

traversed by a through-flowing stream whose sources were in the region of the Yellowstone Park and whose lower reaches, perhaps represented by the present Virgin River, ended in Colorado River. Through orogenic movements the headwaters were diverted into Snake River and a mountain barrier was thrown across its lower part. The waters, thus dammed, spread and produced a great lake which never afterward had an outlet. Desiccation began and soon greatly reduced the lake; but, as Keyes says, the lake seems to have been well along toward complete desiccation before the glacial epoch set in. Keyes further



FIG. 6.—Map of Recent lakes in Basin and Range province. Adapted from Meinzer.

elucidates his views on Lake Bonneville in an article published in 1918 (*Monthly Weather Review*, vol. XLVI, pp. 277-280).

It is unfortunate that so few vertebrate fossils have been found in undoubted deposits of Lake Bonneville. Gilbert, however, reported 20 species of land and fresh-water mollusks, all of which, with one exception, are yet living. Doctor Keyes's theory would apparently relegate the deposits to the Pliocene; but the shells collected are, so far as known, not older than the Pleistocene.

The name Lake Lahontan was given by Clarence King (*U. S. Geol. Explor. Exped. 40th Parallel, Syst. Geol.*, vol. I, p. 504) to the ancient body of water here to be described.

The geology of Lake Lahontan was studied in detail by Dr. I. C. Russell (*Mon. U. S. Geol. Surv.*, vol. XI, 1885). This former body of water was situ-