

FLORA OF CANADA.

generally met with on steep slopes. With regard to the vegetation above the tree-line, it may be said that the differences between the two mountain systems are chiefly due to differences in moisture supply, the Selkirks being favoured with much more abundant precipitation than are the Rockies. For this reason the alpine meadow associations of the Selkirks extend almost to the snow-line and, for the same reason, a number of the high alpine plants which, in the Rockies, are characteristic of the bare peaks above the grassy slopes, are not met with at all in the Selkirks.

The Selkirk forest differs from that of the Rocky Mountains with regard to composition as far as the trees are concerned, the principal species being *Thuja plicata*, *Pseudotsuga mucronata*, *Tsuga heterophylla*, *T. Mertensiana* and *Picea Engelmanni*. The undergrowth is, on the mountains proper, very similar to that of the Rocky Mountains, and although much more luxuriant is not represented by many species.

In the lower valleys, however, and on lower levels, where the forest is more open in character, the shrubby as well as the herbaceous undergrowth is very different. Not only is it luxuriantly developed, but the species of which it is composed are of a different type. The Rocky Mountain flora is disappearing, its place being taken to such an extent by Pacific coast species that the traveller, or the casual observer, will find it rather difficult to detect any marked differences between the flora of the Selkirk valleys and that of the coniferous forest of the Pacific coast.

The Coast Range.—Biologically, the mountains of the Coast range are very similar to those of the Selkirk range. This is to a certain extent also true from a systematic standpoint, as practically all species found in the Selkirks also occur in the Coast range.

The Coast range, however, although having the bulk of plant species in common with the Selkirks, may be considered a distinct botanical province. The reasons for this are that many species occur which are confined to the coast proper. The Coast range is the home of a number of what may be considered truly endemic plants, which, as far as is known at present, are very local in their distribution and are found nowhere else in British Columbia. Among those plants may be mentioned especially numerous species of *Antennaria*, *Arnica*, *Senecio*, *Aster*, *Erigeron* and other composites.

Owing to the long growing season, the high average temperature and the abundance of the precipitation, the vegetation in the valleys and the lowlands of the Coast range is almost subtropical in appearance. The trees, especially *Thuja*, *Picea* and *Pseudotsuga*, reach gigantic dimensions, and the forest, no matter how dense, always possesses a very luxuriant undergrowth. In old untouched forests, fallen trunks, shrubs and herbs form an almost impenetrable tangle. This is especially true where Salal (*Gaultheria Shallon*) or Devil's Club (*Fatsia horrida*) are luxuriantly developed.

Of trees characteristic of the valleys and the lowlands may be mentioned: *Picea sitchensis*, *Alnus oregona*, *Acer macrophyllum*, *A. circinnatum*, *Rhamnus Purshiana*, and of shrubs: *Salix lusianandra*, *S. sitchensis*, *S. Scouleriana*, *S. Hookeriana*, *Berberis Aquifolium*, *Ribes Lobbii*, *R. bracteosum*, *R. sanguineum*, *Rubus spectabilis*, *R. parviflorus*, *Rosa* species,