

[We quote the following article *verbatim et literalim* from the *Daily Globe* of Saturday, Aug. 17.]

GREAT FIELD TRIAL.

Canada at the Paris Exposition.

NOTES OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION—SELF-BINDERS IN FRANCE—AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. F. JOHNSTON—AN INTERNATIONAL HARVESTING MACHINE TEST.

THE great Exposition at Paris has proved an irresistible attraction to Canadians and all who return give most enthusiastic accounts of the extent of the preparations made to instruct and amuse the world of tourists, who are making the gay city their summer Mecca.

Among the first of the returning Canadian pilgrims from this shrine of industry and art is Mr.



W. F. Johnston, Superintendent of the Massey Manufacturing Company's Works in this city.

Mr. Johnston was found by our reporter at the office of the Massey Manufacturing Company, and cheerfully submitted to an interview.

Was your visit one of pleasure or business? was asked.

Chiefly the latter, was the reply. I attended the great international field trial of harvesting machines, which took place on July 19, 20, 21 and 22, in connection with the Paris Exhibition. But, of course, I took in the Exhibition as well. It is really a wonderful affair, and a representative showing of the best the world can produce in all lines. The buildings, as a whole, are architecturally beautiful. Those built by Russia, Roumania and other distant countries represent a peculiar national type of construction. Egypt is brought vividly to view by an exact representation of a street of Cairo, where life is carried on as it is in the ancient city itself.

The finest building of all was Machinery Hall, covering eleven acres, and without a post or pillar under the immense glass roof. It represents a fine piece of engineering, being so constructed as to allow of contraction and expansion. This hall was so crowded that the harvesting machines had to be displayed in an annex.

What about the Canadian exhibit?

We are not represented there as we should be. A Government grant should have been made for the purpose. Only one Canadian maker of agricultural implements was represented outside of the exhibit of the Massey Manufacturing Company.

Will you describe the test of harvesting machines in the great field trial referred to?

Well, it was a test of a thoroughly practical character, and was the best arranged affair of the kind I have ever seen. The competition took place on the great farm of Menier, the famous French chocolate manufacturer, which lies about eighteen miles from Paris, and comprises ten thousand acres, Menier, however, only farming five hundred himself. It was certainly the finest farm I have ever seen, although some of their farming methods are behind ours. The grain for instance, is drawn in on two-wheeled carts to which are attached two or three horses driven tandem, with two men to manage the horses, and in some cases a yoke of cattle with the yoke attached to the horns. The buildings on the farm were of brick—one barn being nearly 700 feet

long and having a track on one side like a railroad, on which a threshing machine is placed on wheels and the machine is driven by electricity. The thresher is thus moved along the track as the barn is cleaned out, the straw being bound into bundles by a self-binding attachment, as it issues from the machine. Their live stock comprised the best breeds.

The first day's test was held in a wheat field, fifteen binders competing in the presence of a jury of twenty-eight experts. The crop was magnificent, though lodged and badly down at one end of the field. The field was measured out in pieces of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, so that each machine would be tried in the standing as well as the lodged wheat, lots being cast for positions. A representative of the jury went with each machine, taking notes on the following points:—(1) The evenness of the cutting; (2) the binding; (3) the number of horses used; (4) the number of men with the machine; (5) the time required to cut the piece. The fifteen started at a given signal, in the presence of a large number of interested spectators. The result? Well, I started alone; that is, without any person to assist me as the other drivers had. I cut my piece in 66 minutes, while the next machine to finish took 84 minutes and had two men in addition to the driver to assist the machine in getting through. Some of the machines had not finished in three hours! Some broke down and left the field without completing their portion, while one was allowed to leave the worst of its piece as unfit to cut with a machine. I had only one stoppage, to buckle the canvas a little tighter, the machine and canvas being entirely new. The binder did not miss a sheaf, nor did I stop once excepting in the case mentioned above.

Was the machine you used on the trial specially made for the contest?

No; it was just the same machine as we sell to European farmers—known as Massey's Toronto Light Binder.

On the second day of the trial we went into a field of oats which was in about the same condition as the wheat, and each machine had the same amount to cut as in the field of wheat on the previous day.

I cut my section in 55 minutes, without a stop, or missing a sheaf, or a hindrance of any kind. The machine that finished second in the wheat was over two and a half hours in cutting the oats, the driver having to change horses during that time, the first team having given out. The oats were not only badly lodged but green in some places, and were therefore the more difficult to cut. I finished my piece from end to end with one swath, while some of the machines were finished in the standing grain before they had half the width cut in the lying grain, showing the advantages of a machine which is able to cut its width in tangled grain. Some were so long in finishing their parts that the jury were compelled

that was left on the previous day as impossible to cut. I had no difficulty in cutting this piece, as many of the spectators will testify.

The third day of the test was important by reason of the visit of President Carnot and other distinguished men, which, of course, attracted a large crowd. A parade of the machines took place, the Massey Binder being profusely decorated with the tri-color, which attracted particular attention from the on-lookers. The most perfectly formed sheaf, chosen for presentation to the President, was bound by the Massey Machine—no small honor in itself.

The last day was devoted to testing the draft by dynamometer of six out of the fifteen machines originally entered, which the jury considered worthy of a further test, namely, McCormick, of Chicago; Walter A. Wood of Hoosick Falls, N. Y.; Osborne of Auburn, N. Y.; Johnston, Batavia, N. Y.; Massey's Toronto Light Binder, and a French machine. I have always held that the old-fashioned dynamometrical test was a farce, as it entirely depends upon the man who calls. This French test was made by a dynamometer constructed on wheels, the horses being removed from the machine, and the pole placed on top of the dynamometer, and connection made from the dynamometer to the whiffletrees, the horses being hitched to the dynamometer same as hitching to a plough. The dynamometer is arranged with paper and pencil, is self-registering, and is therefore scientifically correct. The operator sat on the machine but the horses were led by another man, the same horses being used on each machine. All the grain that the machine cut while being tested was weighed, the operator also being weighed, the time taken, and in fact everything was done to make the test perfect. First, the machine was tested when cutting a full swath, then running in gear out of the grain, and afterward out of gear. A faithful record was kept of the result of each trial. When we receive the official report of this test we will no doubt have the most correct results ever attained on this line.

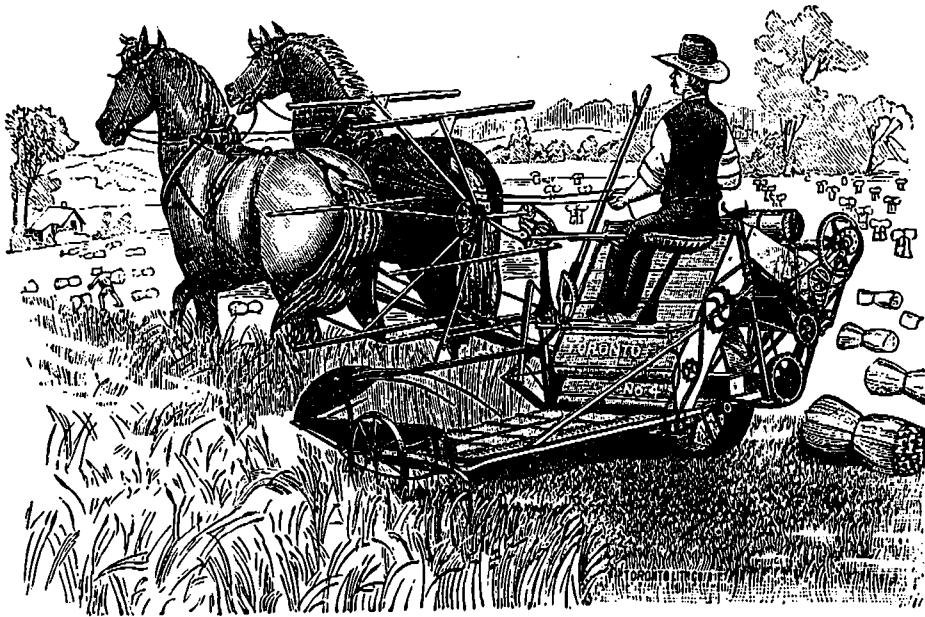
Where was the other Canadian machine? Only one—the Massey—has been named in connection with the final test.

The other Canadian machine [the Brantford Binder] failed to get a place in the final test, was Mr. Johnston's reply.

Were you assisted in this trial?

Only by Mr. James A. Duncan, the Paris agent, and Mr. Fred. I. Massey, the European manager of the Massey Manufacturing Company. The other leading firms were represented by an army of principals, managers and experts, the contest being recognised by all as the most important one ever held in connection with harvesting machinery.

Then, on the whole, are you satisfied with the result as far as the Massey Binder is concerned?



The Toronto Light Binder.

to leave to catch the evening train for Paris before the machines were through. I finished my section at the further end of the field and drove back to the point, where the spectators stood, at a gallop. They cheered me lustily, and numbers shook hands with me, and congratulated me on the successful working of the light binder. While the other machines were finishing their sections, I went over into the wheat field with my machine and cut the piece of wheat

—Perfectly so. I am satisfied that the superiority of our machine was amply tested and shown, as evidenced by the applause of the spectators, and I have no doubt that the opinion of the jury will accord with that of those who witnessed the trial. In fact, it has already been announced, semi-officially, that the first order of merit in connection with the trial has been awarded the Massey Manufacturing Company.