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Sections VI. & VII. Beyond the Skookum Chuck another change takes place in the character of the route, the ~~country~~ prairies becoming more extensive and the soil gravelly & dry, though with occasional exceptions. (a) A change in ~~the direction~~ location of ~~the road~~ from that ~~follow~~ ~~ed~~ of the present road can be made with advantage between the ~~Skookum~~ river and the ~~Grand~~ mound prairie at Coopers, throwing it rather more to the east ward & farther from the old bed of the Chihalis river which will involve but little ~~more~~ outlay. ~~than the improvement of the present road. The peculiar feature of that prairie, after leaving~~ Nearly the same general level of the country is maintained ~~as in the~~ through this section, until, leaving Scatter Creek, the route turns over the dividing ridge to the Imalquet, and no ~~other~~ very ~~costly~~ great expenditure is necessary to answer all ~~the~~ ordinary purposes ~~of a military road~~, though some causeways is necessary at the crossings of the Creek and several swales. ~~At the~~ Scatter Creek derives its name from its irregular width - unlike the other streams its mens on the surface of the prairie & its which dry in summer, in winter it reaches 50 or at the separation of the Chilacoom & Olympia ~~travels how~~ routes ~~however~~, the former ceases as a wagon road a pack trail only existing across the ridge. ~~No difficulty will be experienced in establishing easy grades either ascending or descending, the f~~. The height of this divide is roughly estimated at 800 feet, the descent being greater towards the Imalquet than the rise from the Chihalis. This too appeared to be the case as regarded the difference of level between the Cowlitz & Chihalis though not to the same degree, ~~as~~ the distance from the crossing of the Imalquet to

(a) A very peculiar feature of these gravelly plains, Arrivable more or less between this point & Chilacoom, but especially on the one known as the Grand Mound prairie, is the great number of small mounds, resembling potato hills except in size, scattered over them. They appear to be the results rather of abrasion than of deposit through the ~~real~~ ~~[illegible]~~ of their formation is unexplained.

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