

It is not intended to give a description of the orography of the province, though as above indicated this is closely connected with the extension of the various species of plants. The following general statement made by me in a note on agriculture and stock raising and extent of cultivable land in the province,* may, with little alteration, be repeated here, as outlining the conditions to be found within its area:—The flora of British Columbia as a whole may be broadly divided into four great groups, indicating as many varieties of climate, which may be named as follows:—the *West Coast*, the *Western Interior*, the *Canadian*, and the *Arctic*. The first, with an equable climate and heavy rainfall, is characterized by a correspondent luxuriance of vegetation, and especially of forest growth. This region is that west of the Coast Range, and is well marked by the peculiarity of its plants. In a few spots only—and these depending on the dryness of several of the summer months owing to local circumstances—does a scanty representation of the drought-loving flora of the Californian coast occur. The second is that of the southern part of the interior table-land of the province, and presents as its most striking feature a tendency to resemble in its flora the interior basin of Utah and Nevada to the south and the drier plains east of the Rocky Mountains. It may be said to extend northward to about the 51st parallel, while isolated patches of a somewhat similar flora occur on warm hill-sides and the northern banks of rivers to beyond the Blackwater. In the northern part of the interior of the province, just such an assemblage of plants is found as may be seen in many parts of eastern Canada, though mingled with unfamiliar stragglers. This flora appears to run completely across the continent north of the great plains, and characterizes a region with moderately abundant rainfall, summers not excessively warm, and cold winters. The arctic or alpine flora is that of the higher summits of the Coast, Selkirk, Rocky and other mountain ranges, where snow lies late in the summer. Here plants lurk which deploy on the low grounds only on the shores of Hudson Bay, the Icy Sea and Behring's Strait.

In the following notes the Coniferæ are placed first as having the greatest importance both from an economic point of view, and from the vast extent of country which they cover almost to the exclusion of other trees.

* Report Can. Pacific Railway, 1877. Appendix S.