

work of laying the "ten miles of track in one day." Continuing along on the lake shore, with large bluff on the right, for 9.49 miles further, we pass

Lake—another side-track, and 6.98 miles more arrive at

Monument—Here, many times, the lake breeze sweeps by, bearing the heavy alkaline and saline odors peculiar to this locality, and peculiarly offensive to invalids. Monument Point, a slim, tapering promontory, stretches far out into the lake, covered with excellent grass. We shall not see much more of the article for some time to come, for we are now on what might well be called the American Desert. Leaving Monument, it is 7.34 miles to

Seco—another side-track of no account, as all is sage-brush. Descending a heavy grade, we sweep around the head of the western arm of the lake, nearing and leaving its waters for the last time. Another run of 7.1 miles brings us to

Kelton—or Indian Creek, as it is sometimes called. This is a station of more importance than any yet passed since leaving Promontory. There are large water-tanks by the road-side, supplied from a spring in the foot-hills some miles to the northward. Here the Railroad Co. fill their water-cars—a train of which run daily to supply many of the stations on this division of the road. The Red Dome Mountains show their scattered spurs to the north, and to the southeast Pilot Knob or Peak can be seen lifting its rocky front far above the desert.

From this station a daily line of coaches leaves for Idaho and Oregon, on arrival of the cars. The route passes through Idaho and the eastern part of Oregon, connecting with the steamers of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company at Umatilla, on the Columbia River—through to Boise in two days; Walla Walla in four days; Portland in five and a half days.

The **BOISE COUNTRY**, to which the line of stages spoken of conveys the adventurous passengers, lies in the southeastern portion of Idaho Territory, bordering on Oregon. Extensive mines of gold have been worked there for years, and still continue to attract much attention, as rich mines of gold-bearing quartz have been discovered and worked since the placer mines have been partially exhausted. The principal mining country is in that portion generally designated as the Boise Basin, which comprises a scope of country about 150 miles north and south,

by a length of about 200 miles. The Boise mines lie north of the Snake or Shoshone River. The principal streams in the mining section are Boise River, Fayette River, Wind Creek, Moore's Creek and Salmon River. The Owyhee mines lie south of the Snake River and War Eagle Mountains. This portion of the mining belt of Idaho is not as extensive as the one just mentioned. The ores are mostly silver.

BOISE CITY—is the capital of the Territory and county seat of Ada county. Population about 6,000. The town site was laid out in 1863, and now contains about 700 buildings, a considerable portion of which are of brick and stone. The town is situated in a fine agricultural valley, about two miles wide by 50 long. It is the center of several stage routes, and also of trade for a large section of country. The *Statesman*, a tri-weekly paper, is published here.

IDAHO—is the second city in size in the Territory, population about 2,500. It lies 36 miles northeast of Boise City, with which it is connected with stage, and also with Umatilla, Oregon. The *World*, newspaper, is published here—semi-weekly.

SILVER CITY—contains about 2,000 inhabitants. The buildings are mostly granite. The *Avalanche*, a weekly paper, represents the interests of the town.

We now return to the railroad, and 11.43 miles further, arrive at

Ombey—Passenger trains seldom stop here, but roll on 9.87 miles further, to

Matlin—This station is on the highland, which sweeps out from the Red Dome Mountains. Here these mountains—low sandstone ridges—are nearer the track, breaking the general monotony of the scene. The road lies on the northern border of a vast waste whereon we see few signs of verdure. The station is midway from east to west of the

AMERICAN DESERT—which extends over an area of about 60 square miles. Over this vast extent the eye wanders in vain for some green object—some evidence that in times gone by this waste supported animal life, or will eventually in years to come. All is desolate in the extreme; the bare beds of alkali, or wastes of gray sand only meet the vision, if we except now and then a rocky hill more barren than the plains, if such things were possible. Evidently this desert was once the bed of a saline lake, perhaps a portion of the Great Salt Lake itself. The sloping plain sweeps off towards that