

In the case of corn and potatoes, however, this method is being followed with most gratifying success.

This article is designed to correlate the practical and the scientific side of plant improvement. Once the creation and development of forms of plant life become associated with recognized laws and principles, the prosaic element quickly disappears and we regard these things in an entirely new light. Then it is that real progress is possible. The associating of natural law with the every-day industry of crop raising is the primary aim of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association.

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## FIELD NOTES OF CANADIAN BOTANY. I.

BY EDWARD L. GREENE.

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Twenty years ago I had botanized a little in the beautiful woodland wilderness that then lay within an hour's walk of Victoria, Vancouver Island; also at several points on the British Columbian mainland, and even on the prairies of Manitoba. Never, however, until this season of 1909, had I done any field work in any part of the Dominion lying eastward of the Great Lakes.

Such readers of the OTTAWA NATURALIST as may have noted my rather numerous botanical papers published herein during at least a dozen years past, and may have observed that these contributions were all made upon specimens communicated to me by mail, supplemented by the field notes of those who had sent them—such readers will easily imagine that I would be likely to enter upon field studies of Ontario vegetation myself with keenest interest, not to say with some enthusiasm.

It was a little before the middle of June that from Port Huron, Michigan, I crossed into Ontario. Certain critical observations on the surpassingly rich flora of the Port Huron district—where my herborizings were greatly helped and furthered by Mr. Charles K. Dodge, the resident botanist—had induced me to make my first halt within Ontario at a distance of only some fifty miles to the eastward of Port Huron and Sarnia. At Sarnia, just on the Canadian border, Mr. Dodge had done much field work, and, as he informed me, he had once had the happiness of conducting to its richest botanical garden spots, the veteran Professor John Macoun. I sought, as I always prefer to do, newer ground, and had fixed upon Strathroy in Middlesex as a first stopping place; this without having taken counsel of any one except the maker of my pocket map of Ontario, and partly because I had never heard that any one had botanized there.