

available between these points other than the circuitous one *via* Fort Colville and the Spokane Valley, a distance of 220 miles. The total length of the course of the Pend D'Oreille River is about 370 miles, that of the Kootanie about 350 miles.

As the whole of the country is more or less thickly wooded, the most ^{Wooded}noticeable of the physical features, next to the shape of the ground and ^{character of}country, is the direction of the water-courses, is the character of the forest growth. On the western plateau and seaward face of the Cascade Range, as well as in the valley of the Skagit—a small river which flows through the heart of that chain—the forest is composed principally of the Douglas spruce (*Abies Douglasii*), several large species of pines and the western cedar (*Thuja gigantea*), all very densely packed together, with a thick undergrowth of willows and vine-maple. There is no open grass land in this section of the country other than the marshy alluvial plains bordering Sumass Lake, which are subject to annual overflow from the flood-waters of Fraser River. In the valley of the Similkameen, the characteristic tree is the large red-barked yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), which flourishes up to about 4,000 feet above the sea level. At lower levels it is usually found in scattered groups of three or four trees on a dry gravelly soil, which supports a growth of coarse bunch-grass. On the Okanagan, at Osoyoos Lake, large timber-trees are almost entirely absent. The ground is sandy and covered with alkaline efflorescences, with a growth of small cactus, sage and other plants characteristic of the lava-covered desert of the Columbia, further to the south. On the hills lying to the eastward of Osoyoos Lake, the larch, (*Larix occidentalis*) is first seen in quantity, and it is found abundantly from this point eastward, in the Kettle and Columbia valleys, associated with *Abies Douglasii* and *Pinus ponderosa*, grouped in small clusters as noted above. The last mentioned species is found as far eastward as the head of Tobacco River, beyond the eastern crossing of the Kootanie, where it is seen for the last time at about 4,000 feet above the sea level. It attains its western limit at about the same altitude on the eastern face of the hills above Similkameen River on the road to Fort Hope. The thickest forest on the line is found between the Columbia and the western crossing of the Kootanie River, in the district already noticed for its inaccessible character. Most of the hills that rise to a greater height than 4,000 ^{Limits of forest}feet above the sea level, are distinguished by particular species of ^{growth.}conifers, which are not as a rule found in the lower grounds. In the Ashtnoulou and Rocky Mountains, the upper limit at which forest trees are found is about 6,500 to 7,000 feet, a belt of stunted larches being usually present between these levels.

In addition to the two great mountain ranges which shut in the basin ^{Mountain}ranges.