

TRIAL OF COMBINED REAPING & MOWING MACHINES.

The first fair trial of Mowing Machines that we ever witnessed, took place at Wardsville, on the 23d inst. on Mr. O'Malley's Farm, which is situated on the Banks of the River Thames in the County of Elgin. Nearly all the principal manufacturers of Mowing and Reaping Machines were represented there.

The following Machines were on the ground:

Ball's Ohio, J. W. Glenn of Oshawa.

Kerby, A. Harris & Son of Beamsville.

Ball's Ohio, J. Forsyth, of Dundas.

Watson or Ayr, by J. Watson, of Ayr.

Buckeye and Ohio Combined, Noson Brass, Ingersoll.

Ball's Ohio, J. Elliott, London.

Ball's Ohio, Hyslop & Ronald, Chatham.

The workmanship and finish of these machines reflect great credit to our manufacturers, and presented such a show of skill and enterprise as we may be proud of. The ground selected was such as to give the machines a fair trial, being partly level and partly on a hill-side, with some stumps about it. The lumps and stones had all been cleanly taken off. Some of the grass was lodged, some stood well. Each machine had to take the up-hill and down-hill stroke, and had its share of the level, the tangled and the erect grass. No farmer could wish to see a better test. The manufacturers all appeared satisfied, and each appeared determined to do their best. The grass was wet and long, which was much against the working of some of the machinery. Some of the machines worked much better than others. There was some very good work done and more very inferior.

The final test does not take place until harvest, as the prize is to be for the best Combined Reaper and Mower, in fact the decision of the judges on the mowing is not to be given until after the ground is raked, and the award will not be known until after the reaping trial. There was to have been an entrance fee charged, money subscribed, and prizes given, for the 1st, 2d and 3d machines, but the manufacturers said they cared not for the prizes, the honor was sufficient. About 150 of the leading farmers of that section of the country were present, some coming 30 miles. Capt. O'Malley and his father had generously prepared an ample supply of provisions, which was freely given to all visitors. Those gentlemen have taken the whole expense of having this trial in their neighborhood. It is a pity that we had not more of such enterprising gentlemen among us. Such a trial in any vicinity, gives the farmers a good opportunity of judging for themselves. It is a step in the right direction, and awakens new and elevating ideas. Mr. O'Malley deserves more than thanks for the good he has done for the farmers in his vicinity. It

will tell advantageously on them in years to come, and to a greater extent than the majority of persons would credit.

The Dyonometer was to have been applied to each machine, but before the first machine was fairly tested, the rain and hail came down in torrents and drove man and beast from the field. It continued incessantly for about 2 hours. The barn and sheds were soon filled with the living mass, and numerous teams were obliged to remain outside. One horse was killed by lightning.

We omitted to mention, that for some cause Mr. Sawyer of Hamilton was not represented, although a team was on the ground engaged for his machine. We expect to see a greater show when the main trial of reapers takes place, as many Reapers are not combined machines.

We understand that the main reaping trial will take place at Wardsville. It is our intention to attend it when it may be held, if we can possibly spare time and means. Many persons enquire of us which we consider the best machine. We prefer leaving that for the judges to decide. We form our own opinion, and when we offer our readers any machine, implement, seed, or anything else for sale, it will be the best of any kind that our means and knowledge can procure. We will give you the judges award as soon as it is decided.

The Judges are A. Thompson, Mosa, R. Coates, Rodney, and R. Beckton, Eckfrid.

HORSE STEALING.

More of this villainy is practiced now than has been for some time past. There are thief detecting Societies among some farmers in some parts of the country. It often costs more to prosecute a horse-thief if caught than a horse is worth, and it falls heavily on one person, thus the necessity of combined action. Some persons suggest to us that if the offenders were punished by the lash it would be the best preventative. It has been found to work well in checking garrotting. Thieves dread it more than the chance of a month or a year or two in Jail. We should like to see it enforced. Then farmers might sleep soundly at night. We would like to see a law passed enforcing it. Were we not on British soil, where law and order are respected, we should advocate Judge Lynch's policy, that would be to tie the culprit to a stake, and thresh him lustily without further loss of time.

SEED GRAIN.

From our own observations, from our correspondents and from our agents, inspection and examination, we are much astonished at the various kinds of grain that are to be found in different sections of the country and total ignorance of the existence of such grain in

other sections. In some parts one variety predominates and remains as staple produce, until it is entirely run out. In another part it may be introduced and is found to answer well. We know of instances where some kinds have been raised successfully for many years, and the inhabitants of other parts of the country know nothing about it. We shall be prepared to furnish our readers with information about two new kinds of wheat that have been raised in the country successfully for two years and bid fair to be of great utility to us. We shall not have near enough grain growing on our farm to supply the demand for it, and we wish to make arrangements in time, and the proper time is now when the grain is growing. Any person that has a really good tried variety, perfectly free from mixture of any kind, and growing on clean well cultivated land, and if they are wishing to sell it for seed to let us know particulars about it, stating name & quality of soil on which it is grown. We would prefer examining the seed in the field, if that is at all practicable. If you have any new variety at harvest we would like to have six heads forwarded to us, they could be cut with one inch of straw and sent per mail as parcel post enclosed between two pasteboards to prevent breaking. The name of the grain and the address of the producer might be attached. We shall require some of the midge proof varieties and some of fine white varieties, such as the Deihl and Thomas Wheats as we find it necessary to have varieties to supply in parts of the country, where the midge is not affecting the crops. We do not wish to procure any seed or stock from that part of the country where wild oats are known to exist. We have none here and never want any. If any of you are contemplating supplying us with seed, be careful to look over your crops, and take everything out of them that ought not to be there. We paid last year \$3 25 per bushel for seed wheat and even then it was not clean, but we could get no better. We will pay a higher price for warranted pure and clear seed than any other person. It will be no disgrace to you to raise seed that will pass our inspection. Such as we supplied last year will be rejected this year, as we are greatly growing in facilities of procuring seed, and knowledge about the requirements and productions of different sections. Each county may have something that would be required in others. We know we have some crops growing on our farm that will be required in every county.

THE WESTERN FAIR AND AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

There was an idea originated in this County of establishing a Western Fair in this city. We conversed with some of the originators of the plan, and ascertained that it was the desire to absorb the interest of Townships and adjoining Counties in it, to get up a horse race, collect fare at the entrance, and offer large prizes. They consider by so doing they could command the influence and power of the farmers. Also, after