

of the interior—high mountain ridges on the east and west, enclosing a high plateau, down the centre of which flows the Fraser river, its general course being south until almost to the international line, where it turns sharply to the west and enters the ocean. The other great streams of the interior are Thompson river, entering the Fraser from the east, and the Okanagan, Columbia, and Kootenay, the last two having very eccentric courses. The Columbia rises almost in the extreme southeastern corner, sweeps northerly around the upper end of the Selkirk Range, and then flow directly south between the Selkirk and Gold Mountains into the United States. The Kootenay has its source in the same region as the Columbia, makes a long sweep to the south, crossing the boundary line, and, returning again, discharges its waters into the Columbia. One peculiarity of this region is that nearly every stream of consequence has its origin in or passes through, one or more long, narrow lakes, consisting in many places of simply a broadening of the river, and at others a well defined lake of considerable area. Such are Shuswap Lake, whence flows the Thompson, and Lake Kamloops, through which the same stream passes; also Upper and Lower Columbia and Upper and Lower Arrow lakes along the course of the Columbia, and Lakes Kootenay and Okanagan, features of the streams thus christened. Lakes and water courses abound from one end of the Province to the other, many of them navigable by steamers of a light draught for great distances.

The coast line is the most wonderful in the world. The mountains border closely upon the sea, the shore being indented by a multitude of bays and inlets and fringed by countless small islands, between which run tortuous, but safe and navigable, channels. Outside of these, and protecting these inland channels, for nearly the entire length of the coast, are a series of large islands, the greatest and most southerly of which is the Island of Vancouver, separated from the extreme northwestern portion of Washington Territory by the historical Straits of Juan de Fuca, through the center of which runs the international line. It is oblong in shape, extending northwesterly parallel with the mainland, from which it is separated by the narrow and island-dotted channel of the Gulf of Georgia, a distance of nearly 300 miles, and has a width varying from thirty to fifty miles. Its area of 12,000 square miles is heavily