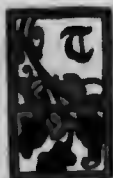


## Instructions on the Collection and Preservation of Plants for Private or School Herbaria.

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THE present leaflet is issued in response to numerous requests from correspondents in all parts of British Columbia for information as to how plants should be prepared to illustrate the flora of their district. These requests have been received from private individuals, from surveyors, and more recently from teachers, several of whom have begun to make collections for themselves or for the schools to which they are attached. In order to save continual repetition, it is considered that an illustrated leaflet covering the principal points of the desired information will serve the purpose better, and may also serve to stimulate others to take up this fascinating work.

### (1.) AIMS IN MAKING A COLLECTION.

Before making a collection it is advisable to have some definite aim in view, so that all the specimens when prepared will illustrate the particular purpose for which the collection is made. No encouragement is given to those who have developed a mania for collecting simply for the love of accumulating specimens. Such mixed collections are of little value; with no definite object in view, the data accompanying the specimens is usually meagre and incomplete.

In order to help beginners to decide on some suitable subject to illustrate by means of a collection, I submit a few examples which will cover most of the cases which are from time to time submitted to the Botanica! Office for assistance.

(a.) *Ranchers* may find it of interest and value to have a named collection of all the wild plants found on their ranch before the ground was cultivated; others will find it useful to have named specimens of the various weeds found in their vicinity, so that they may become familiar with the well-known, as well as the rarer, pests which have to be contended with in their agricultural operations.

During a rancher's lifetime he is liable to see the appearance and disappearance of certain plants in the vicinity of his farm. Some of these casual specimens have been introduced, and it would be of interest to have such specimens from ranchers with suggestions as to their probable origin; sometimes strange plants are introduced in moss-litter, imported hay, and other farm supplies. We therefore solicit the co-operation of ranchers so that we may learn of all casually introduced plants.

(b.) *Surveyors* have abundant opportunities to form interesting and valuable collections from districts they have traversed. During his travels a surveyor comes across many interesting specimens; sometimes he is familiar with specimens which may be very rare, or even new to science; yet, with the exception of a comparatively small number of British Columbia land surveyors, most of them are content to pass by those specimens unheeded.

(c.) There are many *private individuals* situated in various parts of the Province who have taken up the formation of private herbaria as a hobby, and who have found their rambles in the woods, on the mountains, or along the sea-shore in search of specimens a source of health-giving recreation after six days' confinement in the office or store. As a rule, such individuals make collections of native plants, and do their best to ascertain the native flora of certain districts within easy access of their residence.