

Now, looking more closely, we find that the earlier bloomers of 1902 in April and the first part of May were on the average four days ahead of their sisters (or perhaps I should rather say children) of 1903; indeed, that is also the average of all the earlier bloomers of 1902. But the earlier flowers of 1903, while surpassing those of the same species in 1902 by only this same number of days in the earlier part of the season, yet in the latter part, *i.e.*, after the 10th of May, blossomed on the average between eight and nine days earlier than their representatives of 1902. This means that the season of 1903, which began and continued for a time four days behind that of 1902, rapidly gained twelve days on that season in the middle part of May, and held this position well on into the month of June at least. For I find that the average lead of eight days is pretty constant throughout the four periods from the 10th of May to the 20th of June, being seven, ten, nine and eight days respectively.

To anticipate the objection that these observations, while all of the vicinity of Ottawa, were not always of exactly the same locality for the same species, I selected those of the observations to which this objection could not be taken, and found that the result was substantially the same. The average for the period named is eight days, and for the different parts of that period seven, nine, eight and eight respectively. This indicates that, for example, when a given plant is blooming in Beechwood, it is likely to be blooming in Billings Bridge too; and when you find a certain species in bloom in Beechwood swamp, you may confidently look for it in bloom in Dow's or in the Britannia swamp, if it is to be found there at all. While this may be taken as the rule, there will doubtless be found localities where the conditions of soil or location are distinctly peculiar. Chelsea, for example, is situated on a southern mountain slope some two hundred feet above Ottawa; the spring plants will be earlier there. Blueberry Point, on account of a certain peculiarity of soil and flora, is also possibly an exceptional spot. It is safer to compare such places only with themselves in one's phenological comparisons. When possible, I have always used preferably observations from the same locality, and, in the case of trees, from the same tree.

Sports, also, must be excepted from such comparisons. Of