

Ocean, and those which find their outlet by less direct courses through the St. Lawrence and Mississippi basins. South of New York the Appalachian Region is divided into three more or less clearly defined districts. The eastern district is composed of ranges of mountains known in Pennsylvania by the name of the South Mountains, but in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina commonly by the name of the Blue Ridge. South of Virginia this eastern belt increases in width, and in North Carolina contains the most lofty points in the whole Appalachian system. Along the western border of the Blue Ridge district lies the Great Valley, which in Pennsylvania is about ten miles in width but which broadens southward, attaining in Virginia for a distance of 300 miles a nearly uniform width of twenty miles. It forms one of the richest agricultural belts within the Appalachian Region. The central district is known as the Appalachian Region proper, and is characterized by parallel even-topped ranges throughout the whole length of the mountainous area. The continuity of these ranges is frequently interrupted, and sharp ridges and deep valleys everywhere abound. The western district is characterized by undulating ranges which rise from a high plateau that gradually decreases in elevation westward until it merges imperceptibly into the rolling country of the Mississippi Valley. Along the eastern side of this western district are the Alleghany Mountains, in which the parallel ridges so characteristic of the whole Appalachian Region are preserved. The streams everywhere flow with rapid currents and are extremely variable in the volume of water which they carry.

Let us now turn our attention to a consideration of the Maryland area the three regions of which have been above outlined, viz., the Coastal Plain, the Piedmont Plateau and the Appalachian Region. All are typically represented within the area of the state of Maryland and have conditioned to a marked extent its economic development.

THE COASTAL PLAIN.

The Coastal Plain embraces the eastern portion of Maryland and includes the area between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and a line passing northeast to southwest from Wilmington to Washington