

but represents three days' hard travelling by pack-train. The total distance by this route from Tobacco Plains to the Flathead River is about 50 miles, and is five days' journey by pack-train with light packs. The route, as at present laid out, is possible but not practicable as a permanent trail, although it is believed a much easier summit between the Wigwam and Flathead could be obtained about five miles further north, but at the cost of that extra distance.

The writer is informed that since he was over the ground the United States Survey party mentioned has continued the trail from Wigwam to the Flathead, following closely the Boundary Line and crossing over two summits between these points.

Once the Flathead is reached good trails, or even wagon roads, could be built anywhere up the valley as far as the Canyon, and up the important creeks, at a comparatively small cost.

The present trails are Indian hunting trails, used only at low water; they lead in and out of the river, often following the river bars for miles. They would not be feasible in spring until high water is over, about the middle of July.

The trail to Sage Creek leaves the main Flathead River trail about two miles north of the Boundary, running thence easterly for about three or four miles over the benches and low hills of the Flathead depression to a crossing of Sage Creek, some six miles from its mouth. After crossing Sage Creek the trail follows up the course of the east creek for about four miles, where it re-crosses and continues up the west side. The distance by this trail from the Flathead to the oil on Sage Creek is about 11 miles. This trail has comparatively easy grades, is hard and in good order, but as the lower part of the Sage Creek Valley has been recently burned over, it is often obscure and hard to follow on the burned-over barrens.

A second trail has been recently blazed out, starting at a point on the main river trail some 10 or 11 miles from the Boundary and running due east to the "oil showing," a distance estimated at not exceeding five miles.

The Kish-e-neh-na Creek trail has already been described as a part of the old "South Kootenay Pass" trail.

TIMBER.—The valley of the Flathead, including Sage or Oil Creek, appears to have been all burned over about 30 years ago for a distance of possibly 10 to 12 miles from the Boundary, and timber is a second growth, consisting on the lower elevations of small spruce and fir, with some cottonwood and occasional tamarack (*larix occidentalis*), and on the benches of second growth black pine (*P. murrayana*). On the hills the timber consists of black pine, tamarack and spruce, and is small, not of a size to have any value for lumber. On Sage Creek there is no good timber, as the second growth extends up to a point where the mountains close in, and much of the lower part of the creek district is composed of "barrens," devoid of any vegetation save small brush. On Kish-e-neh-na Creek, for about four miles above the Boundary and for a width of about one-quarter of a

mile, the trees are occasionally of fair size, but there



View of Sage Creek, Flathead District, East Kootenay—(X indicates position of Oil Springs.)

is not a great percentage of merchantable timber. In