

THE TOLEDO CEDAR POINT.

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Several projections of land in Ohio are known locally as Cedar Point. The one here briefly described is in Lucas County on the south shore of Lake Erie and just east of the entrance to Maumee Bay. It is some ten miles from Toledo. Here a large tract of low and swampy land is known as Cedar Point. From the accompanying map based on the United States topographical map of the area an idea of the location and character of this region may be obtained.

It may be seen that there is a large tract of swampy land extending back from Lake Erie as much as two miles in places. A considerable part of this swamp lying to the south and east of, C, has been reclaimed. Dikes were built across the swamp and the excess water pumped out; large ditches or canals being used to drain the water to the pumping plant. Good crops of onions are now grown on this reclaimed land.

Just inland from the swamp is a low lying tract, H, of very level land; the surface of which lies but a few feet above the water level in the lake. Ward Canal, W, is a drainage channel cut through this region. When seen by the writer the surface of the non-flowing water in this canal was not more than four feet below the surface of the ground at a distance of three miles from the lake. Of course this level varies somewhat with changes in the lake level and no doubt the water in the canal rises in times of rainfall as some of the higher land still further inland is drained into it.

Extending all along the swamp on both the bay and the lake sides is a narrow low sandy beach. It is from fifty to two hundred and fifty feet wide and the highest parts are but little above the reach of waves of violent storms. This beach extends in an unbroken line except for one channel, O, opening into the swamp from the lake. This channel is a little over a mile from the extreme end of the land, B, and is a deep water course perhaps some three hundred feet wide where it enters the swamp. It extends back a considerable distance into the swamp and is no doubt kept open by the currents set up as the water flows into and out of the swamp with each change in the level of the lake.

In some of the wider parts of the beach a narrow sand plain has developed, on portions of which Cottonwood has gained a foothold and has formed a few small groves of half grown trees.

The writer had an opportunity to visit this region in the summer of 1915 and spent two days, Aug. 30 and Sept. 1, collecting botanical specimens upon the beach. The following list of plants collected will show the nature of the flora, although the list of herbs could be much extended. No Cedars or other Conifers are now growing in this region and I was unable to learn the reason for the name Cedar Point being applied to it.

Trees:

- Acer rubrum* L.—Three small trees only found.
- Catalpa* sp.—One specimen two feet tall.
- Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Marsh—A few small trees.
- Populus deltoides* Marsh—Abundant.
- Platanus occidentalis* L.—Three small trees.
- Gleditsia triacanthos* L.—One specimen.
- Celtis occidentalis* L.—One small specimen.
- Salix amygdaloides* Anders—Abundant.
- Salix interior* Rowlee—Abundant.

Shrubs:

- Cornus amomum* Mill.—Three clumps.
- Rhus glabra* L.
- Rhus hirta* (L) Ludw.
- Ribes americanum* Mill.—Infrequent.
- Sambucus canadensis* L.—Infrequent.

Woody Vines:

- Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (L) Planch. Common.
- Vitis vulpina* L.—Common.

Herbs:

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| <i>Astragalus carolinianus</i> L. | <i>Heliopsis scabra</i> Dunal. |
| <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> L. | <i>Melilotus alba</i> Desv. |
| <i>Apocynum sibiricum</i> Jacq. | <i>Oenothera biennis</i> L. |
| <i>Ambrosia trifida</i> L. | <i>Physalis</i> sp. |
| <i>Cakile edentula</i> (Bigle) Hook. | <i>Solidago serotina</i> Ait. |
| <i>Cenchrus tribuloides</i> L. | <i>Spartina michauxiana</i> Hitch. |
| <i>Clematis virginiana</i> L. | <i>Solanum dulcamaria</i> L. |
| <i>Chamaesyce polygonifolia</i> (L) Small. | <i>Tinaria scandens</i> (L) Small. |
| <i>Falcata comosa</i> (L) Kuntze. | <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> L. |

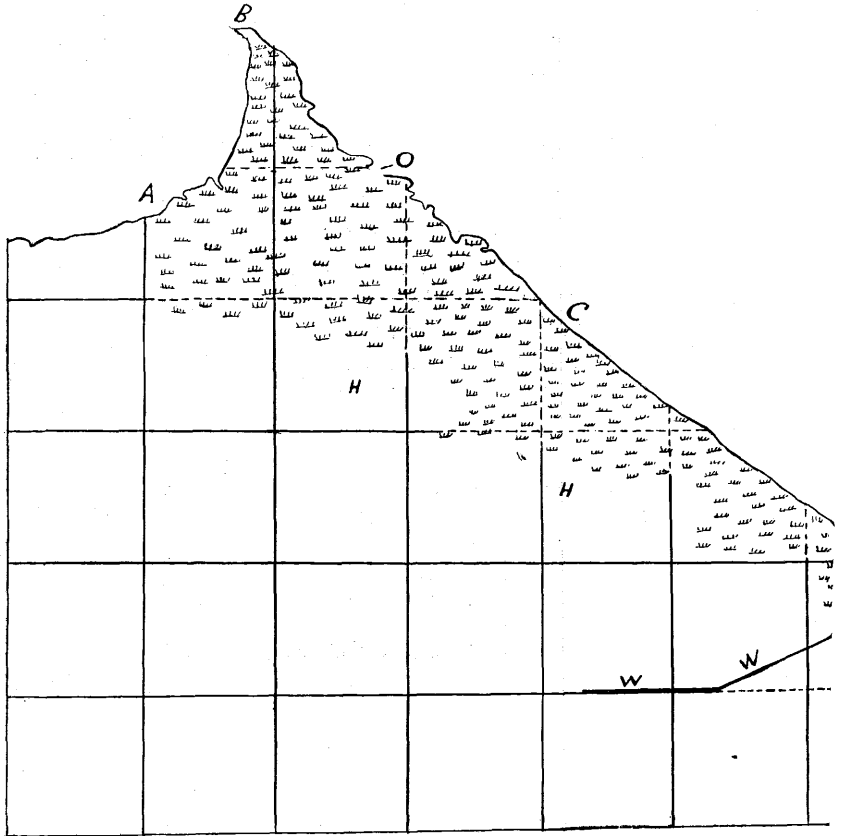


Figure 1. Map of the Toledo Cedar Point, showing the swamp beyond the point B; W, ward canal; H, low ground near swamp; O, open channel into swamp; A, B, C, sandy beach.