

broadly, it has the conformation of a great plain, depressed toward the centre and in the north and slightly elevated along the eastern and southern borders, where it presents a somewhat steep outward slope. The general elevation in the eastern portion is under 2,000 feet, and over the larger part of the plain is about 1,000 feet. The highest portion is along the northeastern margin where it presents a steep face to the sea.

**Cordilleran Region.**—The western part of the American continent is more or less mountainous. The Andean chain, which extends throughout the length of South America and broadens out in North America and in Canada, has an average width of over 500 miles. This region is the most elevated in Canada, many of the summits reaching heights of 10,000 feet, with occasional peaks over 13,000 feet above sea-level. The mountainous tract forming the Cordilleras can be divided broadly into three parallel bands; an old series of plateaus and mountains forming the central part, referred to as the Central Belt, a young series of parallel ridges, east of the central plateaus, formed of fault blocks and folds and known as the Eastern Belt and a third division, between the plateau country and the Pacific, called the Western Belt. The Belts are further subdivided as in the following summary:—

### Mountain Systems and Ranges in Western Canada.

#### EASTERN BELT.

SYSTEM.	MOUNTAINS OR PLATEAUS.	RANGE, GROUP OR PLATEAU.
ROCKIES	ROCKY MOUNTAINS	{ Hughes range, Brisco range, Livingstone range, Palliser range, other ranges and groups.
	MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS	{ Sayunei range, Tigonankweine range, other ranges and groups.
	FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS	Un-named ranges and groups.
ARCTIC	RICHARDSON MOUNTAINS	Un-named ranges and groups.

#### CENTRAL BELT.

COLUMBIA	SELKIRK MOUNTAINS	{ Purcell range, McGillivray range, Moyie range, Slocan group, Nelson range, other ranges and groups.
	MONASHEE MOUNTAINS	{ Christina range, Midway group, other ranges and groups.
	CARIBOO MOUNTAINS	Un-named ranges and groups.