

The greater part of the length of the river is swift, and can be ascended only by poling, but one reach of eight miles occurs, and another of four miles, just below the lake, where the current is quite moderate. Two extensive log-jams exist which necessitate portages. The lake is said to be twenty miles in length, with steep, bluff banks on the west side and flat land on the east, for the first half of its length. On the upper part of the lake, flat land occurs on the west and steep slopes on east. From the head of the lake a pass leads to the lower end of the Upper Arrow Lake, the distance across being stated at about eighteen miles. There is also said to be a pass used by Indians from the vicinity of Slocan Lake to the West Arm of Kootanie Lake. High mountains carrying some snow in summer were seen about the head of Slocan Lake, but no glaciers were observed on them.

The steep and generally uniform slopes of the lower mountains, which border the deep valley of the Kootanie River, prevent any general view of the higher and more distant summits from being obtained; but from one of the eastern points of Toad Mountain a somewhat extensive outlook was gained, though the atmosphere was unfortunately at the time somewhat obscured by smoke. From this point, with an altitude of 6990 feet, it was estimated that the general height of the summits of mountains in view on all bearings except to the south-westward (where the distant view was cut off by other summits of Toad Mountain) was about 6000 feet above sea-level. This height is maintained with considerable uniformity, and at or about it rather extensive rocky or partially wooded plateau-like areas occur in some places. Above this general level, however, higher and rougher peaks rise, usually about the central parts of the blocks of mountainous country which lie between the several larger valleys occupied by rivers and lakes. One of the most important of these culminating ranges, with wild ragged outlines and carrying much snow, was seen on a north-west bearing at a distance of about thirty-five miles. This was evidently the southern aspect of the Valhalla Mountains, previously noted as lying to the east of the head of Lower Arrow Lake, between that lake and the Slocan valley. It is probable that several peaks in these mountains reach a height of 8500 feet. The mountains between the Slocan valley and that of Kootanie Lake, culminate in a second central alpine region of about 8000 feet in height, in addition to which there is another partially isolated group of mountains near the headwaters of Coffee Creek, some points in which may attain a height of 9000 feet. The Ymir Mountains, to the south of the West Arm of Kootanie Lake, after their first abrupt rise from the lake-shore, continue rising gradually in wooded slopes, till, on a bearing about due east from Toad Mountain, they attain heights of about 8000 feet, and

General aspect
of surrounding
country.