

Owing to the long growing season, the high average temperature, and the abundance of the precipitation, the vegetation in the valleys and lowlands of the Coast range is almost sub-tropical in appearance. The trees, especially the cedar, the Douglas fir, and the spruce, reach gigantic dimensions, and the forest, even when very dense, possesses a luxuriant undergrowth. In old, untouched forests, fallen trunks, shrubs, and herbs form an almost impenetrable tangle. This is especially the case where salal and devil's club are luxuriantly developed.

Of trees characteristic of the valleys and the lowlands may be mentioned cedar, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, hemlock, white fir, red alder, crabapple, broad-leaved maple, cascara, and of shrubs, several species of willows, Oregon grape, species of currants and gooseberries, thimbleberry, salmonberry, roses, juneberry or saskatoon, devil's club, salal, blueberries, and red-fruited elder.

The herbaceous vegetation is very rich. Many species of beautiful ferns are abundant, and the grass vegetation, especially along the coast, is luxuriantly developed. Of other herbaceous plants may be mentioned skunk cabbage, trillium, wild lily-of-the-valley, yellow pond lily, fringe-cup, false mitrewort, alum root, bleeding heart, goat's beard, twinflower, aster, etc.

The major part of Vancouver island has a typical Coast Range flora. The southeastern section, however, has a vegetation of a quite different type. There, the growth is influenced by the comparatively scant precipitation, with little rain between spring and fall. As a result the spring vegetation is much more conspicuous than the summer and fall vegetation, especially on open and rocky land. In addition, the section is characterized by a number of species which are more or less of a Californian type and which occur nowhere else in Canada. Among the plants in the southeastern section of Vancouver island may be mentioned an exceedingly large number of grasses among which the most conspicuous ones are several species of brome grasses, camas, wild hyacinth, blue-eyed grass, spring-beauty, lupins, bird-foot clover, tall vetch, marsh hollyhock, godetia, arbutus or madrona, gilia, grove-lover, paint-brush, etc.

Dry Belts of British Columbia.—A few words may finally be said about the most important dry belts of British Columbia, including the Okanagan and the Kamloops districts. These regions, owing to the scant precipitation and to the nature of the soil, have a flora which strangely contrasts with that of the other parts of the British Columbia mainland.

In the dry belts two floristic subdivisions may be recognized which, however, run more or less into each other and for this reason will not be dealt with separately. One subdivision is characterized by so-called bunch grasses, of which "wild rye" is the most conspicuous species, and is more or less destitute of forest-forming trees. The other floristic subdivision of the dry belts is more densely wooded, the characteristic tree of the forest being the yellow pine. On the whole, the dry belts may be said to be park-like in general character, with a rather desert-like ground vegetation.