

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## EXHIBITIONS.

Every once in a while some particular part of the world is all aglow over an exhibition. The intention of these institutions is to facilitate trade and improve manufactures of various kinds, with a tendency towards cheapening the article produced. This same feature applies to the apiarist with a more telling effect in the way of competition, but without any corresponding method of cheapening production, as everything in the shape of improvement only increases the cost of production.

I very much question the utility of the Industrial to the specialist, and strongly object to the association grant towards prizes for two reasons. First, because there are only a few who exhibit there year after year and take all the prizes; and, secondly, because it militates against the sale of my honey, and not only mine, but against that of every other apiarist who sells in the Toronto market, in the following manner: I go into the city with sample. Mr. Dealer has bought the first prize honey. Mine, I consider, is just as good to the consumer; but Mr. Dealer won't give me as much by from one and a half to two cents a pound for it, simply because it was not exhibited and did not take a first prize. I go out and try some of the stores with the same result, and am told they can get first prize honey at Mr. Dealer's for so much,—about the same as he pays for it, Mr. Dealer often having it paid for in honey glass months in advance, making his profit in that way.

The foregoing has been my experience in Toronto for several years back, which forces me to the opinion that the fifty dollars grant for prizes to the Industrial Exhibition should be discontinued. I see by your report in the JOURNAL of the 1st of February that the Association grant has been reduced to twenty-five dollars. This is a step in the right direction. The grant should be wiped out completely another year.

The Columbian Exhibition is not going

to be of much benefit to the Canadian apiarist, with the exception perhaps of the one who is going to superintend the exhibit, and the few exhibitors who will have their honey carried there free of charge, because very little of our honey will ever find its way over there on account of the McKinley bill.

By the way, what a farce it is to have this barrier tariff erected between the two countries, and then to squander money derived from it to get up exhibitions to foster and induce a trade.

A few years ago the great Colonial Exhibition was held in London, England, and this was boomed by the apiarian press at that time to such an extent that the hopes of the Canadian apiarist went away up at the bright prospect of a great market beyond the sea. But, alas, the very few who tried it, beside the deputation who had charge of the exhibit, would not repeat the experiment.

I do not make these remarks for the purpose of putting a damper on the Canadian honey exhibit at Chicago; but to those who are fond of that kind of patriotism, I say go in, and make as large an exhibit as possible while the country pays the expenses. As for the competition induced, it is not necessary to dwell thereon, as every apiarist who has been in the business for the last five years or more knows, to his sorrow, that he cannot obtain the prices for his honey that he used to get. Some have on that account given up the business, and others are contemplating doing so, although once in a while we see an article in some paper puffing it up, and hear of some lecturer in honeyed strains holding forth to a lot of farmers the benefits to be derived by keeping a lot of bees.

W. H. KIRBY.

Oshawa, Ont., February 11th, 1893.

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O'er all the world a golden ray  
Of peace and happiness is cast,  
While nature's myriad voices say,  
Old winter grim and cold is past.