

TRIAL OF REAPERS AND MOWERS AT SYRACUSE, N. Y.

This important trial came off as announced, and has, no doubt, resulted in much benefit to the agricultural interests of the country. Although it was held at one of the most busy seasons of the year, a large number of persons interested in agriculture attended during all the days of trial. It is to be hoped that arrangements will be made by the Agricultural Association, to hold a similar trial in Canada next year. It ought to have been done this year, for the number of machines—some valuable, some nearly worthless—that are now offered to the Canadian farmer, renders it very difficult for those who have not studied the subject to make a proper choice. We copy an interesting account of this great American trial from the *New York Tribune*. The final result will not be officially stated for a few weeks.

The great event has now been completely realized, the labours of the Jury have been brought to a close, and already the most of the members are on the way to their widely-separated homes. At this juncture, it is fitting to pass in review the objects sought to be attained in this trial, and see how far the careful examinations of the past week have tended toward establishing a worthy precedent for the trials of other Societies.

The important distinctive features of this trial are its magnitude, its national character, the excellent fitness of the Board of Judges, the severity of tests to which the machines have been submitted, the thorough dynamometer trials, and the philosophical principles sought to be established in the investigations; and I propose to advert as briefly as possible to each of these in succession.

First, as to its magnitude. A few weeks since there was published in the *Tribune* a list of the notifications of entry, amounting to the very unusual number of *ninety-six* machines, coming from fourteen different States: and much surprise has been excited in the public mind that so many machines, adopted simply to gathering our grass and grain harvest, should actually be manufactured and absorbed by popular demand. We felt apprehensive that if the proposed competitors should actually fulfil their contracts, and present their machines upon the trial field, the Jury would be so embarrassed with the immense number as to be obliged to give only a very incomplete examination into their merits, and thus defeat the high expectations which the public entertained in respect to the thoroughness and impartiality of the National trial. The sequel proves, however, that it is much easier for a manufacturer to feel such high expectations of success as to make notification to a Society that such or such a machine will certainly be on hand to compete, and on sober second thought to bravely buckle on the armour and enter into the conflict; for of the ninety-five original entries, but *forty* have been made actual by the payment of entrance fees. This, although much less than was expected, is still a larger number than would be agreeable to the Jury, for to give patient attention to their separate characteristics they have been compelled to use great diligence, and have experienced no little embarrassment to the speedy progress of the trial. If, then it is fortunate that the number of machines in actual competition was less than was to be anticipated from the notifications of entry, how much more so is it that the fine haying weather prevented the attendance of five or ten thousand visitors. Even with a small proportion of that number the machines were followed by anxious crowds, and at times, the Judges were completely hemmed in by spectators. With such great disadvantages as these to contend against, what Jury can do its work in a decent and thorough manner? And is it all strange that, both to protect the crop against being totally ruined by being trampled under foot, and to give them full liberty to examine with care and attention the intricacies of construction and working, the Superintendent and Judge should issue peremptory orders to keep the crowd back as far as the boundary fences? The nationality of the trial is shown in the aims and objects of the United States Society, the different States whence were sent the competing machines, and by the selection of the members of the Jury. The States represented by machines were: New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, Delaware and Kentucky. If all the entries had been made good, their number would have been still greater; but those actually here prove how wide