

dreds of feet higher than its former position. Its highest portion is in Colorado, where it has a general altitude of about 10,000 feet. From this point the height of the plateau decreases north and south, so that at each of these boundaries of this country it has an altitude of about 4,000 feet. Along its course are many peaks rising to a height of 14,000 feet. The different ridges trend north and south, thus indicating that they were uplifted by similar causes.

The **Cascade Range**, running across Oregon and Washington, is volcanic, but its volcanoes are inactive. **There are no active volcanoes in the United States.** Some of the peaks of this range are from 12,000 to 14,000 feet high.

Questions. Which was formed more recently, the Appalachian system or the Rocky Mountain system? How does the altitude of the whole plateau compare with its former position? What is its highest portion? What is its general altitude in Colorado? How does it decline from here? About what is its altitude upon the northern and southern boundary lines of this country? How high do some of its peaks rise? How do the ridges trend? What does this indicate? What range is volcanic? Has it any active volcanoes? Are there any active volcanoes in the United States? How high do some of its peaks rise?

§ 21. The slope of the highland to the coast on the west is rough and abrupt. There is no strip of drift formation such as distinguishes the Atlantic Slope, but the coast is bold and rocky, with few good harbors. Much of the highland is drained by long rivers flowing into the Pacific; but those which drain the immediate slope are few and generally short.

The whole of the western coast of the Continent of America, from Alaska to Cape Horn, is bold, abrupt, and rocky.

The western mountain system of the entire continent is much younger geologically than the Appalachian system. The latter, originally very much higher than the former, has been cut down by **erosion** and other causes until its summits are below the timber-line; having plenty of rainfall, they are clothed with forest growth.

In the Pacific Highland the mountains are as yet new, and show much of the rugged grandeur of their original appearance. Most of their summits are above the timber-line, and generally their sides are arid, so that they present a desolate aspect.

Questions. What is the nature of the slope on the west? In what way does this slope differ from the Atlantic Slope? Has the coast many good harbors? How is much of the highland drained? How is the immediate slope drained?

§ 22. From 1870 to the present time the building of railroads and the development of the whole country have made rapid progress. At present there are nearly 180,000 miles of road in operation in the United States, much of which is west of the 100th meridian and upon the Pacific Highland.

The mountains of this region have proved to be wonderfully rich in minerals. Gold, silver, copper, tin, quicksilver, lead, and iron are abundant, and much of the country is underlaid with coal. It is believed that petroleum exists in some of the mountain States to even a greater extent than in the Ohio Valley.

Agriculture, too, is becoming an important industry. It is found that the soil in many parts has wonderful fertility, yielding prodigious crops when the needed mois-

ture is supplied by irrigation. The rain and melted snow of the mountain ranges flow in numerous rivers down the slopes. This water is turned by ditches upon the land, making it the most productive of any in the world.

While the population is as yet comparatively small, it is increasing more rapidly than that of any other part of the country, and the Pacific Highland is destined to be wealthy and prosperous.

Questions. Has the development of the country since 1870 been especially great? About how many miles of railroads are in operation at present? In what part of the country is much of this increase found? What minerals are found in abundance in the mountains of the Pacific Highland? Is there much petroleum in this part of the country? Is there any land fit for agriculture? In what way is the lack of rainfall supplied? In what way are mountain streams fed? How are they made to irrigate the land? Are these irrigated lands productive? How does the increase of population in this part of the country compare with that in other parts? What is the future of the Pacific Highland destined to be?

United States.—Population.

§ 1. In 1890 this country had about 63,000,000 inhabitants. According to the regular ratio of increase from 1880 to 1890 it should have now (1895) over **68,000,000**. Probably three-fourths of this population are descendants of natives of the British Isles and Germany, though it represents to some degree the people of all countries. The population is **Caucasian** in character, though American Indians and people of Negro descent are included in it.

The variety of climate offered by the United States, owing to its range of the southern half of the north temperate zone, has attracted Europeans, for it is a general law of migration that **races follow isothermal lines**.

Questions. What was the population in 1890? Based upon the ratio of increase from 1880 to 1890, what should it be now (1895)? Of what descent is most of the population? What is its character? What has attracted Europeans to this country? What is the general law of migration?

§ 2. Opportunity to pursue accustomed occupations induces immigration, and as this country from the first offered unequalled inducements to farmers, they have come in great numbers; consequently nearly half of the people depend for a livelihood upon the tilling of the soil.

Favorable temperature, moisture, and fertile soil are essential to successful farming. These exist in abundance on the Atlantic Slope, and more abundantly still in the Mississippi Valley; hence these regions were naturally the first to be settled. But farm products are of little benefit to the producers unless the surplus can be disposed of in commerce; for this reason the settlement of the great valley was delayed, except near the navigable rivers, until the advent of railroads.

Questions. What induces immigration? Why is such a large proportion of the inhabitants of the United States engaged in farming? What conditions are essential to successful farming? Where do these exist in abundance? Why was the settlement of the great valley delayed?

§ 3. Population in the United States began on the Atlantic Slope, following its bays and rivers inland. Then,