

reached by a series of slopes and "benches," the level land at the bottom never reaching a mile in width and seldom half a mile. It is on these slopes with a southern aspect that plants characteristic of an arid climate are found, chief among them a cactus, (*Opuntia Missouriensis?*) which is quite common. The grasses are those of the driest parts of the southern prairie region,

The prairie on the plateau above would delight the eye of those who admire large masses of one color, for abundant as individual flowers are the number of species is strangely small. Hundreds of acres will be seen on which a single species predominates to such a degree that it colors the whole landscape. To the writer this seems conclusive proof of two things, the first being the comparatively recent origin of these prairies, and the second, that only a small number of the prairie plants of the south can withstand the climate of the Peace River region. The most natural explanation of the occurrence of these prairie species there is that many of the seeds were brought from the south, attached to the buffalo which formerly were very abundant, and the forest having been destroyed by repeated fires the conditions were more suitable to prairie species than those of the forest. Those which first made themselves at home soon spread and occupied large areas, making it more difficult from year to year for new species to establish themselves. On the other hand, the seeds of many species must have been brought there, which if they germinated at all, were unsuited to the climate and soon disappeared. But whatever hypothesis be adopted to account for the prairie in the first place, or the introduction of suitable plants later on, the paucity of species is very evident. *Castilleia miniata* is perhaps the most conspicuous and the most abundant, and not being relished by cattle seriously interferes with the cutting of hay on the open prairie. Several species of leguminous plants are also common, the best of these for forage purposes being *Lathyrus ochroleucus*, *Vicia Americana* and *Hedysarum boreale*. The latter is among the most beautiful plants growing on the prairie, and to see masses covering many acres is a sight not soon forgotten by anyone. Though not usually a conspicuous plant, *Astragalus hypoglottis*, is on the Peace River prairies one of the most valuable forage plants, and it is not uncommon to see the ground covered with this species