

colation, but not very rapid evaporation. Irrigation would produce a decreasing fall every year until a balance should be reached between the area of the lake and the amount of water it received, when no further fall would occur as the result of irrigation. Irrigation was in progress during the time that the lake rose rapidly. Talmage says that in the dry atmosphere of the Great Basin much of the water spread upon the land is lost from the surface by immediate evaporation, and little water finds its way to the lake through subterranean channels or by springs.<sup>1</sup> But a small portion of the water lost by evaporation within the area is precipitated again therein, the prevailing winds operating to carry it eastward. The rise in the lake-level which began after the first settlement of the region was in part due to the pasturing of animals in large numbers within the drainage basin. The effect was that the soil was trampled down, and by thus losing in surface porosity it permitted the water to run directly off, and the lake was the recipient of greatly increased contributions. The removal of the herbage by cattle, and the deforesting of the hill-slopes by man, further lessened the retention of rain-water and snow within the region.<sup>2</sup>

Lake  
Lahontan.

Honey Lake, California; Pyramid, Winnemucca, Humboldt, North Carson, South Carson, and Walker Lakes, Nevada, occur in valleys which are deeply filled with the sediment of another ancient body of water named Lake Lahontan.

**Honey Lake**, the western arm of Lake Lahontan, may be classed to-day as a playa lake; it is without outlet, and becomes completely desiccated during seasons of unusual aridity.

**Pyramid Lake**, 4890 feet above sea-level, is 30 miles in length by 12 miles in maximum breadth; its area in September 1882 was 828 square miles. The greatest depth is 361 feet. As the Lahontan beach is 525 feet above the 1882 level of Pyramid Lake, the former lake had a depth of 886 feet; this is the deepest point in Lake Lahontan. Pyramid Lake is without outlet, and receives almost its entire supply from the Truckee River, which enters it at the southern end. Near the mouth of the Truckee the waters are sufficiently fresh

<sup>1</sup> Talmage, "The Great Salt Lake," *Scott. Geogr. Mag.*, vol. xvii. p. 630, 1901.

<sup>2</sup> See Trimmer, "Rise in the Level of the Great Salt Lake," *Geogr. Journ.*, vol. xxxi. p. 568, 1908. The level of the Great Salt Lake at midsummer 1907, after the snows had melted on the mountains, was 3 feet 6 inches above zero, the highest reading for ten years. A railway was built on piles during the low-water period for a distance of 10 miles across the shallows of the northern end of the lake, at a height supposed to be beyond the reach of the water, but a further rise of 2 feet would submerge the rails. Bearing in mind the steadily increasing diversion for irrigation of all streams feeding the Great Salt Lake, the rise now under observation seems to be of unusual interest.