

a district. The farmer naturally will not grow crops that are primarily only of value to apiarists, but his attention can well be directed into channels highly profitable to himself and indirectly of great benefit to the bee industry.

It is thus seen that a consideration of the general trend of agricultural development in New Zealand, and in what directions these can be correlated with beekeeping, is very necessary in dealing with the sources of honey. What may be termed the botanical side of beekeeping has not as yet been given the full attention it warrants. This is due very largely to the fact that failure, so far as profit is concerned, has been the rule with regard to the specific growing of honey-yielding vegetation. The beekeeper simply trusts to luck for his nectar-supplies, locating himself, of course, in what are known as favourable districts, but making few attempts to regulate the agricultural development of his locality in directions beneficial in the supply of this all-important raw material on which his livelihood depends. Before enumerating some phases of soil-utilization that may benefit the honey industry it will be well to briefly deal with the natural honey-sources.

NATURAL HONEY-SOURCES.

Honey produced from the nectar of natural vegetation may be classed under the generic name of bush or wild honey, and this includes not only the honey harvested from forest, but also that from the natural open and heath lands.

The following is a partial list of the main native honey-plants: Manuka, various species of rata, various species of Senecio, Olearia, and similar composites. (The composite or daisy family are nearly all important honey-plants, the introduced catsear being especially notable in this respect.) Phormium, cabbage-trees, some buttercups, Parsonsia, willow-weeds (especially in swamps), Rubus, Gaultheria, Fuchsia, certain Veronicas, Avicennia, Clematis, rewarewa, Loranthus, mahoe, Astelia, Bulbinella, and Maori onion. There are, of course, many others that play a certain part in honey-production. Manuka, rata, cabbage-tree, Phormium, and perhaps coastal-forest trees like mahoe, kohekohe, and Fuchsia, together with the composites, can be looked upon as the most important.

Bush honey is almost always of poor colour, and pure manuka honey is extremely difficult to extract. Southern honeys reputed to be gathered from manuka have frequently a large admixture of other nectars. In passing it will be well to mention that certain bush honeys are reputedly poisonous, and authentic cases