

In the East one finds that in the above class of collectors many become enthusiastic botanists, becoming so interested in the plants of one family that they desire to have all the native species of that family represented in their collection. This will, no doubt, result in a considerable amount of exchange between collectors on the Coast and collectors in the Interior; both benefiting by the increased knowledge of the floral resources of the Province.

The Botanical Office will be glad to put correspondents into touch with each other for purposes of exchange.

(d.) *School-teachers* who have the interest of their profession at heart, particularly those having to teach botany and nature-study, and who are really enthusiastic in this work, will find many uses for a school herbarium.

It is equally necessary in the formation of a school herbarium to have some definite aim, or aims, in view. Its scope should be decided by the principal and teachers of each school, and the following may help in coming to a decision regarding the aim of the school herbarium:—

- (1.) Whether merely to represent the wild flowers in the district around the school:
- (2.) Whether it is intended to take up particular families of native plants, and obtain all the species of that family which are found in the Province:
- (3.) Whether it is intended to teach certain subjects of particular interest, and illustrate these by native specimens from any part of the Province:
- (4.) Whether it is intended the school herbarium should be sufficiently comprehensive to include the above three plans.

It is very desirable, in the formation of the herbarium, that teachers should co-operate with the principal, and also that the children in various classes should co-operate with the teachers, so that all may have a share in making the school collection as perfect as possible, gradually replacing the poorer specimens by better ones when they are available.

(2.) WHEN TO COLLECT.

Collecting should as far as possible be done during dry weather. Plants have then less moisture in their tissues, and are more disposed to give off even the little they contain.

Specimens collected during wet or dull weather—having their cells more or less gorged with moisture—take much longer to dry, and result in less successful preparations.

During expeditions it is often necessary to botanize in all kinds of weather, and specimens collected in wet weather should be spread out so as to get rid of as much of the superfluous moisture as possible. If wet when put into the presser they are liable to blacken through decay of cell contents, and are afterwards more liable to be attacked by mould, etc.

(3.) WHAT TO COLLECT.

It is desirable to collect as perfect specimens as possible of every plant intended to be pressed; root, stem, leaves, flowers, and fruits should as far as possible be shown, and when these have to be obtained at different seasons it is imperative that the greatest care should be taken to ensure that the fruits and flowers of the same plant—or at least of the same species—be placed on one sheet. Carelessness in this direction may lead to the collection being worse than useless.

Along with each specimen a certain amount of data should be collected. Specimens without data are of no value to a botanist. The locality, date, and name of collector should always be given.