

Mountains, juts the Rattlesnake Range, extending north to the North Platte, carrying an elevation of nearly 8,000 feet.

Through the western range, the North Platte canyons, and, on the east, the Medicine Bow River cuts through the eastern range, separating it from the foot-hills of the northerly range of the Black Hills. Through the plains flow the Big and Little Laramie Rivers, which, as we before stated, rise in the mountains which border the western rim of the plains. These streams canyon through the Black Hills north of Laramie Peak, and enter the North Platte near Fort Laramie.

Rock Creek rises east of Medicine Bow, and after flowing north to about latitude 42 degs. flows west and empties into the Medicine Bow. This river rises in Medicine Bow Mountains, and flows north to about the same latitude as Rock Creek, thence west, and canyons through the Rattlesnake range of hills, entering the North Platte about 150 miles northwest of Laramie City, in latitude 42 deg. 3 min.

By this showing it will be observed that the immense park, or Laramie Plains, is well watered—sufficiently for grazing and irrigation. We have been more explicit, have dwelt longer on these points than we should have done, did we not feel a desire to show to the emigrant, or to those who are seeking good locations for grazing lands, that the Laramie Plains possess these advantages in an eminent degree. We have wandered far away from the plains in our descriptions, but the grazing lands end not with the plains. The mountain sides, until the timber belt is reached, the valleys, bluffs, and foot-hills, all present the same feature in point of luxuriant crops of grass. The valleys of the streams mentioned also contain thousands of acres of meadow land, where hay can be cut in abundance, and, if the season will permit, wheat, barley and rye might be grown to advantage, the soil being a black loam, and sufficiently moist to insure good crops without irrigation.

**FISH AND GAME—Trout**—the finest in the world—can be found in every mountain stream, while every variety of game ranges over the mountains, hills' valleys and plains in countless numbers.

With these general remarks, we will return to Laramie, and proceed on our journey. Soon after leaving the city, we cross the Laramie River, and eight miles brings us to

**Howell's**—an unimportant station, where passenger trains seldom stop. It is then 7 6-10 miles to

**Wyoming**—on the Little Laramie River. During the building of the road large quantities of ties were received at this point, which were cut at the head of the river and floated down the stream in high water. The country is a broad prairie. At the station we crossed Little Laramie, a small stream which rises in the mountains to the westward and empties into Laramie River. The same might be said of Whiskey Creek, a small stream which is crossed next. To the next station it is 8 7-10 miles.

**Cooper Lake**—Near the station, to the westward, lies a beautiful sheet of water, about two miles long by half-a-mile wide, called Cooper's Lake.

**Lookout**—a station with an altitude of 7,169 feet—is 8 7-10 miles from Cooper Lake. We are now entering the rolling prairie country, where, for 25 miles either way along the road, vast herds of elk, deer and antelope are found at different seasons of the year—the elk being mostly found in the winter, when the snow drives them from the mountains. We also begin to find occasional bunches of sage-brush, which tell us that we have entered the country where this more useful than ornamental shrub abounds. Occasionally we pass through cuts and over low fills, by snow-fences, and through snow-sheds, the country growing rougher as we pass along 8 3-10 miles to

**Miser Station**—Sage-brush is the rule. Just before reaching the station, we pass through a very deep cut—one of the deepest on the road—where a little spur of the bluffs rises abruptly from the plains, right in the way of the road. Just before reaching the next station, we cross Rock Creek, towards the head of which is good trout fishing. It is 9 7-10 miles to

**Rock Creek**—a small station, situated on a small creek of the same name. [See description of Rock Creek on preceeding pages.] This is a regular eating station; trains from the East stop for supper, from the West for breakfast—30 minutes are allowed. The company have erected a very commodious house here, on the right hand side of the track, and those who furnish meals to the passengers have reached a very high point of excellence in the art, and appear attentive to the wants of their guests. The dining room is very tastefully