

A GOOD SHOWING.

C. WURSTER.—My report is very easily made. Came through the winter with 6% loss; spring opened fair, but since it has been a very poor season. One colony I have kept on the scale all through the season, and I find it has been a medium one comparing it with the rest, and I only took away 11 lbs., leaving about 15 lbs.; therefore, according to this one they will not only require the 11 lbs. taken away to be replaced, but from 7 to 10 lbs. added to it to carry them over till spring. From 51 colonies in spring I have taken 500 lbs. of extracted and 400 lbs. in 1 lb. sections, and expect to feed back about 1200 lbs. So with the hope of realizing on the honey taken to pay for something cheaper and having a little for the much looked for surplus.

Many bee-keepers would be glad had they been as fortunate as you. Your honey should bring good prices and one pound will pay for two or three of syrup.

OFF-STANDARD SUGAR.

Will you please tell me if granulated sugar casting up a bluish scum is safe to feed to bees as winter food? I have a sugar which does that. I never had it happen before, but I have heard of such. I would like your opinion and, if possible, the cause of it. The sugar looks very good and is hard and clear, but as soon as it gets to boiling a blue scum appears.

Kleinburg, Sept., 1888.

We would not like to feed such sugar unless compelled. Have known samples of "off standard" to show such a scum, but pure granulated never. The difference in cost of first and second grades is so slight that it should not be entertained at a time when the bees want the best food procurable.

AN ADVENTURE WITH BEES.

On the bank of the Octoraro Creek at White Rock stands a large hollow tree. Ed. Platz, trackman on the Peach Bottom Narrow Gauge railroad, is only 19 years old, but he is seven feet high. He loves to fish, and does whenever he gets the chance. The other day he got into a canoe which was chained to the big hollow tree and was soon absorbed in his favorite sport. He had fished a short time when he heard a low but musical sound behind him. Looking around, he saw a large black ball emerging from the hollow in the tree. The ball moved swiftly forward, and, without ado, settled on the Octoraro giant's head. He knew then that he had been selected by a swarm of bees to hive on, and he slid out of the canoe into the water. The creek was not deep enough for a dive, so the giant had to hold himself beneath the water by the bottom. The bees didn't go down with him, but when he was finally forced to raise his head to the surface to get wind he found a snug bunch of the bees waiting for him, and he had to go down again.

He crawled along the bottom until he had to have more wind, and he stuck his head out

again. The bunch of bees were sauntering by, and, seeing the head, dipped at it again. Down to the bottom went the giant again, and, dragging himself along the bottom until he had to have breath or die, he lifted his head once more. The bunch of bees was gone and the Octoraro giant came out on shore.

After he had breathed enough he went to the hollow tree and found a store of honey there, so large that two patent pails were required to carry it home.—New York Sun.

PREPARED FOR WINTER.

JOHN MURRAY.—I went into winter quarters with eight colonies; two died during the winter, leaving me six this spring. Three of these were strong and three only medium. From five of the strongest of these I have extracted 115 lbs. of honey and took ten pounds of comb honey—all basswood—and increased to nine colonies which have plenty of stores for the winter; they run from 50 lbs. to 75 lbs. each. The clover did not yield any nectar here this season. One of my colonies, when I took them from winter quarters, did not contain over half a cup full of bees and a queen; I thought I would give them a chance and see what they would do. They now have a Jones S.W. hive chuck full of honey and bees which is far better than I thought they would do.

Arnott, Sept. 3.

It is astonishing how a few bees will build up in favorable weather. Do not be surprised if that is your best colony next spring. We recollect having a very choice queen from whose colony we had drawn so many cards of brood in the fall for use in queenless colonies, that scarcely any young bees went into winter quarters. In spring, on examining them after a first flight, the foreman said: "Here is a queen with very few bees; better cage her with another colony." We had no colony queenless so put her on two frames crowded close, closed entrance tight and replaced the hive in bee house. On a warm day soon after we counted them and found just 27 bees. A few young bees from a strong colony were picked off their combs and dropped between the frames, making a total of possibly 50. Next day the queen had laid a few eggs and apparently felt it was time to resume business. The addition of another modicum of youngsters from a card of hatching brood infused increased vigor into the colony, and in a few days they had capped brood. A little hatching brood or a small number of young bees will cause a weak colony to amazingly enthruse, whilst five times as many would scarcely make any perceptible difference in a strong colony.