

miles distant. During the wet season, when the swollen rivers have overflowed the low lands around the lakes and united them, they form a very respectable sheet of water, about eighty miles or more in length, with a large river emptying its waters into each end; and for this vast volume of water there is no visible outlet.

Across the outlet of Humboldt Lake a dam has been erected, which has raised the water about six feet, completely obliterating the old emigrant road which passed close to the southern shore. The necessities of mining have at length utilized the waters of the lake, and now they are employed in turning the machinery of a quartz mill. In the lower end of the lake is an island—a long narrow strip of land—which extends up the lake and near the northern shore. Before the dam was put in the outlet, this island was part of the main land. There are several varieties of fish in the lake, and an abundance of water-fowl during portions of the year.

Leaving Brown's, and passing along the shore of the lake for a few miles, an intervening sand ridge hides the lake from our sight, and about eight miles west we obtain a fine view of the Sink of Carson Lake, which is a small body of water lying a few miles north of the main Carson Lake, and connected with that and the Humboldt during the wet season.

CARSON LAKE lies directly south of Humboldt Lake, and is from 20 to 25 miles long, with a width of ten miles. In the winter its waters cover considerable more area, the Sink and lake being one.

The Carson River empties into the southern end of the lake, discharging a large volume of water. What becomes of the vast body of water continually pouring into these lakes, is the problem yet unsolved. Some claim the existence of underground channels, and terrible stories are told of unfortunate people who have been drawn down and disappeared forever. These stories must be taken with much allowance. If underground channels exist, why is it that the lakes, which are 10 to 15 miles apart in low water are united during the winter floods? And how is it, that when the waters have subsided from these alkaline plains, that no openings for these channels are visible? The only rational theory for the escape of the water is by evaporation. Examine each little stream bed that you meet with; you find no water there in the summer,

nor sink holes, yet in the winter their beds are full until they reach the main river. The sun is so powerful on these lava plains in summer that the water evaporates as soon as it escapes from the cooling shadows of the hills. By actual experiment it has been demonstrated that at Carson and Humboldt lakes the evaporation of water is equal, in the summer, to six inches every 24 hours. In the winter, when the atmosphere is more humid, evaporation is less, consequently the waters spread over a larger area.

CARSON RIVER, which gives its name to the lake, rises in the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, south of Lake Tahoe and opposite the head waters of the American River. From its source to its mouth is about 150 to 200 miles by the river's course. From its source its course is about due north for about 75 miles, when it turns to the east, and follows that direction until it enters the lake.

Under the general name of Carson Valley, the land bordering the river has long been celebrated as being one of the best farming sections in the State. The thriving towns of Carson City and Genoa are situated in the valley, though that portion around Carson City is frequently designated as Eagle Valley. The upper portion, from Carson to the foothills, is very fertile, and yields handsome crops of vegetables, though irrigation is necessary to insure a good yield. In some portions the small grains are successfully cultivated, and on the low lands an abundant crop of grass is produced. The valley is thickly settled, the arable land being mostly occupied. South and west of the head waters of Carson River, the head waters of Walker's River find their source. The west fork of Walker's River rises within a few miles of the eastern branches of the Carson. The east fork of Walker's River runs due north until joined by the west fork, when the course of the river is east for about forty miles, when it turns to the south, following that direction until it reaches Walker's Lake, about forty miles south of the sink of the Carson, having traversed in its tortuous course about 140 miles. In the valleys, which are found at intervals along the rivers, occasional spots of arable land are found, but as an agricultural country the valley of Walker's River is not a success.

WALKER LAKE is about 45 miles long by 20 miles wide. Like all the lakes in the basin, it has no outlet. The water is