

of tons. The amount that could be gathered at such times is practically unlimited. As railroads now touch the shore of the lake, the problem of supplying this salt to manufacturers is simplified.

The Soda Lakes, situated on the Carson desert, Nevada, about fourteen miles east of Wadsworth, have already been utilized as a source of sodium carbonate, which is being shipped to San Francisco. These lakes occupy the craters of extinct volcanoes, and the mineral matter they contain has been derived mainly from the leaching of the lapilli and lacustral deposits surrounding them.

Mono and Owen's lakes are now quite accessible by rail, and are capable of furnishing immense quantities of sodium sulphate and carbonate. From data obtained during a recent survey of Mono Lake, it has been estimated that it contains,

Potassium chloride (KCl).....	8,998,856 tons.
Sodium chloride (NaCl).....	73,524,285 "
Sodium sulphate (Na ₂ SO ₄).....	40,636,089 "
Sodium carbonate (Na ₂ CO ₃).....	78,649,194 "
Total of salts in lake.....	209,233,488 "

It has been estimated by Dr. Oscar Loew that Owen's Lake contains about twenty-two million tons of sodium carbonate, and a little less than one-third of this amount of sodium sulphate.

Summer and Abert lakes, situated in southern Oregon, are remote from railways, but are extremely valuable brines on account of the potash salts they contain. These lakes occupy depressions in the bed of an ancient lake of large size, now nearly desiccated, and are very similar in character. Abert Lake alone has been analyzed, but it is probable that its companion has nearly an identical composition. Abert Lake is about fifteen miles long by five miles broad, and has an average depth (varying with the seasons) of approximately ten feet. Summer Lake is perhaps a third larger, and is also shallow; but its average depth is unknown. The percentage of potassium salts in Abert Lake is greater than in any other lake the composition of which has been published, amounting to five-sevenths of the total of solids in solution.

With these abundant resources at hand, the alkali industry of the far west unquestionably has a great future; and it is to be hoped that it will soon receive the attention that its importance demands.

I. C. RUSSELL.

CHOLERA MORTALITY IN EUROPE DURING 1885.

CHOLERA as an epidemic has now for some time almost entirely disappeared from southern Europe, and hence the following results of the serious outbreak of the past year, from the *Lancet*

of Dec. 26, will be of interest: From the mainland no further record of cholera is forthcoming; but in the Christina Islands to the south, near the mouth of the Guadiana River, recurrences of the disease are still said to take place. The actual number of deaths recorded in the provinces and cities named is less than that which really occurred; for the official lists were not published with sufficient regularity to insure accurate records day by day, and outbreaks in some localities were never announced at all. The following is the list of places attacked, with their respective cholera mortalities; the capitals of the several provinces being, except where otherwise noted, included for statistical purposes within their provinces:—

Locality.	Deaths.	Locality.	Deaths.
Province of Castellon...	4582	Province of Zamora...	451
" Valencia...	19400	" Soria.....	521
" Madrid....	2228	" Ciudad Real...	905
" Murcia....	3580	" Barcelona...	791
" Saragossa...	10954	" Lerida....	821
" Cuenca....	2877	" Gerona....	215
" Alicante ..	4361	" Navarre....	2691
" Toledo....	2289	" Valladolid...	1482
" Teruel	4932	" Guadalupe...	361
" Tarragona...	1258	" Logroño....	541
" Albacete ..	2347	" Burgos....	199
" Jean	1398	" Huesca ...	69
" Badajoz ..	337	" Palencia...	374
" Segovia ...	351	" Santander...	194
" Cadiz	368	" Salamanca ..	84
" Granada....	9162	Aranjuez, pr. of Toledo	835
" Cordova ...	825	Gibraltar (English)....	24
" Almeria....	2514	Gibraltar (Spanish lines)	191
" Malaga....	635		

In France the disease was all but limited to Marseilles and Toulon, and to scattered cases in the south, until November, when an outbreak occurred in Brittany, Brest and its immediate neighborhood being affected. The total cholera deaths at Marseilles were just short of 1,000, and at Toulon just short of 200. The number at Brest has not been made known. In Italy only scattered cases occurred at several places on the mainland; but in the city and province of Palermo, in the island of Sicily, a considerable epidemic occurred, the total mortality there reaching at least 2,430. There was also a rumor of cases as late as the present month in the province of Venice.

BURMAH, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

MR. HOLT HALLETT, in a recent address before the London Society of arts, on 'Burmah,' said: In these days, with foreign competition getting keener every day, and hostile tariffs not only shutting the European markets against us, but in a lesser degree American and English colonies also, with the race for fresh colonies and new markets among European powers, it is of importance that we should avail ourselves of our present opportunity for an inland connection and