

This is the season of the year to prepare the ground and plant most sorts of forest trees. And since the copious rains of the last month have been followed by such charming sunshine and warmth, there is an assurance that the trees will establish themselves before the heated turn of the summer commences, so that they will not require so much attention as if they are planted later on. The seed of the bluegum planted in boxes now will give plants fit to set out in forest form in April or May, and where a little water is given them they will make an astonishing growth. The bluegum gives a bloom commencing in December and continuing until June, when it is in forest form, that is very rich in nectar and of good quality, possessing it is affirmed, valuable medicinal qualities.

The various sorts of acacia give a bloom from December until June that furnishes both pollen and nectar, but is especially valuable to the bees for its profusion of pollen, coming at a time when the bees commence rearing the young. The seed of the acacia grows readily if scalded well before it is planted, and will commence blooming the second year from the seed, it requires no more care and attention than corn, in fact not so much, for if it gets a start it holds its own even through a dry season. The timber it produces is of about the same value for any purpose as willow, but no sprouts spring from the stump or root of the acacia as does from the willow. There is no doubt a great number of trees that have not been grown in California that are good as nectar producers. It is said that there are over a hundred varieties of eucalyptus, natives of Australia, all of which produce a bloom that bees frequent. Some of these have been experimented with at the State University of Berkeley, but not with a view to determine their value as nectar producers. The Hon. Abbot Kinney has established a propagating station at Santa Monica, where he is producing plants in the interest of forestry. It is a private enterprise, but we understand that Maj. Kinney will sell any surplus plants he may have at cost price to parties interested in forestry. The beekeeper can, by a little care prevent forest or mountain fires by excluding hunters, campers and tramps from ground belonging to him, as the laws in relation to the preservation of forests from fire in California are ample if enforced. Let us enforce them.—C. N. Wilson, in the Rural Californian for December.

The farmer and bee-keeper can make no more profitable investment in Canada than by tree planting. The rapid depletion of our forests calls for action

in this matter, and though Canadian honey yielding shrubs and trees may be few in number compared with those indigenous to California yet the idea treated in the article above is well worthy the Canuck's serious consideration. It is a subject referred to previously in the C.B.J. and one which should be kept constantly before the general public.

#### Bee Battles.

AT a recent meeting of the Dublin Philosophical Society, Mr. J. M. Gillies read an interesting paper on "Bee Battles," of which the following is a condensation, in the Country Gentleman: Standing in front of a bee-hive on a summer afternoon, when the flow of honey has been somewhat checked by the advance of the season, one observes several bees waiting about the entrance. On the arrival of a would-be entrant, one of them steps forward and extends his tongue. The new-comer in reply extends its tongue with a little honey taken from its honey-sac, and the sample being found satisfactory, it passes in. Should, however, the new arrival refuse the countersign, one may assume it to be a robber, and in such a case the sentries will immediately attack it with an angry, determined buzz. Should the intruder be alone, the conflict will be short, and the operation of throwing the carcass of a dead bee from the edge of the flight board will soon be witnessed. If, as most likely to be the case, the attack be preconcerted the position will have been carefully reconnoitered, and advantage will immediately be taken of the confusion by a strong force of bees, which will endeavor to affect an entrance at another part of the opening. The first sign of warfare will bring down the whole force of the hive, and unless this be inadequate to resist the attacking party, the result indicated before will be repeated on a larger scale. The outcome of the battle will not altogether depend upon the relative sizes of the contending parties. Defensive arrangements have a good deal to say in the matter. A hive open across its whole width would be completely at the mercy of a superior force, but as the entrance is narrowed the strategic advantage tends to the defenders until a point is reached where in the words of Macaulay, "a thousand may well be stopped by three." When the skilled bee-keeper observes war in progress, he stands close to the hive with a flour dredger in his hand. The bees are too much excited to notice his presence, and he quietly dusts them as they pass in and out. This enables him