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Notes and Comments

Canadian National Exhibition.

On another page we print a lengthy communication from Mr. Arthur Laing, commenting adversely upon the action of the executive of the Canadian National Exhibition in the matter of the apicultural section of the Toronto Exhibition. A copy of Mr. Laing's article has been sent to the Manager, Dr. Orr, whose reply we hope to receive for publication in this issue.

Mr. Laing's article illustrates most strikingly the point we have previously discussed in these columns, viz., that the present schedule makes exhibiting a far too expensive luxury for the average Canadian bee-keeper. Of the thirteen honey classes, nine require exhibits ranging from 50 lbs. to 200 lbs. in weight of honey, with an average of 144 lbs. per class. The other classes, presumably arranged for the benefit of the smaller bee-keeper, call for exhibits of 20 and 24 lbs. each.

Things are arranged much better elsewhere. Experience proves that representative displays of honey can only be obtained when the weight limits are very much lowered. A 10-lb. limit would appeal to a very much larger number of bee-keepers than the twenty and twenty-four, and would be quite as effective as a test of quality.

We have recently seen a photograph of a portion of a honey exhibition in which in one class alone there were

seventy-eight exhibits. Time has shown that the present schedule possesses attractions neither for the professional exhibitor nor for the average bee-keeper. There was one exhibitor this year. In past years there have been as many as four! Surely it is about time that a change should be made. Either the apicultural section should be dropped from the C.N.E. program, or a radical change made in the schedule.

Two Doctors and Improvement.

Doctors Bonney and Miller are not quite in agreement upon "Improvement," and in an open letter, Dr. Miller takes his colleague to task in a most friendly and agreeable manner for the latter's many inconsistent statements in dealing with the subject. We have seen no more convincing statement of the case on behalf of improvement than Dr. Miller's letter to Dr. Bonney.

We quote the following:

I think that the beginner will fairly infer from what you say that the habit of industry cannot be developed in the bee. And from that it will be only a short step for him to say, "All bees are alike in industry, and under the same circumstances one bee will gather as much as another." Yet I think you would tell him that under the same circumstances some bees will store more than others.

You say you believe management has more to do with surplus honey crops than the breed or color of bees. Well, suppose it has, does that not still leave it possible that the kind of bees is a very important matter? Some of my colonies store twice as much as others, the management being practically the same. In such a case don't you think that the