to a great degree create the difficulties of its entrance. The banks of the Columbia, where elevated above the freshets, are clothed with evergreens, fir and spruce predominating, and the same vegetation extends over the general face of the surrounding country, which joined to its rocks of basalt and volcanic conglomerate throw an aspect of gloom over the landscape. It is only in early summer, when the cottonwood and maple of the low grounds are in fresh leaf, that the prevailing monotony is broken. The freshets of the Columbia overflow not merely the low islands, but most of the alluvial country bordering the river. They take place during the summer commencing in May or June according to the mildness of the season and subsiding towards the end of July. Freshets also occur on its tributaries, but these are more directly the effect of rains, and are highest in the Winter, whereas those of the Columbia arise from the melting of snow in the Rocky Mountains. The two principal branches on the North, below the Cascades, are the Cathlapootle, Wittkow or Lewis River and the Cowlitz. The floods of these rivers have an important influence upon Indian economy in their relation to the salmon fisheries which furnish the most important staple of subsistence.

The mouth of the Columbia might