

DR. W. I. SEYMOUR.

## NATURE'S SUBLIME WORK.

Wonders Fashioned by the Master Hand in Yellowstone Park.

### AN OMAHA VISITOR IMPRESSED

Majestic Views of Mountain and Plain, Canyon and Lake, Springs and Spouters—Wayside Scenes.

(Sunday Bee, Oct. 5.)

"The American people do not seem to appreciate the many natural beauties of this country as much as they should." These remarks were addressed to a Bee reporter by Dr. W. I. Seymour of this city, who has just returned from an extensive trip through the northwest.

"I have read much and heard a great deal about the Yellowstone park, but had a very dim conception of what a visit to this fairyland of America really meant until I actually visited it. I left Omaha during the extremely hot weather in August, my first stop being in Deadwood, S. D., where I remained a few days, finding the weather very much cooler and pleasanter than one would suppose at such a short distance from here. Returning from Deadwood to Hot Springs, S. D., to remain there over Sunday, I had the pleasure of meeting several Omaha people, among whom Mr. T. G. Rogers and wife, Mr.

F. J. Marsh, Mr. J. C. Holtorf, Mrs. Cole and daughter, who were enjoying the cool evenings and delightful plunge baths, which constitute the principal attractions of this little city. Leaving Hot Springs, I continued my trip to Sheridan, Wyo., which is a pretty little city, beautifully located at the foot of the Big Horn snow-capped mountains. Here again I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Brownrig and wife, Mr. C. N. Dietz and Mrs. Victor White. Mr. Dietz has a delightful summer residence near the top of this range of mountains, some 8,000 feet in altitude, where even in the hottest weather in August the nights are cool and frosty. Leaving here I went directly to Butte, Mont., the most wonderful city of its kind in the world.

"Joining a party of friends here, we returned to the entrance of the Yellowstone at Cinnabar, which is the gateway to the park. Here we were met by our camping outfit, which consisted of carriages, a mess wagon, guides, a cook, etc., and we commenced our journey of about 150 miles through the park. Leaving Cinnabar in the morning and entering the golden gate we raised about 3,000 feet in a drive of about ten miles. The sublime grandeur of the scenery dawns as we enter this natural gateway of rocks, which on one side is a sheer precipice of many hundred feet, the road being cut out of solid rock along the side.

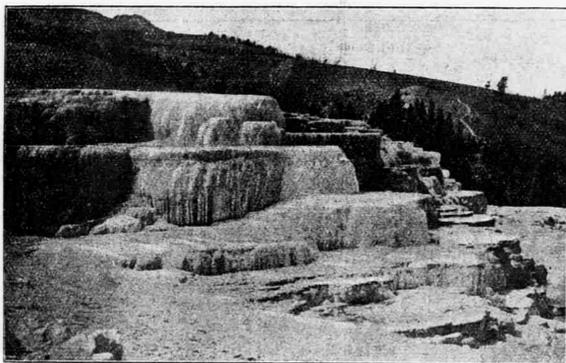
### NATURE'S TERRACES.

"The next point of interest is Fort Yellowstone, situated at the Mammoth Hot Springs, and does not differ from many of our military posts except in the location and the surroundings. Words are inadequate to express the first impression of this beautiful natural formation which, by the actions of the water, have been in process of construction for generations. Looking toward the springs from the Mammoth Springs hotel one can hardly imagine that these beautiful terraces of marble white, tinted in places with all the colors of the rainbow, were not aided in their construction by human hands. Terrace upon terrace of snowy whiteness reaching the height of some 300 or 400 feet have been built by an overflow of boiling water which carries some sort of a lime sediment that chemists have failed to analyze. This constantly deposits itself at the edges of the spring, building the walls higher and higher each year, becoming in time nearly as hard as rock, and the little rivulets of water which flow down the sides of this mountain of whiteness form the most beautiful colors. Trees and shrubbery in the near vicinity of the spring have become coated with this whiteness until they look like phantom images carved from marble. Other springs in this vicinity, through the action of the soil or certain rocks through which they flow, have become changed in color and assume most beautiful tints of orange, blue, etc. Some conception of the number of these terraces can be understood when I say that it took us some three hours moving from place to place

little streams of hot water spouting up, in other places, some fifteen or twenty feet across, boiling furiously. Coming out of a rock near by is a most unearthly roar of escaping steam, called the "Growler." The only comparison I could think of would be the combined roar of 1,000 railroad engines exhausting steam at the same time. Passing on the journey brings us to what is considered by many the most wonderful part of the park. The action of the hot water has formed many peculiar features, and the whole region under this field seems to be a boiling mass of hot water, which spouts up from time to time at different points, constituting the different geysers. The principal geysers are all named and play at regular intervals known to the guides, enabling one to be prepared for the grand eruption when it takes place.

### OLD FAITHFUL AT WORK.

"The one which I suppose has created the most interest is "Old Faithful." While it is not as strong as some of the others, yet the eruptions are very regular. Old Faithful, when not in action, has something the appearance of a little crater, being built up on each side with the usual white formation to the height of about twenty feet. This gradually slopes from the edge of the crater off to either side, so that a person can climb up and look into the abyss. The first indications of an eruptions are the gradual risings of the waters, boiling most furiously and throwing up little streams which gradually come near the mouth of the crater until enough force seems to have been gathered, when there is a



NATURE'S TERRACES.

in order to see the features of particular interest.

"From here we continued our way to the first camping ground, where our tents had been pitched, and supper, consisting of hot biscuits, bacon and eggs, canned fruits, vegetables, etc., was served on long tables placed under a large tree, all of which was thoroughly enjoyed, as our appetites were of the best. After supper a huge campfire was built from great logs brought from the mountains near by. Seated on our camp stools we enjoyed the evening telling stories and singing songs and retired at an early hour to pass a most restless night sleeping on mattresses, laid upon the hard ground. However, this feature of discomfort did not trouble us after the first night, as we all slept well, and the cook had some trouble in getting us up at the early hour necessary for us to have our breakfast in order to cover the twenty or twenty-five miles necessary for each day's travel. Our next day's journey led us through pine forests, through deep ravines and along mountain creeks, till we reached at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon a beautiful plateau of grass-covered land with a small river running through it, which afforded us trout fishing and bathing, a crude bathhouse having been constructed over a warm spring which flowed into the river.

### REMINDERS OF THE INFERNO.

"The next day brought us to the first of the wonderful geysers, which are surely reminders of the Inferno, as the place has been described in days gone by, except in this case the founts are water, for the odor of these springs is strongly sulphurous, and until one becomes accustomed to this feature are quite disagreeable to many. Driving on a little hillock we looked into a basin covering some ten acres of ground, perfectly white, here and there

grand explosion. The water shoots up 150 feet in a solid body the size of the crater, and apparently remains stationary in the air for about four minutes. Millions of gallons are thrown into the air with each eruption, most of which drops directly back into the crater, but considerable water is carried to the side by the wind and the atmosphere soon condenses the vast clouds of steam into a thick mist. It strikes many as being peculiar that these wonderful freaks of nature should burst through the earth at such a high altitude, as the park averages nearly 8,000 feet over the whole surface. Of course, this feature of altitude adds to the interest of the park, and, while it seems strange that these eruptions should occur here rather than in a lower altitude, yet this is thoroughly understood by geologists, who, I believe, claim that the crust of the earth is much thinner at these altitudes, than elsewhere.

### YELLOWSTONE LAKE.

"Proceeding from the geyser basin on to the south, another day brings us in sight of the wonderful Yellowstone lake, a body of water some thirty miles in length by twenty in width, nestling at the foot of snow-capped mountains. This water is so pure and clear that it is inhabited by millions of mountain and lake trout, and, I understand, is the largest body of fresh water at this altitude in the world. Of course, you have all heard of catching trout in the Yellowstone park, and being able to throw them into a boiling hot spring and cooking them without moving from where you stand. During the time we were in the park we met W. J. Bryan and family traveling in a manner similar to ourselves and succeeded in getting some very laughable pictures, one showing Mr. Bryan sitting on the edge of one of these hot springs with rod and line, fishing out of the lake.

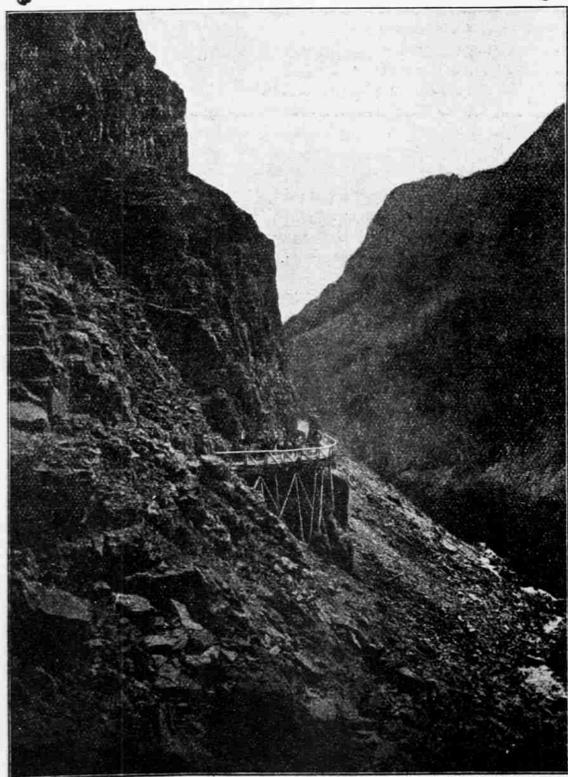


OLD FAITHFUL.

"Our next day's drive led us around the north shore of the lake and in the evening brought us to the lower end of the lake, where is situated another one of these mammoth hotels. This is also the head of the Yellowstone river, and our party camped here for some days, taking excursions on the lake on the beautiful steamer Zella, a craft of three decks and some hundred feet in length. This complete little steamer was carried across the mountains in small parts on the backs of mules, before the government had completed the wagon road. Here, for the first time in my life I have been able to catch as many fish as I cared to, consisting wholly of the "Speckled Beauties," ranging in weight from a pound and a half to two pounds and a half. Two of us caught fully fifty pounds in one forenoon.

### WAYSIDE FEATURES.

"On the trip down the Yellowstone river we passed many wonderful features. Sulphur mountain, for example, appears to be a solid body of sulphur some three or four hundred feet high, having a beautiful spring breaking from the side of it, some fifty feet above the road, the water being very hot, but clear as crystal. A short distance from Sulphur mountain the Great Mud Hole, a hole some 150 feet in diameter, in the side of the mountain, at the bottom of which, at about 100 feet from the surface, is a mass of seething mud, which occasionally spouts up, throwing the mud in all directions until it had built up a wall around the mouth. A short distance from this there are other mud volcanoes, called the Paint Pots, as they vary in color, the mud being in some



GOLDEN GATE.



GRAND CANYON.