

valley up which the trail winds, Great Central Lake can be seen, perhaps covered by a slight mist in the early morning. Standing at the edge of Della Lake, one is in an amphitheatre of mountains; to the south-west, high above, the Nine Peaks glisten like minarets in the morning sun, whilst lower down is seen the blue of the glacier. The tops of the highest mountains of this Big Interior Range are about 6,000 feet above sea level and 2,500 feet above Dalla Lake.

The mountains of the Big Interior may be called the backbone of Vancouver Island, shedding the water to the south down the Alberni Canal, to the north-east down Buttle Lake and the Campbell River, and to the west by Bear River into Clayoquot Sound. Standing on the Big Interior Range, as far as the eye can reach is a sea of snow-clad mountains, with here and there one grander than the rest rising to a height of seven or eight thousand feet. To the south from Della Lake is a pass leading to Bear River, flowing into Clayoquot Sound. The height of the pass is 4,000 feet.

For those who enjoy mountain scenery, the trip to the Big Interior Basin is strongly recommended. Great Central Lake can be reached by saddle-horse or buggy from Alberni. The journey up the lake can be made in a launch, and some enterprising individual will no doubt provide saddle-horses to do the nine miles trip up the trail. The last steep climb must be made with strong legs and arms, and can be easily done in two hours or less, with practically no danger, and when once at Della Lake the view and change of scene will well repay the trouble.

GEOLOGY OF THE ALBERNI VALLEY.

The Alberni Valley may be considered as originally a part of the cretaceous area on the east coast of Vancouver Island that has been broken through and separated from the east coast by the large igneous mass known as the Beaufort Range of mountains. *This range is mainly a fine-grained, dark-coloured diabase, but

*The following report is by Dr. Dresser, of Montreal, on a microscopic examination of this rock:—

No. 4,581.—*Country Rock, Beaufort Range*.—A fine-grained green rock having a rusty weathering. By the aid of the microscope you can see it is found to be so highly altered that no primary minerals remain. It is now composed of chlorite, epidote, calcite and a little iron ore. Remnants of the original structure show it to have been originally a coarse-grained eruptive rock. It differed originally from No. 4,580 in degree of crystallisation, but not greatly, if at all, in chemical composition, and so they may be parts of a single intrusion; No. 4,580 representing an original diabase, No. 4,581 a basic gabbro.