

On the top of this layer of plants place another sheet or two sheets of felt paper, and repeat the display of specimens and alternate layers of paper and specimens until the bundle reaches about 6 inches in height.

The last layer of plants should be covered with other two or three sheets of paper and the other wire frame laid on the top, with the thin-wire side towards the paper and the thick cross-wires uppermost.

The whole bundle is then tied by means of a soft rope as shown in the illustration. The rope is shown loose to make the illustration more clear, but in tying it should be pulled as tight as possible until the bundle is reduced to about half its original bulk.

If the specimens have been carefully arranged, the bundle may be hung up and exposed to sun and air, or placed by a stove or hot-water radiator to dry. Sun-dried specimens are most successful. (Fig. 6.)



Fig. 6. Camp at Garibaldi. (Note plant-presser drying in the sun.)

As the plants lose moisture the ropes will require to be tightened; before doing this it is advisable to undo them and look over the specimens to see that all the parts are properly displayed; leaves are liable to accidentally overlap or double up. It may occasionally be necessary to remove damp sheets and replace by dry ones. As a rule, however, this is unnecessary, so that the work of plant-pressing is reduced to a minimum, and the monotony of repeatedly changing the papers is practically dispensed with.

Under ordinary conditions drying will be completed in from one to three days, according to the nature and number of specimens in the bundle. They should not, however, be removed from the presser until quite dry (this is usually ascertained by their becoming more or less brittle), otherwise beautiful specimens may shrivel and become useless. Every specimen in the press should be accompanied by its label bearing the necessary data or number.

It is often necessary to adopt special means to make specimens appear natural when pressed. For example, when the plant has a large number of leaves around the stem, some of those may be removed from the side which lies next to the paper. A thick stem may have the back portion removed; the specimen may be more firmly glued to the sheet if this is done. A tuber or thick root can be similarly treated and part of the fleshy tissue taken out.