

Lake Superior, but we are now fairly familiar with it in the country around that lake and eastward of it to the Atlantic Ocean. The eastern provinces are within the region of the tree forests, whilst a very large part of Manitoba and an immense section of the territory between that province and the Rocky Mountains is more or less open prairie. The vast country commencing with Labrador and thence skirting Lake St. John, Hudson Bay and the north shores of Lake Nipigon, onwards to the Saskatchewan and Peace River northward, forms the zone of the balsam, poplar, white birch, aspen and tamarac. South of this in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario are the zones of the pines and the beech—the beech being chiefly limited to the region south of a line drawn from the outlet of Lake Superior to Quebec. In that part of the peninsula of Ontario lying west of the Niagara River is an outlier of another zone, represented there by the walnut, buttonwood, tulip tree, sassafras and the chestnut, and by an increasing abundance of white, red and other oaks.

There are various causes influencing the range of vegetation in the Dominion, but in Ontario and Quebec the northern limits of trees are largely circumscribed by the physical condition of the country as well as by the climate. The height of land or watershed from which the rivers flow on the one side to Hudson Bay, and on the other to the great lakes and the St. Lawrence, has a very tortuous course, and beyond it very few species of trees range northward. The country on either side of this watershed for some distance is more or less mountainous. To the northward of Lake St. John the whole country is very broken, whilst extensive cold swamps are everywhere interspersed through the Albany River section. Both the red and white pine appear to follow somewhat closely the watershed in their northern limits of range.

To the most casual observer the absence of trees and of mosses is a striking feature of the prairies of Manitoba and westward. That the frequent fires which devastate the prairies have much to do with the scarcity of trees is beyond question. This very scarcity, however, gives rise to a more than ordinary rapid evaporation of moisture from the soil and thus deprives the mosses of that con-