

in Portland, where a message was awaiting him. We can well imagine the shock the intelligence would be to him. Writing us recently he says "I little thought when I was leaving home that I was bidding Father a last good-bye" but such are uncertainties of this life. George and family have our sincere sympathy in their sorrow.

Hints For Beginners

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Not since my first season with D. A. Jones, some twenty-four years ago, can I remember a season so full of disaster to the average bee-keeper in Canada as this one. Although we know much more about bee-keeping now than we did then, there are many who have not profited by this. I have one report where a bee-keeper having 63 colonies has not one living left, another who had 164 has only five living, one with 43 has now only six living. Other specialists who have given bees necessary attention have wintered as well as usual. But until bee-keeping is recognized as a business and having something to learn, and to do, to succeed in it these heavy losses are bound to prevail at periods more or less remote. Many who have had heavy losses are anxious to know what to do to save their combs and hives, and perhaps how to build up at the least expense. Combs have been left with mould, dead bees, remains of dysentery and dead brood and bees. I say dead brood, for a colony dying from dysentery has nearly always, if not always, dead brood where effort has

been made to repair the exhausted vitality of the colony by replacing it with young bees. The first aim should be to prevent other bees from robbing out these empty stocks. I have never been a serious loser with foul brood, and have had but little of it but I am afraid of the spread of the disease through robbing and we should take every precaution to prevent robbing for this and many other reasons which cannot now be enumerated. Dead stocks should be taken out of reach of the bees, and unless bees are exceedingly scarce, I would destroy colonies, having only a few bees, as a rule such colonies have wintered badly and become depopulated, they are on the verge of death and are likely to dwindle away or be robbed out. By so treating them it saves care, combs and all the consequences resulting from robbing. Next arises the question of contracting brood chambers. As "York County Bee-Keeper" says "To my surprise found that such (weak not contracted) colonies built up just as fast as those contracted", then he says, "There is something peculiar (which I am not prepared to explain) as to how bees retain the heat of cluster regardless of size of hive". There is no doubt that there is much in the above statement, there are seasons when there may be no perceptible difference, but that heat does leave the cluster is apparent in many ways. I have covers of different design and packed differently; time and again I have found frost or snow lying all over the cover of well packed covers, when in others the frost on the centre of the cover had disappeared owing to the effect of the heat from the cluster passing through the packing. The bees do retain a remarkable amount of warmth in the cluster, but to retain it they must cluster closely together, and as temperature outside falls the cluster must contract. I use a tight fitting