



Photo by W. C. McCalla  
Bur Oak near East Kildonan, Manitoba, July 30, 1923

## First Record of Common Mullein for Saskatchewan

by John H. Hudson, Saskatoon

The common Mullein, *Verbascum thapsus* L., has now made an appearance in Saskatchewan. This plant, naturalized from Europe, is an abundant weed especially in rocky and gravelly places in both eastern and western coastal provinces of Canada. It has been approaching our province from both east and west.

H. J. Scoggan in **Flora of Manitoba**, 1957, reports that it occurs in a few places in or near Winnipeg. The first known collection in Manitoba was from Winnipeg in 1935. E. H. Moss in his **Flora of Alberta**, 1959, reports that it is occasional in southern Alberta.

In early October, 1961, Bill Richards, a member of the Saskatoon Natural History Society, brought me

a dead flowering stem and a live first-year rosette of *Verbascum thapsus* L. This is the first Saskatchewan record of this plant so far as I know. Bill found this densely woolly plant with the tall flowering stem in an old coal dump at the yards of the Canadian National Railways where he works. A large railway yard is often a good place to find stray plants and there is no doubt that trains effectively help some plants in their migrations. It would be interesting to know if there are other locations where the Common Mullein is growing in Saskatchewan. If you find it in your area please send a specimen to the botanist, University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, Regina.