

rapid growth of timber suitable for constructional and conveyance purposes, and those of a hardwood nature suitable for withstanding long periods of exposure. For constructional and conveyance purposes various pines are the most suitable for New Zealand conditions, especially such a rapid-growing species as *Pinus radiata*, better known as *Pinus insignis*. For hardwood purposes various species of Australian eucalypts stand out as pre-eminent.

So far as the pines are concerned, they are valueless for bee-farming purposes, being nectarless and producing a resinous pollen unsuitable for bee-fodder. All the species of Eucalyptus secrete nectar abundantly, but in general the quality of the honey is inferior, of bad flavour, and difficult to extract. In this latter respect it resembles pure manuka honey, and it is interesting to note that the manuka and the gums are botanically related. It would appear as though the gums were not suitable for honey-production, but the quality produced by different species varies enormously. It is quite probable that certain species would produce good marketable honey, as is the case with *E. rostrata*. If certain species combine good timber and honey production it would certainly be advantageous to restrict the planting to these. This matter requires careful investigation, and such an inquiry is recommended to beekeepers' organizations. Again, certain species of acacia might be found to combine good timber- and honey-producing qualities.

It will thus be seen that I am not very enthusiastic on the part that afforestation in New Zealand may be made to play in the furtherance of the bee industry. Certain trees like the false acacia (*Robinia*) might, however, be profitably planted and fulfil the dual purpose of providing fencing-material and bee-feeding, as has been done with this tree on an extended scale on the sandy soils of Hungary. It may be asked, Why not plant important nectar-producing trees like the limes, perhaps better known to beekeepers under the name of basswoods? The answer is that broad-leaved trees of this description are unsuitable for general planting in New Zealand, and efforts in this direction have been quite unsuccessful in the past. The limes are not tolerant of exposure, and even for street or avenue planting are far excelled by many other trees, such as the Oriental plane. In sheltered situations limes have grown well, and many beautiful trees of both the European and American lime may be seen as specimens, especially in Christchurch gardens; but on the whole they can be looked upon as quite unsuitable for forestry purposes. From the beekeepers' standpoint the timber is valuable, but not more so than many other quicker and more readily grown trees.