

years. This territory has for its eastern boundary the Laurentian highlands, which extend north of the River St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, from Labrador to the Lake of the Woods, and for its western the Rocky Mountains. It presents three well marked levels or prairie steppes, and may be said to slope gradually eastward. The first level includes the valley of the Red River and region about the Lake of the Woods, and is limited to the west by the more or less abrupt edge of the second prairie level, which forms an escarpment known as Pembina Mountain. Of the Lake of the Woods region, but a small proportion is suitable for agricultural purposes. The northern and eastern shores are almost entirely composed of barren rock. Only here and there, as on Garden Island and at the north-west angle, is there a small area capable of cultivation. Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) of fair growth occurs in some localities, but swamp elm (*Ulmus Americana*), poplar (*Populus tremuloides*), cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), spruce (*Abies nigra* and *balsamea*), and birch (*Betula papyracea*), are the most prominent trees. The greater part of the southern and western margins of the lake are equally useless, and are of a forbidding aspect; the immediate border being here formed of a low ridge of sand, barely held together by the roots of various grasses, behind which is generally a stretch of grassy swamp and lagoon, varying from a mile to two miles in width, and bordered by a forest of tamarack (*Larix Americana*) occupying a soil but little less swampy. The flora of this district resembles that of the Laurentian region north of the St. Lawrence river, and differs completely from that of the prairie country to the west. Of the district covered by the notes it is par excellence, the home of water and moisture-loving plants. The ferns found were also almost entirely confined to this district. West of the Lake of the Woods is an extensive and very generally swampy region which extends in a breadth of from 50 to 75 miles to the eastern edge of the alluvial prairie of the Red River, the flora being much the same as that in the immediate vicinity of the lake. On the Red River Prairie proper is first found a mingling of the plants of the plain with eastern and northern woodland ones. True western plants are still in the minority, while some eastern weeds are seen, fore-runners of an advancing civilization. The soil is uncommonly fertile, being a dark, rich mould, for a depth of from two to four feet, small swamps being scattered uniformly over its surface, but generally so situated as to be easily