

Death of Dr. George Duncan.

The last *Courier* briefly announced the death of Dr. George Duncan, which occurred on the morning of issue after a short illness from gastritis. Seldom has there a death occurred in this vicinity where there was so much wide-spread regret expressed—young and old were among the mourners with tear-stained faces. Such an outburst of universal sympathy and regret can not be wondered at, when we remember the close associations not forgotten between deceased and his mourners. It can be properly said that "he died in the harness," for only a few hours before his death he might be seen the central figure in the merry whirl of pleasure, or consoling some one in distress or grief, or it might be wiping cold sweat from off a patient's brow, or administering words of comfort and consolation to some aged one. He was old in years only; his delights were with the young, who loved him as a companion and friend. Deceased's life was a busy one throughout. There are many who can remember the eventful year of 1866, when Canada was threatened with an invasion by rebels from the United States. Loyal to the core, the doctor (Captain Duncan) was among the first to march, with his fifty-five stalwart Highlanders, to defend the frontier. No officer could be more beloved by his men. Their faults were covered by him with a broad mantle of charity, and any worthy act had its reward; perfect discipline without punishment was wisely administered by him, and you cannot talk with any of the survivors of those troublesome days without listening to some incident that would make Dr. Duncan's memory right up with brightness. A few of the survivors of Capt. Duncan's Highland Company are: Rev. John Laycock, of Fort William; Donald Bayne, of Lakeside; John Ross, Esq., of West Zorra; Hugh Ferguson, of Chicago, Ill.; Hugh Ross, of West Zorra; John Sutherland, Charles McKay, and Alex. Campbell, also of West Zorra; George Gordon, at present in the Western States; A. G. McKay, of East Zorra; J. R. McKay, Harrington. Donald Munroe, of Rochester; George Green, Downie. Robt. Munroe, California, and others.

Deceased was born in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and emigrated to this country,

landing here with his parents in the year 1839. He started to study medicine about 1848 under the celebrated Prof. Rolph; graduated in 1852, his diploma bearing the signature of James, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor-General of all the Canadas. He started to practice medicine in Embro steadily after, and from then until the day of his illness was almost a constant worker in his profession, although retiring a few years ago from active work, yet many an old resident refused to have anyone else for their family physician. As a doctor he was wonderfully successful, always keeping up with the advance of the different systems of treatment. Some of the most celebrated doctors of this country were former graduates with him.

Since his retirement he made a special and deep study of apiculture, and was recognized not only in Canada as an authority, but many an article of his appeared in American Journals. One can almost imagine during the balmy summer days how the very bees will miss him.

[We were shocked to learn through the *Embro Courier* of the death of Dr. Duncan. The Oxford Bee-keepers' Association, of which he was an active member, will mourn him. The *Canadian Bee Journal* has lost in him a warm friend, and bee-keepers generally have lost one who has lost no opportunity to advance its best interests.—Ed.]

The Past Season—Not Discouraged.

—FRANCIS ORTT.

I have long been planing to come to Brantford, to the Ontario Bee Meeting, but my calculations failed and I was very much disappointed because I could not come. I have had a very hard time of it this winter. I have been shut in the house for two months with an abscess on the side of my face, it run me hard for my life. I could not open my mouth for two months, so I had to live on milk porridge, and it is not much better yet, but I am thankful that my life was spared. Last season was a very poor one for bees here. I lost 20 colonies in the spring, out of seventy, they all went in the spring. They had brood started but dwindled away until there was not bees enough to care for it. I have never