

fronting abruptly on the east, and strong westerly dip towards the central part or axis of the chain. Gneissoid rocks and crystalline schists—which make up the main mass of the Rocky Mountains in New Mexico and Colorado, and which occur also immediately west of the chain in British Columbia—appear to be altogether wanting in these eastern ranges. Finally, it may be pointed out, as a characteristic feature of the district, that, along the base and gorges of the mountains, terraced accumulations of gravel and limestone-shingle are seen at varying elevations; and in many cases these shingle terraces or beaches extend along the river-valleys far into the prairie region to the east.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

This Province—extending westward from the boundary-line of the North-West Territories in the Rocky Mountains, to the Pacific coast and outlying islands—admits of a convenient and more or less natural subdivision into four areas. These may be named as follows:—

(1) The Eastern Mountain District; (2) The District of the Central Table-land; (3) The Coast and Western Mountain District; and (4) The Island District.

(1.) *The Eastern Mountain District.*—This includes the western ranges of the Rocky Mountains proper, and the adjacent ranges of the Selkirk, Gold, and Cariboo Mountains. Physically, it consists of a number of roughly-parallel chains, running in a general north-west direction, and presenting an average elevation of from 8,000 to 10,000 feet above the sea, with many isolated points of greater altitude. Among the latter, some of the more striking in the main chain include Mount Sabine, Mt. Forbes (13,460 ft. ?), Mt. Balfour (14,431 ft. ?), Mt. Murchison (16,000 ft. ?), Mt. Hooker (15,700 ft. ?), and Mt. Brown (15,990 ft. ?). Several points in the Selkirk Mountains also exceed 12,000 feet; and glaciers occur in the higher valleys or gorges of both chains. Tilted and contorted strata of limestone and sandstone, apparently for the greater part of Devonian and Carboniferous age, occur on the western as on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains proper, and terraced accumulations of gravel and limestone-shingle are seen at various elevations. The Selkirk, Gold, and Cariboo ranges, which are only separated from the western flanks of the central mountains by comparatively narrow valleys, appear, on the other hand, to consist largely of talcose and micaceous