

Dodge preferred to travel by bicycle on his botanical excursions. In 1896, Dodge wrote an article for the Asa Gray Bulletin entitled, *The Bicycle and Botany*.

The Bicycle and Botany.

CHARLES K. DODGE.

At present my efforts are all exerted to find out what grows in my county of St. Clair, Michigan, and Lambton Co., Ontario, the county in Canada just across the St. Clair river.

These counties extend up and down the river and on the Lake Huron shore about 40 miles, and back from the river at least 20 miles each. This makes a territory 40 by 40 miles, or a tract of 1,600 square miles. At the same time I am preparing specimens for exchange and increasing my herbarium. In 1895 without aid from others I collected and dried over 6,000 specimens. Of these I sent over 3,800 to the University of Minnesota for exchange, and now have a credit there of over 2,900, as Prof. Edmond P. Sheldon has just reported to me. This was accomplished mostly with the aid of the bicycle in economizing time. I am quite sure I could not have done so well with a horse and carriage. Any point within 12 or 15 miles of Port Huron, Mich., or Sarnia, Ontario, could be easily reached. When the place to be visited was at a greater distance, I would take a boat or railway train, carrying my wheel along. I use both vasculum and portfolio and

find no difficulty in carrying both of them at the same time on my bicycle. The vasculum I generally use is 6 by 9 by 18 inches, much larger than the standard size. Rather than a smaller, I would prefer one of twice the capacity given. I use the portfolio for rare species and all plants that are liable to crumple and wither too much in a vasculum. It does not seem to me necessary to enter much into detail. Every one will be ingenious enough to devise means to carry these implements. No doubt it is better not to have the handle bar of the bicycle very crooked, and it should be raised high enough to enable one to sit upright. I slip the strap handle of the vasculum over the end of the handle bar, hold it there, and have no difficulty in carrying it that way on a journey of 12 or 15 miles out of town and full of plants on my return. The portfolio is always strapped on in front of the handle bar. Unless the strap handle of the vasculum is too slack, the box will be raised high enough to avoid coming in contact with the knee in riding.

The great advantage I found in the use of the bicycle in botanizing is in saving time, both in the start and on the road; while after a tramp of from three to eight or more hours in searching for plants, it is only a rest and pleasure to mount the wheel to ride home. Without the wheel I could do very little in exploring these two counties.

Port Huron, Mich.

The Bicycle and Botany

Charles K. Dodge

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