

Canada is perhaps as great as that in the United States. It is, therefore, evident that the forests are less diversified in the north than in the south. This is in accordance with the general law of the greater richness of the flora of warm countries; but it may be due also in part to the fact that in the north we have greater uniformity of physical and climatic conditions over wide areas than in the south. For example, we have a similarity in these conditions from Newfoundland to Alaska, and hence throughout the great distance of 4,000 miles we find the same group of trees. Again in the great triangular area of the Northwest, between the United States boundary, the Rocky Mountains, and the Laurentian region, embracing over 600,000 square miles, very little difference could be observed in the climate, the soil, or the general level of the country, and hence the same group of trees—only about half a dozen in all—is found throughout this immense tract. In striking contrast with this is the fact that on the same farm lot in the south-western part of the Province of Ontario one may often count as many as fifty different kinds of trees. The richness in variety of the native trees of Ontario and the adjacent States is owing to the fertile soil and the favourable conditions as to summer temperature, constant moisture, and the absence of intense cold in the winter.

The writer exhibited a map showing the northern and western limits of the principal forest trees of the Dominion east of the Rocky Mountains. From this it appears that the range of species is not according to the mean annual temperature or precipitation, but rather to the absence of extremes of heat and cold, and of great dryness. For these reasons a number of the trees of the Province of Quebec and northern Ontario do not range west into Manitoba, although the annual means of temperature and precipitation are nearly the same in both. This map also shows in a striking manner that the northern limits of our various forest trees are by no means parallel to one another, although locally some groups may be nearly so for a certain distance. Some of them pursue extraordinary or eccentric courses, which are difficult to account for. The most