

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANADA.

lasts a comparatively long time, from about the first week of September to the second week in October, dependent on the dryness of the season. During that period the most splendid display of colours is exhibited, especially in the open mixed woods where underbrush is well developed. Every shade of yellow, golden bronze, red and scarlet is mixed in a gorgeous symphony of colours, generally most marvellously modulated by the sombre deep dark or bluish green of the conifers, which are dotted among the deciduous trees. No such wealth of colour is ever met with in any other country.

Carolinian Zone.—This zone is confined to a small tract of land in southern Ontario, bounded to the south by Lake Erie and to the north by a line running approximately from the northern shore of Lake Ontario to Windsor. Its flora is most typically developed in the Niagara peninsula and on the very shore of Lake Erie. In general physiognomy it is rather similar to the hardwood forest flora just described, but differs greatly as far as characteristic species—and even genera—are concerned. It is decidedly southern as to species, and exhibits a large number of forms which occur nowhere else in Canada.

The most characteristic trees are the Hickories (six species), the Oaks (ten species), the Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), the Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) and the Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Less abundant and more local in their distribution are: Cucumber tree, (*Magnolia acuminata*), Tulip tree (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*), Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), which all have beautiful and very conspicuous flowers, Papaw (*Asimina triloba*), Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), American Crab Apple (*Pyrus coronaria*), Sour Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), Sassafras (*Sassafras varifolium*) and others.

The herbaceous vegetation is very rich, at least a hundred species occurring nowhere else in Canada being found in the zone. A few of the most conspicuous may be mentioned, viz.: Yellow Nelumbo or "Lotus Flower" (*Nelumbo lutea*), May Apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium*), Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus Moscheutos*), Wild Pansy (*Viola Rafinesquii*), Prickly Pear (*Opuntia Rafinesquii*), Poke Milkweed (*Asclepias phytolaccoides*), Wild Potato Vine (*Ipomoea pandurata*), Downy Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*), Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*), Foxglove (*Gerardia pedicularia*, *G. virginica*), Tall Bellflower (*Campanula americana*), Great Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), Ironweed (*Vernonia altissima*, *V. illinoensis*), Dense Button Snakeroot (*Liatris spicata*), Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), Sunflower (*Helianthus decapetalus*, *H. divaricatus*), Tall Coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*), Indian Plantain (*Cacalia tuberosa*), Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium hirsutum*), etc. Golden Seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) and Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) were at one time abundant but are now practically extinct.

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 in the east and north by the sub-arctic forest and in the west by the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.