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THE Great Australasian Field Trial

COMPETITIVE field trials of Implements have had their day in Canada, and a great day it was. In the sixties and early seventies each season brought together in the field all the rival machines with their experts and friends. The contests were mostly friendly, always exciting, and not unfrequently a little acrimonious. Many an entertaining tale have the veterans of those days to tell to the youngsters of to-day, how contests were lost or won, often by accident, sometimes by trickery, and occasionally on the merits of the machines.

In every township, nearly in every school section, these trials were held during the haying and harvesting seasons until the good and bad points of every machine were known from one end of the country to the other. They were gala days for the farmers who came from near and far to take part, more or less active, in the trials, and to listen to the jokes and gibes of the glib-tongued agents whose season's

trade often depended on the result of the competition.

But these days are past now. Manufacturers, finding the trouble and expense of these trials very great, and the results very unsatisfactory, discouraged the meetings, and they are now only a matter of history in the Implement business.

In Australia, competitive field trials of implements are of more recent date, though they are fast going out, for the same reasons that caused their discontinuance in Canada.

These trials were, however, always and only to show the competitive points in the machines of rival manufacturers, and although the result depended very largely upon the work of the drivers and operators, this scarcely ever brought forward anything more than a passing comment.

This, however, has not been the case in plowing matches in which the skill and workmanship of the drivers have usually been given highest prominence, irrespective of the merits of the plows used.

It remained, therefore, for our Australasian

cousins to inaugurate a great competitive field contest of Self-Binders which had for its main object a trial of the comparative merits of the operators themselves. This trial took place near Ballarat, in the Colony of Victoria, on December 14th last, and was a great success. We give a report of the day's proceedings as taken from "The Weekly Times."

Never in the history of Australian agriculture, has such a scene been witnessed as that enjoyed by the people of the Ballarat district and surrounding country on the 14th inst., at the trial of MASSEY-HARRIS reapers and binders.

The trial, which has been a leading topic of the district for months past, was held on the prize farm of Mr. Richard Grills, near Mount Blowhard railway station. No less than thirty-nine MASSEY and MASSEY-HARRIS reapers and binders were in the competition, and it may well be doubted if such an exhibition of these useful and labor-saving machines, both as regards the number competing, the uniform excellence of the work done, and the beauty of



MASSEY-HARRIS
Co.
TORONTO, CANADA.

HARVESTING IN AUSTRALIA.—THE GREAT MASSEY-HARRIS FIELD TRIAL.
Thirty-nine Machines competing on the Prize Farm of Richard Grills, Esq., Ballarat.