

of which afford pasturage and water at intervals. We are leaving the barren sands behind us, and the country looks more capable of supporting animal life.

Continuing the up-grade—over 550 feet within the next 9.6 miles—we arrive at

Loray—a station of little importance to the traveler.

From Loray, up we go for 7.1 miles further to

Toano—until recently the end of the division.

The company have here erected workshops and a 14-stall round-house. Toano is centrally located as regards many mining districts in Eastern Nevada, among which are Egan Canyon, Kinsley, Kern, Patterson, Ely, Pahranaगत and Deep Creek—all of which are under rapid development. A stage line is in operation from this place to Egan Canyon and the Cherry Creek mines, a distance of 90 miles south. Soon after leaving Toano we begin the ascent of Cedar Pass, which divides the Desert from Humboldt Valley. The country is more broken, but possessing more vegetation. We have passed the western line of the desert, where, in early days, the travel-worn emigrant wearily toiled through the burning sand, his journey unenlivened by the sight of water or vegetation. One word more, regarding this desert: The term sand is generally applied, when speaking of the soil of the barren wastes which occur at intervals along the road. With one or two exceptions it is a misnomer, though it well applies to the desert we have crossed. Most of the surface of this waste is sand, fine, hard and grey, mixed with marine shells and fossilized fragments of another age. There is no evidence on which to found a hope that this portion of the country could be rendered subservient to the use of man, consisting, as it does, of beds of sand and alkali, overlaying a heavy gravel deposit. Ages must pass away before nature's wondrous changes shall render this desert fit for the habitation of man. Continuing on up the ridge, 9.91 miles, we pass

Pequop—and 5.83 miles further

Otego—both side-tracks of little importance. Then we commence to descend, and 5.6 miles further arrive at

Independence—Independence Springs, from which this station derives its name, are near by, and supply an abundance of very good cold water.

Independence, Clover and Ruby valleys,

lie to the southward. The two first named are small and valueless except for grazing purposes. From Cedar Pass a spur, or rather a low range of hills, extends far to the southward. About 70 or 80 miles south of the pass, is the South Fork of the Humboldt which canyons through this range, running to the east and north of another range until it reaches the main Humboldt. Although the range first mentioned, after having united with the western range south of the South Fork, extends much farther south, we will follow it only to Fort Ruby, which is situated in the south end of Ruby Valley, near to the South Fork. From this fort to the pass is about 65 miles, which may be taken as the length of the valley. The average width is ten miles from the western range mentioned to the foot-hills of Ruby Range, which hems in the valley to the east. A large portion of this valley is very productive and is occupied by settlers—mostly discharged soldiers from Fort Ruby. In the southeastern portion of the valley is Ruby and Franklin lakes, which are spoken of under the general term of Ruby Lake, for in high water they are united, forming a brackish sheet of water about 15 miles long by seven in width, which has no outlet. It is—like Humboldt, Carson and Pyramid lakes in the Truckee Desert—merely a reservoir, where the floods accumulate to evaporate in the dry summer. The old stage road, from Salt Lake to Austin, crosses the foot of the valley at Ruby station. About 20 miles east of the Ruby Range lies Goshoot Lake, another brackish pond, with two small tributaries and no outlet, rather wider and about the same length as Ruby Lake. About half-way between Goshoot and the railroad lies Snow Lake, about five miles in diameter, possessing the same general characteristics as the others. With the exception of the valleys around these lakes and along the water-courses, the country is valueless except for stock-raising. In the Ruby Range rich silver lodes have been discovered, some rock of which has been found to assay as high as \$600 per ton.

Returning to Independence, we again proceed westward—the country is rolling and broken—and the up-grade continues 6.1 miles to

Moore's—on the summit of Cedar Pass. We now have down-grade for 311 miles to the Nevada Desert.

In general outline this pass resembles a