

few sheep, stretches westward, eighty miles long by thirty wide. From the nearest railway junction a single track line is built to transport workmen to our camp and provision them. For all practical purposes, this one railway is the sole means of communication.

Because of difficulties and expense, and also to sustain progress, it was thought advisable to contract with the employes for the full term of the work. At the outset it appeared that this would be to their advantage.

It was estimated that it would take fourteen thousand men fifteen years to complete the lake bed, and diversion of the Colorado River to the lake would require three years additional, with half this force employed.

Including the fourteen thousand workmen, their wives and families, tradesmen, artisans and others who took up residence there to ply their vocations and transact the business of the camp, Dry Lake City is populated by about sixty thousand souls. It is something of a desert metropolis.

The full quota of fourteen thousand has been in the camp eight years but progress has been far short of our estimates.

Ruminating on these facts, I sized up the disconsolate figure on the flat rock and weighed his statement that a shovel is made to shovel with.

“Any argument about it?” I asked.

“Argument! It’s all we do—argue about it.”