

district. Wherever water occurs or can be applied, crops of all kinds flourish with the greatest luxuriance. Grain cutting had just begun and enormous crops of wheat, barley and oats were being reaped. Vegetables of excellent quality were seen near Enderby, Armstrong and Vernon. At Enderby I had the good fortune to meet Mr. R. M. Palmer, inspector of fruit pests for British Columbia, and Mr. T. G. Earl, of Lytton, a member of the Provincial Board of Horticulture. These gentlemen were on a tour of inspection and allowed me to accompany them. They furnished me with a great deal of useful information, particularly with regard to the farms and localities which it would repay me best to visit. Being well acquainted with the district, they were also of great use to me in many other ways. About noon we reached the terminus on Okanagan Lake and took the steamer for Penticton. An opportunity was afforded for visiting the Salvation Army mission on the west side of the lake by the steamer stopping for half an hour to take wood. At Kelowna, Messrs. Palmer and Earl left me and I went on to Penticton, which place was reached about 6 p.m. Here I was met by Mr. C. DeBlois Green, a surveyor and enthusiastic naturalist, and later in the evening we rode out 15 miles to his camp at Okanagan Falls on Dog Lake. The next two days were spent in collecting plants and insects. The country around Penticton is a bunch grass country, and, although hot and dry, the soil is excellent and, where water is available, magnificent crops of the best quality can be raised. Quite close to Penticton, in the garden of Mr. T. Ellis, plums, apples and cherries of the finest quality were seen, and a heavy crop of hay was being carried as we passed. The bunch grass of the district, which covers all the rolling hills and runs high up on to the mountain sides, is the Western Rye grass (*Agropyrum tenerum*), a most nutritious and valuable species. In some low spots we saw slight traces of alkali and there were remarkable tufts of the coarse grass, *Elymus condensatus*, forming a jungle of bunches of stiff leafy stems two and three feet through by ten to twelve feet high. Among these occurred patches of the Western Bull thistle (*Oniscus undulatus*), the flowers of which attracted numerous specimens of the handsome butterflies *Argynnis Leto*, *Papilio Oregonia*, and *P. Dumnus*. The sides of the hills all through the district are curiously lined and marked with horizontal benches about a foot apart made by cattle grazing there. Among the wild plants of interest were a small cactus with very sharp barbed spines *Opuntia fragilis*, and a large composite *Balsamorhiza Sagittata*, called like almost every other yellow-flowered plant in West, "Wild Sunflower." Upon the dead, dry leaves of this plant the ponies feed ravenously seeming indeed to prefer it to grass, even when the leaves are so dry as to rattle with a metallic cling when kicked or touched in passing. Around Okanagan Falls both of these plants were plentiful and also, as was to be seen by the dried up flowers, called *Spaethum* by the Indians and used as an article of food, *Lewisia rediviva*, a beautiful and interesting plant allied to the Portulaca of our gardens. On the hill sides were many members of the Vetch family, and the slopes of the mountains were made picturesque by grand specimens of the Bull Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Along Dog Lake a remarkable sight presented itself of these trees being surrounded with myriads of specimens of a beautiful white butterfly vined with black, *Neophasia Menapia*, the caterpillar of which in the interior of British Columbia and in the States immediately to the South, feeds on the foliage of *Pinus ponderosa*, but, as I observed later, on Vancouver Island, is equally abundant and much more injurious apparently, to the Douglas Fir, *Pseudotsuga Douglasii*.

All through this district, game is most abundant; Big-horn, Rocky Mountain goats and deer are frequently obtained by hunters; grouse, wild ducks and other water fowl abound. A remarkable fact was brought to my notice by Mr. Green and vouched for by many others, that in this valley wild geese frequently lay their eggs in the nests of the osprey which are perched high up on the tops of trees. To account for this exceptional location, the suggestion has been made that it is to avoid the rattle snakes, which are common throughout the valley.

On the 23rd, I visited, with Mr. Green, a farm two or three miles to the south and saw excellent crops of peas, oats and hay.