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AN OTTAWA NATURALIST'S JOURNEY WEST- WARD.

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Having recently taken a journey across the great plains of the far west and through the Rocky Mountains, it has occurred to me that a short account of certain animals and plants which were observed along the line from the car windows or at the railway stations would be of interest to the readers of the OTTAWA NATURALIST. The journey was rendered the more pleasant by the presence on the train of Prof. D. Thompson, of Dundee, Scotland, Mr. James Macoun and Mr. McEvoy, of the Geological Survey, Ottawa. Mr. McEvoy got off at Kamloops, leaving Prof. Thompson, Mr. Macoun and myself to continue the journey by rail to New Westminster, and thence by boat to Victoria.

To the student of nature a journey by rail across the prairie is full of interest. Such, it is true, does not afford an opportunity for close observation of the numerous faunal and floral forms existent on every hand, but as the train moves on there is much to attract the attention from the car windows and at the stopping places along the line.

Before reaching the great plains there are districts where the train pursues its way for long distances without stopping, the country being almost entirely unsettled. There are conifers, but otherwise the vegetation is low and scrubby. At Otter, specimens of the Yellow Swallow Butterfly (*Papilio turnus*) were seen. At White River, a small frog, presumably *Rana halecena*, was found. At Cache Lake, we saw an encampment of Indians—men, women, and children—with wigwams and birch-bark canoes. At Jack Fish Bay, where the train makes a tremendous sweep in shape like the letter U, I observed some Herring Gulls