

GREAT SALT LAKE. Some of the Peculiarities of this Wonderful Inland Sea.

Its Advantages as a Sanitarium in the Heart of the Rockies. Affording the Finest Bathing on the Continent of America.

One of the wonders of Utah is that of the Great Salt Lake. In the Great Basin among the mountains of the backbone of America, is this inland sea, having no outlet, and yet affording a drainage for a scope of country larger than some of the states in the east.

At present the lake occupies a space equal to 3,000 square miles. The greatest length is ninety-three miles, while the greatest width is forty-three. Several large islands rise to great heights above the surface, the largest of which is over thirty miles long, and in the widest place about twelve miles across, and it is mountainous in its character, with streams of water forced by springs and drainage, flowing through the ravines and canyons. On this island, which is called by the name of Antelope or Church Island, ranchmen have raised herds of horses, cattle and sheep upon the rich land found there.

The other islands, of which there are several, are small, and inhabited only by loons and sea-gulls. These are in such numbers that in hatching seasons, the rocks and sands of these small islands are covered with eggs. This large body of water contains more saline matter in solution than that of any similar lake in the world. With the numerous fresh water streams entering the lake at various points, there is considerable difference in the percentage of salt held in solution, but in the main body of the lake the water is simply a sea of brine. The fresh water after emptying from the mountain streams is through the action of winds distributed over the lake, and thus receives its quantum of salt. The average flow is estimated at 6,000 cubic feet per minute, a quantity sufficient to cover the lake in one year to a depth of 40 inches. This is kept down alone by evaporation, so that the lake from year to year remains about the same. In spring the melting snows of the Wasatch and other mountains fill all the streams and send vast quantities of water to the lake that it rises from one to two feet.

During the spring rises overflow the low lands of the shore, and in receding, during the summer, these lands are covered with salt through deposit and crystallization. This salt is a source of wealth of which we will hereafter speak. The greatest depth of the lake, as far as is known, is sixty feet, and the bottom is quite uniform and free from unevenness. While the waters of the ocean contain only about 2 per cent salt, that of Great Salt Lake varies from 15 to 21 per cent, averaging nearly one-fifth in bulk.

This lake exerts a vast influence upon the climate of this valley. It does much in making this Great Basin the most pleasant habitation, in point of freedom from disease and agreeableness of climate of any portion of our country. In the winter the latent heat of the water aids in preventing extreme cold, while in the summer it absorbs the heat and helps cool the atmosphere, so that our climate is not subject to great extremes.

How often persons have been annoyed by burrs clinging to their dress or clothing, and how seldom have they, when cleaning them, and a thought that Burdock Root is the most valuable blood purifier and purifier known, and is sold by every druggist under the name of Burdock Blood Bitters. Price, \$1.00.

shoveling it into wagons and hauling away, while others have gone into the business of manufacturing a purer article by solar evaporation in prepared tanks or ponds. One factory has expended about \$10,000 in machinery, by which they are enabled to produce a pure article of salt, suitable for domestic purposes. An engine is used for pumping water from the lake into suitable tanks, from which it is drawn either into other tanks for solar evaporation, or else into large kettles to be evaporated by boiling. In boiling the brine is skimmed of all impurities, and nothing but pure chloride of sodium remains, while in natural deposit other salts remain to make the product impure, and yet for mechanical and many other uses, this salt containing alkali answers all purposes. The principal shipping points for this salt are Salt Lake, Hot Springs, Brigham and Monument.

Some years ago the people of Corinne built a large steambot, and called it the City of Corinne, with the intention of making it a means of travel between the Burg on the Bear and Salt Lake City. It did not prove a financial success, and the boat was for several years used only as an occasional excursion boat. The name was changed several years ago to General Garfield, at the time our late martyred president visited here. For the past two years this boat has done duty as a hotel at Garfield Landing, and now that the machinery has been removed, the lake is without any boats, except the small sail and row boats kept at various points along the shore for pleasure boating. The time is not far distant when a good excursion steambot would pay on the investment.

One would suppose that animal life could not exist in a lake the waters of which were saturated almost to the point of crystallization with salt, but there is a species of algrims and other forms of life in the water. One of these species produce a large fly or gnat, which swarms along the shore by millions. Fortunately these flies are not troublesome like mosquitoes, and hence are not a source of annoyance to visitors at the lake shore.

The surface of the lake is at an elevation of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, and some of the rivers which flow into it are hundreds of miles in length. Bear river, the largest stream, rises in the Uintah mountains, over 100 miles east of the lake; then sweeps away north, making a circuit among mountains a distance of about 500 miles in its flow, and enters the lake at the northern end. Oregon, Weber, Jordan and other small rivers, each drain large tracts of country. Around the lake is good arable land, except on the west, where a great desert extends from its shores a hundred miles westward.

All around Great Salt Lake high mountain peaks and ranges rise up, and upon these, at a level of 1,100 feet above the present surface of the lake, the shore lines of a great inland sea is plainly marked. This shore line has been traced by government surveyors over 4,000 miles, indicating that at one time the lake was several thousand times greater than now. This ancient shore line has been appropriately named Lake Bonneville, in honor of the first explorer of this region. When this space was a vast sea it had an outlet down the valleys of the Snake and Columbia rivers, it is supposed. As the waters receded through the vast space of time, the saline matter in all this great basin remained in solution, and thus gained from time to time in percentage of salt, until we now have the most wonderful accumulation of salt water in the world.

As a great summer bathing resort, there is none better. During the summer season the lake water becomes warm, and makes an agreeable and invigorating bath, which is taken advantage of by thousands, not only as a source of enjoyment, but for the cure of chronic and other diseases, for which it has proved very efficacious. At Lake Point, Black Rock and Lake Shore ample provisions have been made for the accommodation and comfort of bathers, and during the past season, which was a very short one, fully 30,000 baths were taken.

Lake Shore is located fifteen miles north of this city, and is reached by the Utah Central railway, which, during the bathing season, gives specially low rates for excursion tickets. The grounds have been fitted up with dressing rooms and other conveniences, and Lake Shore is rather a pleasant place to visit and enjoy salt bathing. But the most extensive bathing is done at Lake Point, Black Rock and Garfield Landing, three places located together at the point of the mountain, twenty miles west of Salt Lake City.

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