TREES, SHRUBS, VINES AND FLOWERS

BY W. H. McFETRIDGE

For many years the Devil’s Lake region has been visited and its flora studied by botanists from all parts of the country. To many it has become a veritable Mecca. In its variety of ferns alone it is known to be unsurpassed. Flowers practically extinct or unknown elsewhere in this latitude grow here.

A new and wide interest is becoming manifest among the people for the wonders and loveliness of plant life. In the middle West the interest quite naturally is not as great as in the older East. In some of the Eastern states it is not unusual to find parks, lawns, dooryards, and drives set out to native growths of many kinds, and few people realize the great extent to which nurserymen are propagating and advertising them.

For many decades Europeans have exported some of our common native trees, which are now greatly esteemed by them.

It is significant that the State Horticultural Society devoted practically all of the time of its last meeting to the discussion of the subject of the native flora.

Few people have any adequate conception of the surprising adaptability of our native growths to landscape gardening and even to our smallest dooryards.

So very little has been done in this direction, and that little generally inadequately. Yet who has not known of certain accidental groupings of trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers which surpassed in the ensemble of mass, composition, brilliancy, and depth of color and delicacy of effect anything of a similar nature he has ever beheld. There are many such in this region.
THE DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK

The time is come when the great but little appreciated loveliness of these glorious, unassisted natural growths is recognized as surpassing most of our futile, weakly, artificial attempts with cultivated and unadapted plants.

It is true that beautiful and even grand effects are occasionally obtained by wholly artificial means, but never without great labor and expense.

We should preserve the best of what nature gives us, even though at present we are unable to comprehend its incomparable loveliness.

Consider what will yet,—what can even now be accomplished if we only assist nature and carry out her plans by even less effort than we now expend in thwarting them.

Want of space forbids a list of even the species of the flora of the region. But they are here—thousands of them. Under the heading "Flora" are the names of a few of them.

Spend a few weeks in the region and you will become conscious of the mute appeal for protection of the myriads of the growing things.
THIS IS BUT A SLIGHT PORTRAYAL OF THE MARVELOUS PROFUSION OF THE EXQUISITE WILD GROWTHS