

schists. It is through these ranges, therefore, rather than along the line of the "Rocky Mountains" as defined on maps, that the core of the great chain would seem to be continued to the north.

(2.) *The District of the Central Table-Land.*—This district comprises the great plateau which extends from the Selkirk and other mountain ranges, on the east, to the Cascade and Coast Mountains on the west. It lies at an average elevation of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea, and presents for the greater part a more or less mountainous character. Numerous lakes occur upon its surface and it is traversed by the Columbia, Fraser, and other rivers, flowing mostly in deeply-cut channels or cañons. In many places it is thickly wooded; but gravelly and comparatively sterile tracts prevail over considerable areas, and swamps are also numerous. So far as known at present, its lower rocks appear to consist of granitic, talcose, and micaceous formations (more or less tilted or contorted), succeeded by shales, conglomerates, and limestones of Middle and Upper Palæozoic age, or by more recent strata of alternating sandstones, shales and lignites, with bedded volcanic products (partly of trappean, and partly of scoriaceous lava-like aspect)—the whole overlaid, very generally, by accumulations of sand and gravel. The latter, as seen more especially in the valleys of the Fraser, Thompson, and other rivers, often form sharply-defined terraces or beaches at varying elevations on the flanks of the older rocks. These sands and gravels, especially in the streams which descend from the Cariboo and Gold ranges, and in the valley of the Lower Fraser, are more or less auriferous. The lignite-bearing strata and associated volcanic beds are probably in part Cretaceous, although chiefly of Cainozoic age.

(3.) *The Coast and Western Mountain District.*—This is essentially an alpine region, forming the western margin of the high Table-land, and extending from the latter to the coast-line of the Pacific Ocean. With the exception of some comparatively restricted areas upon the coast, as at the mouth of the Fraser and smaller rivers, it is occupied entirely by the northern ranges, and their spurs, of the Cascade Mountains, which present an average elevation, in this district, of from 5,000 to 7,000 feet above the sea, with perhaps here and there a peak of somewhat higher altitude.* Glaciers occur in many of the higher gorges; and deep fiords, between, in many places, high walls

* Mt. Baker, Mt. Hood, and Mt. Regnier or Rainier, although referred to in many works on Physical Geography as belonging to British Columbia, lie south of the Province boundary-line as now adopted—i.e., the parallel of 49°.