

GREAT LAVA PLAINS OF INTERIOR IDAHO

Vivid Description of a Region Where All Animal Life Disappears in Aug- ust and Water is a Foreign Thing.

The following interesting description of the almost impenetrable lava beds north of Minidoka, about which much has been written lately, is from the pen of J. W. Powell of Portland, and was recently published in the Blackfoot Republican:

"The largest cattle company operating in the valley offered a reward of \$5000 if I would find the spring, and I spent three years trying to locate it and get the reward. At one time I thought I had the goods ready for delivery and so did they, but time proved otherwise. The place referred to is what I call Wet Lake, and is about 65 miles west of Blackfoot.

"In our travels over this region we carried 800 feet of rope which we used for getting down into the craters and crevices and in some instances this was not enough. In the winter time the snow blows and drifts into these holes and sifts down to various places and landings. Sometimes we found it at a depth of 450 feet where it lay and settled and packed in beds of ice. Some of the large holes that are not so deep gather great quantities of snow, and as it melts and runs away through crevices and seams that lead to the surface in lower parts of the plain it leaves the impression of springs. A person may find everything as expected except the flow of water. This experience may be repeated in many places, sometimes finding springs of considerable volume that fill depressions or hollows of some acres in extent. There are places where a large drainage surface gathers the snow water during a thaw in the latter part of the winter, and makes a lake of hundreds of acres in extent, and this may be fed for weeks by springs along the shores, but sooner or later and before the end of the summer, all of them will go dry and the lake bed will bake and turn to dust. The seasons vary greatly and the crop of springs varies accordingly.

"When we found Wet Lake everything seemed to indicate that we had permanent water, but the cattle company arranged for one of the cowboys to visit the place once a month for a year to clear up all doubt. When he made his August visit he was surprised to find everything dry and dusty and he had not provided water for his return trip. With 45 miles between him and Snake river and the August sun beating down upon him he knew it was a hopeless task to retrace his steps so he turned his steed toward Wood river in the direction of Pica. Becoming entangled in the rough lavas and his horse almost crazed with thirst he abandoned the poor animal and went off alone, leaving the crevices and scrambling over the rough broken lavas, and finally reached water and food.

"In all our hunting, the only territory where there was any chance for a spring to have been overlooked is to the south from Wet Lake. We did not cover the territory thoroughly in that direction, but it does not hold out the possibilities which the rougher parts do. In the region of Wet Lake and Cinder Hill one would say almost anything may exist, and water does not seem improbable, for one can go down in any number of potholes of craters on a rope and come back with clean snow or ice to supply the camp. But in August, the time when things dry and burn, when all animal life has vanished and only the indestructible elements remain the

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The Journal

COMPLIMENTARY ALL AROUND



Hewitt—You'll be weighed in the balance and found wanting.
Jewett—Well, I'll be sorry for you, if they cremate you and then sift the ashes.

THERE WAS ONE TOO MANY

Farmer Suspicious of Literary Man's Methods of Rearing Children.

The following is told at the expense of a New York literary man, into whose family a fifth child came last summer.

The family were at their country house in the north of the state, and for a time much of the care of the other four children devolved upon the father, who entertains some Spartan notions touching the rearing of his sons.

One morning he carried his three-year-old to the creek near his home, to give him a cold plunge. The lad objected vigorously to this proceeding, but was firmly held and ducked, despite his protests.

Just as the father was "sending in" the youngster for the second time, a powerful hand stayed him, and he found himself in the grasp of a big farmer, a neighbor of his, who began to roar at him in this wise:

"None o' that! None o' that, or I'll hand you over to the law!"

It consumed the better part of half an hour to convince the farmer that no attempt was being made to drown the child. Even at the end, the brawny tiller of the soil was not entirely convinced, for he kept shaking his head doubtfully and murmuring:

"I dunno about that, I dunno. You got four besides this."—Lippincott's.

Have Grave Garments Ready.

In an account of the death, at the age of one hundred and four, of Lucy Hickey at Gloucester there appeared the interesting item that she was buried in a shroud which she had made for herself many years ago. "This may look strange to most people," said a resident of the East side, "but not to the old-fashioned Jews. I am sure that if you go through any of the tenement houses in this part of the city you will find in the majority of homes the shrouds of all men and women who are married. It is an old custom to have the grave garments ready, and with some of the people it is considered a shame not to be properly provided in case of death. The garments are usually of fine texture and invariably 'hand sewed.'"

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See HOXIE

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