

The medicinal qualities of the water are highly spoken of by those who never tried them, but we could learn of no reliable analysis of its properties. To the right of the track is located a 10-stamp quartz mill, the ores for which come from the mountains on the left. The Rye Patch and Eldorado mining Districts are to the left, from five to fifteen miles distant, for which most of the supplies are hauled from this station.

Oreana—is reached after passing over a rough, uneven country for 10.12 miles. To the southeastward are located a number of mining districts, in which are located a number of stamp mills and smelting works.

Leaving the station to the west, the long gray line of the desert is seen cheerless and desolate. We draw near the river again and catch occasional glimpses of narrow, green meadows, with here and there a farm-house by the river-side; pass a smelting furnace and stamp mill—on the Humboldt River—to the right, which has been dammed near by to afford water power. Five miles from the station we cross a Howe truss bridge over the river, which here winds away on our left until it reaches the lake a few miles beyond. The current and volume of the river has been materially reduced since we left it at the head of the Big Bend.

Lovelocks—11.86 miles from Oreana, derives its name from an old meadow ranche which is situated near, upon which, during the summer, large quantities of hay are cut and baled for market. Some attempt has been made at farming near by, but little of the country is adapted to the purpose. Cattle and sheep raising is the principal occupation of the people—but few herds will be seen hereafter on our route. Reliable authority places the number of head of stock now along the Humboldt River and adjacent valleys—1877—cattle, 340,000 head; sheep, 30,000 head. During the year there were shipped from the same section to Chicago 60 car-loads of cattle, and 456 car-loads to San Francisco.

Passing on over alkali beds, sand-hills and sage-brush knobs, the meadow-lands along the bottom get narrower, and finally fade from sight altogether, and we find ourselves fairly out on the

GREAT NEVADA DESERT—This desert occupies the largest portion of the Nevada Basin. In this section, to the northward, is Mud Lake, Pyramid Lake, Hum-

boldt, Winnemucca and Carson lakes, which receive the waters of several large rivers and numerous small creeks. As we have before stated, they form a portion of that vast desert belt which constitutes the central area of the Nevada Basin. The desert consists of barren plains destitute of wood or water, and low, broken hills, which afford but little wood, water or grass. It is a part of that belt which can be traced through the whole length of the State, from Oregon to Arizona, and far into the interior of that Territory. The Forty Mile Desert, and the barren country east of Walker's Lake, are part of this great division which extends southward, continued by those desolate plains, to the east of Silver Peak, on which the unfortunate Buel party suffered so terribly in their attempt to reach the Colorado River. Throughout this vast extent of territory the same characteristics are found—evidences of recent volcanic action—alkaline flats, bassalt rocks, hot springs and sandy wastes abounding in all portions of this great belt.

Although this desert is generally spoken of as a sandy waste, sand does not predominate. Sand hills and flats occur at intervals, but the main bed of the desert is lava and clay combined—one as destitute of the power of creating or supporting vegetable life as the other. The action of the elements has covered these clay and lava deposits with a coarse dust, resembling sand, which is blown about and deposited in curious drifts and knolls by the wind. Where more of sand than clay is found, the sage-brush occasionally appears to have obtained a faint hold of life, and bravely tries to retain it.

Granite Point—a flag station, is 8.33 miles from Lovelock's. Passing on, an occasional glimpse of Humboldt Lake, which lies to the left of the road, can be obtained, and in full view 7.65 miles further, at

Brown's—This station is situated about midway of the northern shore, directly opposite

HUMBOLDT LAKE—This body of water is about 35 miles long by ten wide, and is in reality a widening of the Humboldt River, which after coursing through 350 miles of country, empties its waters into this basin. Through this basin the water flows to the plains beyond by an outlet at the lower end of the lake, uniting with the waters of the sink of Carson Lake which lies about ten