

CATALOGUE OF THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF CENTRAL EASTERN SASKATCHEWAN

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To the Saskatchewan Botanist the most interesting edition of the "Canadian Field-Naturalist" to appear in recent years is the 1947 May-June Edition. Almost the entire volume is devoted to a catalogue of the vascular plants of Central Eastern Saskatchewan, collected and classified by Mr. August J. Breitung, now Assistant Botanist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

This list, is the result of many years of keen interest and hard work on the part of the author, whose early life was profitably spent in the heart of the area he loves so much and knows so well.

August Breitung was different from other boys in his community. On days off, when they were playing ball, or fishing, or dancing, or congregating around the village pool room, he was wandering in the forests, along the streams and across the rich meadows looking for flowers--happy in the anticipation of finding something new.

Many a time have I seen him with his bicycle and plant press striking out along the roads which lead from Mackegau. Sylvania, Tisdale, Codette, Nipawin, Eldersley, Hudson Bay Junction, Rose Valley and all the country between was his happy hunting ground.

What a wonderful area for a Botanist; the envy of those who struggle to learn the plants of the West and have only the open prairie and a few coulees and valleys in which to find them. Here various and distinctive habitats are a feature of the country. The rich forests of white spruce along the Carrot, the Red Deer and the Saskatchewan rivers; the sphagnum bogs with their black spruce, tamarack and characteristic flora; the jack pine forests of the sand ridges; large areas of lovely deciduous forests; the Porcupine Mountains and Pasquia Hills, which rise to a height of 2,500 feet; bluffy lands of semi-open prairie as well as true prairie; wheat lands which stretch for miles and miles, and scattered throughout numerous green meadows, streams, marshlands and lakes.

Of these 16,000 square miles which comprise the area under survey, grow a great majority of the wild plants of this Province--and Mr. Breitung has found the most of them.

In the early days, hundreds of specimens were sent to Ottawa and to the Herbarium at the University of Saskatchewan for checking and determination. It was not long before the University recognized the splendid work he was doing and gratefully acknowledged assistance given by him in the preparation of their list of our wild flowers. Great credit is due to a man who practically alone and unassisted, without any special academic or University training, with only the love of nature to urge him on and a dogged determination to win, has made a success. August Breitung is going places. The "Blue Jay" adds its congratulations.

Lloyd T. Carmichael.

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An added attraction in the Provincial Museum, this year, is the weekly display of living wild flowers. Each Saturday these were collected and transplanted to large low flower pots, by Mr. L. T. Carmichael. Many remain in perfect condition for the entire week. Next white cards indicated the names, habitat, etc. The first collection was shown May 4, and during the next twelve weeks over one hundred and fifty flowers have been brought in. The Museum car had been made available each week end. Many pleasing comments were made concerning this splendid service, so willingly given by Mr. Carmichael.

FRED G. BARD