

The most characteristic trees are the hickories (six species), the oaks (ten species), the black walnut, the chestnut, and the sycamore. Less abundant and more local in their distribution are the cucumber tree, the tulip tree, the flowering dogwood, which all have beautiful and very conspicuous flowers, the papaw, the red mulberry, the American crabapple, the sour gum, the sassafrass, and others.

The herbaceous vegetation is very rich and at least a hundred species which occur nowhere else in Canada are found in the zone. A few of the most conspicuous ones may be mentioned, viz: yellow nelumbo or lotus flower, may apple, wild lupine, tick trefoil, flowering spurge, swamp rose mallow, wild pansy, prickly pear, poke milkweed, wild potato vine, downy phlox, water-leaf, bee balm, fox-glove, tall bell flower, great lobelia, ironweed, dense button snakeroot, prairie dock, cup plant, sunflowers, tall coreopsis, Indian plantain, showy lady's slipper, etc.

Golden seal and ginseng were at one time abundant but are now practically extinct. Indeed a similar fate is also threatening many of the other species characteristic of the zone, the reason generally being clearing of the land for agricultural purposes.

The Prairie.—Under the general term prairie is understood the vast grass-covered area of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. It is bounded to the east and north by the sub-arctic forest and to the west by the foothills of the Rocky mountains.

The prairie, which begins a few miles east of Winnipeg, has been subdivided into three zones, known as the first, second and third "prairie steppe." These zones are rather indefinite, botanically speaking, and they have one thing in common as far as the vegetation is concerned. The luxuriance and general appearance of their flora are to a conspicuous degree dependent on the rain and snowfall. In case of the spring vegetation, the rainfall during the previous year and the snowfall during the preceding winter are dominant factors, so much so that, in the event of lack of sufficient precipitation, the spring flora may in certain years be either very poorly represented or even almost entirely absent. The summer and fall vegetation are to an equal extent dependent on the present season's precipitation and thus it may happen that a district which one year displays a luxuriant growth, rich in species and individuals, may a following year appear almost barren of flowering plants. Lack of precipitation is also largely responsible for the fact that in some seasons the grass vegetation, so characteristic to the prairie, may remain practically at a standstill without heads or seeds being formed.

First Prairie Steppe.—This, as defined by the late Professor John Macoun, includes "the low plain of Manitoba, bounded by a line of elevated country, which commences at the international boundary at a point some distance west of Emerson, and extends northwestwardly under the names of Pembina, Riding, Duck, Porcupine and Pas mountains."

The southeastern part of the area so defined differs from the true prairie in that it is characterized by many woodland plants which have