eral normal altitude of about 3000 feet, though its eastern edge is generally little over 2000 feet, and it attains an elevation of over 4000 feet at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Its area between the parallels above defined, and including the high land and foot hills along the base of the mountains, is about 134,000 square miles, and of this by far the greater part, or about 115,000 square miles, is almost entirely devoid of forest, the wooded region being confined to a small area of its northern and north-western extension near the North Saskatchewan River and its tributaries. Its breadth on the 49th parallel is four hundred and sixty-five miles, and its eastern boundary is there well-marked, being the broken hilly country known as the *Côteau de Missouri*, or Great Coteau, which crosses the International boundary near the 104th meridian, and thence runs east of the Old Wive's Lakes to the South Saskatchewan. It is then continued to the north by a range of high lands, of which the Eagle Hills constitute a part, to the elbow of the North Saskatchewan, and beyond that river probably to the Thickwood Hills.

This portion of the great plains is much more diversified than either of those before described. It has been elevated to a greater height above the sea level, and acted on to a much greater extent by the eroding forces, both in later Tertiary time and subsequent to the glacial period. Those portions of its surface which still remain but little modified, form table-lands such as those of the Cypress Hills and Wood Mountain. The universal denudation which has taken place is evidenced by the size and depth of the valleys of rivers and streams, both of pre-glacial and post-glacial age, the great ravines and "coulées" which have been cut and are still extending themselves among the soft sandstones and clays of the Cretaceous and Laramie formations, and the isolated plateaus and buttes which now stand far out on the plains of lower level, seamed with newer systems of gorges. Deposits belonging to the glacial period, with transported boulders and gravel, are found over almost the entire area of the highest steppe, but are spread less uniformly than on the lower levels, and the surface is often based almost immediately on the Cretaceous and Laramie beds. There is ample proof that previous to the glacial period the surface was much more rugged and worn than it now appears; the glacial deposits have since filled many of the deeper hollows and given rounded and flowing outlines to the whole. In the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains the previously nearly horizontal beds of the plains are thrown into wave-like flexures and compressed folds, which the surface participates in to a lesser degree, assuming the form of crest-like parallel ridges which frequently possess considerable uniformity. The nature of the soil and prospective agricultural value of this great district are too varied to allow of generalization. Though it must be regarded rather as a grazing than a