by two or three horse teams, into the trial paddock, so as to take up their respective positions. At 10.30 a.m. lots were drawn and the competitors immediately proceeded to stake out and open up their respective allotments. At 11.30 o'clock a special train, consisting of a number of first class carriages filled to their utmost capacity with invited visitors, numbering several hundred, arrived at Blowhard from Ballarat, where conveyances provided by the Ballarat A. and P. Society were in waiting to convey the visitors to the trial ground. Meanwhile the country roads leading to the trial farm from every direction were lined with vehicles, with men on horseback, and with men and women, lads and lasses on foot, all wending their way to the trial, and before the time had arrived for making the final start, a very large concourse, variously estimated from a thousand upward, had assembled. Amongst the visitors were Sir Wm. J. Clarke, Bart., who appeared to be on exceedingly good terms with his assembled tenants; B. Cowdery, Esq., president Melbourne Chamber of Commerce; D. W. Maratta, U. S. Consul General; the Hon. D. Ham, M.L.C.; Messrs A. J. Peacock, Alex. Young and D. M. Davies, M's.L.A.; Mayor Larter and Cr. Peady, Ballarat; Mr. Mogg, president Ballan Shire; Revs. Swinburne, Matheson and Hamilton; Dr. Lindsay, F. W. Niven, Esq., president Ballarat Chamber of Commerce, and many other prominent gentlemen.

Messrs. G. G. Morton, president of the Ballarat A. and P. Society; Geo. Smith and W. Anderson, vice-presidents; T. Bath, treasurer; J. J. Kelsall, secretary, were also present, while the members of the society's council and committee were present almost to a man.

At 12.30 p.m. a flag, the signal for starting, went up, and instantly the whole 39 machines, 11 Closed-back and 28 MASSEY-HARRIS Wide-open Binders, dashed into the crop, each competitor bent on winning a place of honor, and if possible one of the valuable prizes. The character of the work done was a surprise to the majority of assembled visitors, and not the less so to those most experienced in harvesting operations. Many of the competitors did beautiful work, and although the rules debarred any driver who had ever taken a first or second prize before, it was simply impossible for the best expert driver to surpass the excellence of the work done by some of these farmer competitors, and there was not a badly cut plot in the field. The opening was straight as any furrow at a ploughing match, the cutting was exceedingly close and even, the sheaves were well formed and tightly-bound, and laid in straight windrows as they were dropped from the sheaf carrier. The Judges were Messrs Chas. Richardson, Geelong; J. S. Downey, Millbrook; and Geo. Tronp, Coghill's Creek; and the excellence of the work done was so uniform that a great difficulty was experienced in arriving at a decision.

As soon as the machines had cut out their respective allotments they repaired to an adjoining piece of standing crop on the hillside. The scene which lay before the assembled spectators was one not easy to describe. On the eastern slope of Mount Coghill around three

sides of an immense block of standing wheat were ranged thirty-nine reapers and binders, each doing its respective share of the task in hand. In the foreground was the field just harvested by the competing machines, covered with regular windrows of neatly bound sheaves, and over which was distributed the assembled multitude, beyond in the background was the summit of Mount Coghill, while to the right and left were other mounts covered to their summits with crops of waving green interspersed here and there with fallow fields of red soil, while in the valleys intervening the dotting homesteads and the beautifully kept hedgerows completed a landscape of rural beauty difficult to be surpassed anywhere.

The photographing art will doubtless yield MASSEY-HARRIS COMPANY the picture they have gone to so much trouble and expense to obtain.

As soon as the photographing was concluded, adjournment was made to the banquet served in a marquee 40 ft. x 100 ft., by Mr. C. McIntyre, the well-known Ballarat caterer.

Mr. G. G. Morton, president of the Ballarat A. and P. Society, in the chair. On his left was Sir Wm. Clarke, while on his right were Messrs. C. McLeod and J. G. Turton, Australasian managers for MASSEY-HARRIS COMPANY Limited. The vice chairs being filled by Messrs. Geo. Smith and W. Anderson. Dinner over, the usual loyal toasts were honored, after which the "Parliament of Victoria" was proposed by the chairman, and was responded to by the Hon. D. Ham, M.L.C., and the Hon. A. J. Peacock, M.L.A.

The Hon. Mr. Ham spoke in very eulogistic terms of the trial that had just taken place, and of the importance to the colony of agricultural development at the present juncture.

The Hon. Mr. Peacock said the policy of the country must be to settle the people on the land and help them to make a living. The farmers of the Ballarat district had clearly demonstrated by their thrift and the beautiful condition in which their farms and all that pertained to them were kept that a comfortable living could be made by agriculture. He spoke in highest terms of praise of the conditions of things he saw about him. Where could be found a better class of farmers than they had had the pleasure



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