

## YELLOWSTONE LAKE.

One of the scenes that charm the tourist's eye in the National park is Yellowstone lake, a portion of the great Yellowstone fork of the Missouri. It is the largest of the lakes in the Rocky mountain region and the largest lake at so great an elevation in North America. Yellowstone river proper rises in Bridger lake, a small body of water lying in the high mountains to the southeast of the park, and with tributaries from other sources, flows generally northward until it empties into the southeast arm of the lake. This portion of the stream is called the "Upper Yellowstone." Other streams, such as Beaverdam creek, Turbid creek, Pelican creek, Milky creek and Elk creek, as well as many of smaller size, flow into the lake and swell its volume so that the single outlet, the Yellowstone river, flows from the northern end as a large stream.

The length of the lake from the head of the southeast arm to the foot, a direction nearly northwest, is twenty miles, and its breadth, from the eastern shore westerly to the head of the west arm, is fifteen miles. Its area is 150 square miles. In form it resembles the human hand somewhat battered out of shape, each one of the arms of the lake representing a sadly-dilapidated finger. The shores are nearly everywhere densely wooded with a fine growth of large conifers. These add much to the beauty of the scene, the huge peaks of the Rockies rising up in the background. The lake itself is 7,427 feet above sea level, and the summit peaks to the southwest, among which the Upper Yellowstone takes its rise, pierce the sky at a height of 11,000 feet.

One feature of the lake renders it unique in the world, and that is the hot springs existing within the lake itself and yet separated from it. Long wells or chimneys in the rock, similar to those that form the orifices through which the geysers spout, sometimes called geyser tubes, extend indefinitely downward, so that the water they contain is kept at a boiling heat constantly. They differ in no respect from the hot springs found in other portions of the park, except that they come to the surface through the water of the lake instead of through the dry ground. The surrounding wall, or cone, is thick enough to protect them from the modifying influence of the cold water of the lake, while their rounded tops project far enough above the surface to constitute little islands, upon which fishermen may stand and angle for the trout that abound in the clear waters of the lake. It is possible for one to catch a fish and without removing it from the hook or stepping from his position, to drop it into one of the hot springs and cook it. It is believed that nowhere else in the world can this feat be accomplished. These are not the only ones, however, for scattered along the shore of the lake, and on the mountain slopes that overlook it, are many other hot springs, saffataras, fumaroles and small geysers. As some of these hot springs overflow into the lake, one may take a warm or cold bath as he may choose. At one point the temperature to a depth of eighteen inches is 110 degrees Fahrenheit, immediately below that eighty degrees, and a few rods to one side but forty-five degrees.

The lake contains several beautiful islands of small size, such as Stevenson, Dot, Frank, Mollie, Pearle, Carrington, Pelican Roost and several others. These islands, the placid water, which shines with the rich blue of the open sea, and the irregular form of the lake, with its bald bluffs and stretches of pebbly beach, all surrounded by the grandest mountains in America, combine to make a picture of unsurpassed beauty and grandeur. The lake, whose waters are cool and pure, is in places 300 feet deep, and swarms with trout, while in the summer time it is the home of countless swans, white pelicans, geese, brant, ducks, cranes, snipe and other water fowl, while its grassy and wooded shores furnish food and covers for numberless elk, antelope, black and white-tailed deer, bears and mountain sheep, which are protected by law from the hunter's rifle.

A special object of interest is found on Bridge creek, which is a small stream flowing into the lake from the west some four miles south of the outlet. A short distance from the lake this creek is spanned by a natural bridge,

thirty feet long, five feet wide and eighty feet above the bottom of the chasm it spans, down which the waters leap in a roaring cascade. From this point the view is extremely enticing. A good hotel now stands on the bank of the lake for the accommodation of tourists, and is reached by stage from the terminus of the Northern Pacific's park branch.

## ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED.

Everywhere throughout the mining regions of the west are to be found traditions of fabulously rich mines whose whereabouts are now a mystery, some of them having a good foundation to stand upon and others being of a decidedly ethereal nature. Among these are the Breyfogle mine, the Emigrant, Pegleg, Gunsight and other ledges, the Blue Bucket diggings, Gold lake and the various "lost cabins" scattered all over the west. Diligent search from time to time has proved the elusive nature of all these mysterious repositories of wealth, but at last it is claimed that at least one of them has been discovered, either it or its counterpart, which is just as satisfactory to the lucky discoverer. Early in the fifties, so the story goes, one Breyfogle was a member of an emigrant train going to California by the Southern Utah route, and while the train was encamped in Pahrump valley, on the border line between California and Nevada, and near the famous Death valley, he prospected near by and discovered a large ledge of decomposed quartz, from



YELLOWSTONE LAKE.—From Photo. by M. M. Hazeltine, Baker City, Oregon.

which he pried many small nuggets with his knife. Here follows the usual story about the Indians and lack of provisions forcing the emigrants to leave their prize and seek safety in the settlements. Breyfogle spent the remainder of his life in vain search for the lost ledge, many others following his example, of whom not a few perished in that desert region. Now comes the sequel. Two months ago George Montgomery, while prospecting to the southeastward of Death valley, discovered, so he asserts, just such a ledge as Breyfogle claimed to have found. He traced it 9,000 feet on the surface, picked out a yeast powder can full of nuggets of various sizes, which were to be seen in the decomposed quartz "like plums in a pudding," made several locations and then went to San Francisco for tools, supplies, etc., taking with him as many rich specimens as he could pack across the desert to the railroad, 160 miles away. As soon as he made the fact known adventurous spirits hastened to the wonderful ledge, laid off claims and went to work. A meeting to organize a mining district will be held the first of April, and it is to be hoped the traditions of that day will have no effect upon the new camp, which has been named "Montgomery" in honor of the lucky prospector. Veins of silver, lead and copper exist in the vicinity, but the miners are devoting their sole attention to the free gold ledges, the size and richness of which make this a "poor man's camp."

If you want a free trip to the Yellowstone Park, read the conditions on Page 212.