

Northern Oregon in which these plains are situated, presents peculiar and marked features. Divided into two parts, by the Cascade range of mountains, its Eastern portion is an almost treeless plateau, while its western is covered by immense forests of fir, that stretch in a continuous line from the Columbia river, to the present boundary between British Columbia and the United States, and crossing the 49th parallel on the continent, hold possession of its western slope far to the north of it.

Parallel with the Cascade range, and farther to the west, is the Olympic range of mountains, that extends south from the Straits of Fuca nearly to the River Chehalis, which flows westwardly into the Pacific Ocean.

In the valley between these two ranges of mountains are the waters of Admiralty Inlet and Puget Sound that penetrate into the continent southwardly for more than 100 miles, having a width on the Inlet of 5 or 6 miles, and averaging in width on the Sound from 1 to 3, with bold shore lines, and deep water to the very shore.

Far up the sides of these mountain ranges, and lining the high shores of the sound and Inlet, to the water's edge, are found dense forests of fir—in the words of a witness for the United States, an impenetrable forest,—made so, not only by the thick growth of chaparel, but likewise by the immense amount of fallen timber. (Chapman, p. 83.)

The valley between the two ranges of mountains does not cease with the Olympic range, but appears to be continued to the Columbia river by the high hills, a prolongation of the Olympic range south of the Chehalis river. Through this valley flows the main Cowlitz river for some 30 miles, due south to its junction with the Columbia.

From the southern portion of the Sound, to near the point where the Cowlitz river is navigable for boats, as if to provide for the settlement of a region otherwise almost impervious to man, are found a series of openings of various sizes in the line of fir forest, that form, with belts of timber between, a continuous line of prairies from the Sound to the point of boat navigation, upon the Cowlitz, a distance of some fifty miles.

These prairies, a distinguishing feature of the country, vary in