

The Third or more westerly range is the least elevated of the three, though still ranging from 4000 to 8000 feet high. South of Fort Shepherd and the Boundary line, where it forms numerous sharp ridges running north and south, it bears the name of the Kulspelm Mountains, and further north of the Snowy Mountains or Gold range. The Bald Mountains in Cariboo, 6000 to 8000 feet high, are also a continuation of this range, which after crossing the Fraser, below Fort George, lowers towards the North, and takes the name of the Peak Mountains. The only good pass from the Columbia through this third range is to the South end of Soushwap Lake, and was discovered last year by Mr Moberly, the Government Engineer, at Eagle Creek, in Lat. 50°56'. An important feature in both the middle and western ranges just described, is their gradual depression north of Cariboo to where the Upper Fraser, after separating the middle range from the Rocky Mountains, abandons its North-westerly course, and makes a circular sweep through the depression from east to west and then south to below Fort George. This depression forms a large tract of level, flat country on each, but more particularly on the south side of the Fraser, and as the country and climate are both well adapted for settlement, offers every inducement and facility, (if indeed it be not the only pass) for a future railroad through these two ranges of the Rocky Mountains.

The Cascade range forms the Coast line of the Colony, which it follows from near the Mouth of the Fraser into the Russian [now American] Territory. Its average width is about 110 miles, and it may also be considered as a sea of mountains, some of which attain, if they do not exceed, a height of 10,000 feet. Its crest, starting from Mount Baker, a few miles south of the Boundary line, passes a little north of the Head of Jervis Inlet, some 25 miles north of the Head of Bute Inlet, 22 miles east of the Head of North Bentinck Arm, and crosses Gardener's channel about 20 miles west of its Head. From Mount Baker the Cascade range throws out a spur east and north, in the direction of the Great Okanagan Lake and Fort Kamloops, so as nearly to join the Gold range; and it entirely envelops the Fraser from a little above Harrison River [55 miles above New Westminster] up to its junction with the Thompson at Lytton, and even a few miles beyond, on both rivers. But the most rugged portion in this direction lies between Yale and Lytton, where mountain succeeds mountain, and where those along the river present the most formidable aspect; bluff after bluff of solid perpendicular granite, intermingled with steep slides of rolling rock, washed by a deep impetuous stream, and 1500 to 2000 feet high. In short, not only has this portion of the Fraser valley been declared to be utterly impracticable for a railroad by Major Pope and other competent authorities, but it is so fenced in with mountains, that there could be no reasonable way of getting at it with a railroad, if it were. It is over these mountains that the present wagon-road