

CIRCULAR TO BOTANISTS.

To all interested in Botany in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia:

During the recent meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, in Montreal, the Botanical Club of Canada was formed, the object of which is to stimulate plant study; to encourage observers to keep accurate records of what plants are found in certain localities; whether they are rare or common; time of flowering; noting points of difference in plants from the descriptions of them in manuals, what plants are certainly perennial, etc.

Clergymen, teachers, college and high school students, and others who have a taste for natural science should enrol themselves as members of this Club and aid in every way to carry out its objects. If in ten years the plants of every district in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia shall have been examined and records made, it will be a great advance to our knowledge of the botany of these Provinces.

To do this needs only a body of earnest and active workers possessed of intelligence and patience. Those in a county or parish who have some knowledge of plants should begin collecting and examining plants at once and encourage others to begin. Those having little or no knowledge of botany may begin collecting, preserve specimens of what they collect according to the directions given below, and at the end of the season forward them to Secretaries for each county, whose names will be published hereafter. It is suggested that those who have some experience in plant study give special attention to some particular group of plants in their locality (trees, climbing plants, water plants, sea-shore plants, ferns, mosses, lichens, or others).

Any one may become a member of the Club by the payment of twenty-five cents annually, and may retain membership by collecting and preserving at least forty plants each season until the total reaches 50 per cent. of the recorded plants of the Province, or 75 per cent. of those of the particular group selected.

DIRECTIONS FOR PRESERVING PLANTS.

To collect plants one should have a note-book and a tin box (that in the form of a cylinder is the most convenient), eighteen inches long and six inches deep, with a strap fastened to each end, for carrying over the shoulder. To examine and identify plants a pocket magnifying glass is needed (one costing from twenty-five to fifty cents is sufficient), and a Gray's Manual and Lessons, which costs about two dollars. Be sure to get the revised edition of 1890. A trowel for digging up plants, a sharp pocket knife, a needle fitted in a wooden handle for separating the

parts of plants are necessary. To dry plants a press and abundance of paper to absorb moisture are required. For the former, two smooth boards that will not warp, 20x14 inches, with a flat stone or other weight of twenty-five or thirty pounds will serve all purposes. Old newspapers, uncut, and folded in quarto form will do for dryers. That completes the outfit.

Now for an excursion: Collect at least five plants of each species — three to preserve and two to study and identify if possible. Collect only good specimens, and be sure you have root, stem, leaves and flowers. If a tree, a part of the branch with leaves and flowers should be secured. If the plant is over fifteen or sixteen inches long, bend it before putting in the tin box or press so that one length shall be about fifteen inches. (Fruiting specimens of each plant should be secured later in the season). Returning from the excursion study the plants with a view of finding out their names. (It is a good plan to do this on the ground with the manual if there is leisure). Then put the plants in press. On one of the boards place two newspapers (eight thicknesses). On this place a plant, or several if the size will permit, arranging as naturally as possible, and showing both under and upper surfaces of leaves and flowers. Cover with a newspaper (four thicknesses, or eight if the plant is thick and juicy).

Put a label (in the form given below) with each species and proceed thus until all the day's collection is enclosed. Then place on top the second board with the weight and put it in a spot where it will receive plenty of sun and air. Change the drying papers every twelve hours for a day or two, every twenty-four hours for a few following days, and every forty-eight hours after, until the plants are completely dried, which process will take from ten to twelve days. (The process of drying may be hastened by placing the plant between several thicknesses of paper and applying for some time a hot iron, but this plan is not to be recommended).

RECORDING OBSERVATIONS AND DETAILS.

A label filled out in the following form should be placed with each layer of plants in the press:

Botanical name.....
Ecol name.....
Habitat.....
Locality.....
Date of collecting.....
Abundant or rare.....
Remarks.....
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