

Lake Puzzles Scientists.

A dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald under date of Indianapolis, August 1, says: With neither outlet nor inlet that is at any time visible Lake Cicott, a small body of water in Cass county, has now reached a height which it attains every seven years, and hundreds of acres of fine corn land is covered by several feet of water. The rural mail route which runs along its banks has been abandoned by the carrier, for the water covers it to a depth of three feet and stretches beyond for several hundred yards.

Lake Cicott has been an interesting phenomenon to the people of northern Indiana for many years, but the secret of its rising and falling has never been discovered. It is the only lake in Cass county, and is about one mile square. The water is clear and cold and perfectly fresh, and, though it must be fed from some unseen source and emptied in the same way, no one knows whence the water comes or whither it goes.

Its most mysterious characteristic is the fact that it overflows its banks every seventh year and then the water gradually recedes till it is confined to its limits. So accustomed have the farmers who own the land upon its banks become to this characteristic that they never attempt to cultivate

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OH, CONSISTENCY!



WOMEN.

Theodore Roosevelt to Governor Durbin of Indiana, August 9, 1903:—"All thoughtful men must feel the gravest alarm over the growth of lynching in this country, and especially over the peculiarly hideous forms so often taken by mob violence when colored men are the victims, on which occasion the mob seems to lay most weight, not on the crime, but on the color of the criminal."



HORSES.

Theodore Roosevelt, author, on page 93 of "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail," published in 1899:—"Horse thieves are always numerous and formidable on the frontier, though in our own country they have been summarily thinned out of late years. It is the fashion to laugh at the severity with which horse stealing is punished on the border, but the reasons are evident. Horses are the most valuable property of the frontiersman, whether cowboy, hunter or settler, and are often absolutely essential to his well-being, and even to his life. They are always marketable and they are very easily stolen, for they carry themselves off instead of having to be carried. Horse stealing is thus a most tempting business, especially to the more reckless ruffians, and it is always followed by armed men, and they can only be kept in check by ruthless severity."

the land in the seventh year, but give up the area that they know is sure to be claimed by the waters.

The Pottawattomie Indians, who inhabited what is now Cass and adjoining counties, were familiar with the characteristic of the lake, and bore testimony that it had never failed to overflow its banks in the seventh year. They believed that the bottom of the lake was inhabited by a powerful spirit, which at intervals of seven years caused the lake to overflow. They construed this action as approval of the tribe by the spirit and watched anxiously for the time to come, for they saw in the rising waters a sure indication that they had done nothing to displease the spirit that inhabited the lake. The early white settlers became acquainted with the legend, and the oldest inhabitant is not able to recall a time that the seventh annual

overflow did not take place.

The water has now reached its highest point and will soon begin to recede and continue to do so till the old confines are reached. Residents of the locality say that the weather conditions have no effect upon the lake, for its rise in the seventh year takes place regardless of the fact of rain or drouth. Amos Jordan, a veteran of the civil war, who lives on a bluff overlooking the lake, says that it has never failed to rise at the expected time.

The only apparent difference between wet and dry seasons, when the rise occurs, is that the water appears to be colder in time of drouth. What is true of the rising of the waters is also true of their recession, for they gradually disappear regardless of the amount of rainfall in the country.

The water usually reaches its highest stage during the latter part of June and the early part of July and seems to remain stationary for ten or fifteen days. The falling of the water is then noted by the rim of wet earth around the margin, and this gets broader from day to day till the old confines are reached. The phenomenon is explained on the theory that there is a subterranean outlet which becomes closed in some way and is

opened by the pressure of the water when the highest point is reached every seventh year, but this is mere guesswork, and nothing has ever been discovered to justify such a theory. The Pennsylvania Railroad company, which owns a number of ice houses on the edge of the lake, made soundings at different places before the rise began and found the greatest depth to be ninety feet.

The result of the convention in Ohio will be greeted with pleasure by every democrat who places principle above victory and who wants to see his party right as well as victorious. The anything-to-win democrats, who shift with every breeze in the hope of making connection with public office, that graft may follow winning, are apt to deprecate the indorsement of the Kansas City platform, because the party has not won power and offices when fighting for the principles it embraces.

But no party should have power that does not prove by its steadfastness of purpose that it is worthy of it. Any party that flits about from one declaration to another or from one purpose to another, in the mere hope of winning the offices, is unworthy of public confidence and merits defeat.—Milwaukee News.

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