the highest tides of winter. But for cultivation there are very few single tracts in the Territory of equal extent and of as good quality.

Another route of communication concerning which I was instructed to make inquiry, was one from some point near the mouth of the Columbia to Olympia, more direct than that by the Cowlitz river.

An attempt was made a short time ago by Mr James Simms of Cathlamet to open a road from that place to the Cowlitz Landing, but the result as I learn, was unsatisfactory. Could it be done, it would be a very desirable one, but the description of the country behind Cathlamet renders it improbable.

Mr Hall of Chinook informed me that in this exploration he ascended the stream running into the Columbia a little below Cathlamet, to the divide, and after crossing it came down upon a prairie at the head of the Chihalis, from which an Indian trail led direct to the Cowlitz farms. This stream however had no valley, but ran entirely in a canon.

Mr Hall was three days in going through, two of which were occupied in reaching the mountain. The most probable route which appears passable is by way of Gray's river, a large stream running into Gray's Bay, opposite to and a little above Astoria. No attempt has been made to push through an examination of this, as no one has been sufficiently interested to do it. but from

0525