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width of one hundred miles, and mean elevation of about 3,500 feet. Its height, on the whole, increases to the south, while northward, it falls gradually towards the group of large lakes, and the low country about the head waters of the Peace. It has over a great part of its area been covered by widespread flows of basalt and other volcanic rocks in the later Tertiary period, but is now dissected by deep and trough-like river valleys into most of which water standing at an elevation of 3,000 feet above the present sea level would flow, dividing its surface into a number of islands. In some places the plateau is pretty level and uniform; but usually it is only when broadly viewed that its character is apparent. It is practically closed to the north about latitude $55^{\circ} 30'$ by the ends of several intercalated mountain ranges of which some of the summits attain 8,000 feet. Nearly coinciding with the 49th parallel is a second transverse mountains zone, formed in a similar way, which may be considered as limiting it to the south, though traversed by several river valleys, of which that of the Okanagan in longitude $119^{\circ} 30'$ is the lowest. The southern part of the plateau includes much open country, constitutes the best grazing region of British Columbia and offers besides some good agricultural land, though the rainfall is so deficient as to render irrigation generally necessary. To the north, with increasing moisture, it becomes generally forested.

The Coast Ranges, with an average width of one hundred miles, are frequently named the Cascade Mountains, but this term is a misleading one, as they are both geologically and orographically distinct from the well-known Cascade range of Washington Territory and Oregon. These mountains are largely composed of gneissic and granitic rocks and crystalline schists. The average altitude of their higher peaks is between 6,000 and 7,000, while some exceed 9,000 feet. Glaciers are of frequent occurrence and large size in their northern part, and on the Alaskan coast are known in several instances to descend to the sea level. These mountains are, as a rule, densely forested and extremely rugged, the flora of their seaward slopes being that characteristic of the west coast and co-ordinated with its excessive humidity, while on their northern and eastern flanks it resembles that of the inland ranges.

The name, Vancouver Range, may be applied to the fourth great mountain axis, which, in a partially submerged, condition constitutes Vancouver and the Queen Charlotte islands, is continued to the south in the Olympic Mountains, and to the north in the peninsular portion and Islands of Alaska. The highest mountain of Vancouver Island reaches an elevation of 7,484 feet, while there is a considerable mountainous area in the centre of the island which surpasses 2,000 feet in average altitude. Several summits in the Queen Charlotte Islands