

EARTHQUAKE NOTES

EASTERN SECTION SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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EARTHQUAKE NOTES

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PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 5th AND 6th.

The joint meeting of the Eastern Section of the Seismological Society of America and the Section of Seismology of the American Geophysical Union will be held at the Bureau of Standards on May 5th and at Georgetown University on May 6th. The following is a tentative program for the meeting. Other papers may be added as the final programs are expected to appear at the meetings. Suggestions for additions are requested. A star (*) after a speakers name indicates that he is a member of the Geophysical Union.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO AUTHORS OF PAPERS.

It is requested that authors of papers send copies to N. H. Heck, % U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., Secretary of the Eastern Section of the Seismological Society of America at least two weeks in advance. Dr. Austin H. Clark of the Smithsonian Institution who manages the publicity for the A. A. A. S. and the American Geophysical Union has very kindly agreed to extend his services with the press to this meeting. It is only by sending copies two weeks in advance that proper publicity can be obtained.

MEETING OF MAY 5th.

PLACE - LECTURE ROOM OF EAST BUILDING U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

MORNING --

9:00 a.m. Business meeting.
Report of Officers.
Appointment of committees.

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Presentation of papers.
George K. Burgess, Director of the Bureau of Standards,
Address of Welcome.

Charles W. Brown. Engineering Seismology in Japan.
(Illustrated)

John R. Freeman. Concerning Additional Seismological Data
Needed by Structural Engineers.

N. H. Heck.* Relation between the engineering and the seismicological attack on the earthquake problem.

Luncheon at Bureau of Standards 1:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON --

2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Presentation of papers.

R. S. Patton, Director of the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey,
Coordination of Seismological Investigation in the
United States.

Alexander McAdie A Serviceable Intensity Scale.

Joseph Joliat, S.J. A Table of Travel-Times for Near Earthquakes.

E. A. Hodgson and L. Christensen. On the Development of Special
Recording Drums for Standard Milne-Shaw Seismographs.

H. E. McComb.* On the McComb-Romberg Seismograph.

L. Don Leet.* Some Characteristics of Rayleigh Wave Records on
Seismograms of Distant Earthquakes.

MEETING OF MAY 6th.

PLACE - PHILODEMIC HALL, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY.

MORNING --

9:00 a.m. Business Meeting.
Election of Officers.
Reports of Committees.

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Presentation of papers.

W. Coleman Nevils, S. J., President Georgetown University,
Address of welcome.

Arthur L. Day.* Progress in American Seismology.

Arthur Keith. The Attica, New York, Earthquake.
(Illustrated)

E. A. Hodgson and W. W. Doxsee. The Newfoundland Earthquake.
(Illustrated)

Arthur Keith. The Grand Banks Earthquake. (Illustrated)

AFTERNOON --

2:00 p.m. Presentation of papers and symposium.

Joseph Lynch, S. J. Earthquake Succession.
(Illustrated)

Watson Davis. Telling the Public about Earthquakes.

A symposium on the publication of earthquake data led by Harry Fielding Reid.* To be taken part in by all interested. In addition the U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey is asking opinions of outside users of seismological data in this and other countries and their views will be presented.

EARTHQUAKE EPICENTERS SINCE LAST ISSUE

Earthquake activity has been very light since the last issue. December 17th was the last epicenter previously listed. Nothing further of teleseismic nature was located until March 26th at 7^h 12^m 07^s, G. C. T. At the office of the Coast & Geodetic Survey the position of this shock was fixed at 8 degrees south latitude and 125 degrees east longitude. Though some ten stations reported, they were at such great distances that the final result was based very largely on radio reports from the seismograph stations at Manila, P. I., and Apia, Samoa. After decoding the messages from these two stations and computing the times of origin from the data furnished, they were found to agree within four seconds.

NOTES AND ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Regarding the New Zealand earthquake of June 17, 1929. In NATURE (London) issue for November 2nd, 1929, there is a very interesting article on the sound effects from this earthquake. It is accompanied by a small outline map showing the area affected and a table showing travel times. The following is quoted from the article - "The sounds in the area of greatest destruction were deafening and of extreme loudness, creating as great panic as the earthquake itself. Most observers described them as tremendous subterranean explosions. At Nelson about 85 km. distant from Murchison, the sounds resembled the whistling and rush of wind. At Blenheim, 130 km. from the epicenter, only sounds of local origin directly connected with the earthquake were heard. There is some indication of a zone of silence at several places 125 km. distant, but owing to the general commotion, sounds had to be comparatively loud to be heard." ---- "Doubtless the sound went up to a considerable height and was refracted downward either at a marked inversion in the upper troposphere or in a higher layer in the stratosphere with a marked variation of temperature or density. The average time lag agreed very closely with that which would occur from Bornes hypothesis of a change in density at high levels due to a hydrogen-helium atmosphere." ---- "It is remarkable that sounds were not reported from points south of the epicenter.

THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKE - an unpublished contemporaneous account. In this article which appears in Science, Vol. LXXI, for March 14, 1930, W.A. Pusey quotes the report made by his great grandfather and as entered in his journal or diary at the time. It describes the observers experience at a point 225^{mi} slightly

north of east from New Madrid. A comet was visible in the heavens about that time and many people tried to connect the appearance of the comet with the earthquake. Though the observer in this case mentioned the comet he did not try to connect it with the earthquake.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA for February 1930, Vol. XXIV, No. 2, contains a very interesting article by Ernest A. Hodgson, Seismologist, of the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, Canada. In this paper the author treats the subject of seismology in a manner which should appeal strongly to those who are attempting to form a general idea of the subject.

At a meeting of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERING held in New Orleans in March considerable attention is reported to have been given to geophysical prospecting, especially the seismological method. In the interpretation of results dependence is no longer placed on a single geophysical method. A matter of recent special interest has been the finding of salt domes in the Gulf of Mexico some distance from shore by firing shots on the bottom and recording results from boats.

Mr. M. K. Hubbert of the University of Chicago recently visited Washington and discussed the development of a demonstration seismograph. This is a matter which is rapidly becoming of considerable importance. Mr. Hubbert is also interested in the development of a program of seismological investigation in the upper Mississippi valley and lake region.

Rev. John P. Delaney, S.J., of Canisius College, Buffalo, N. Y., has announced that the Greater Buffalo Advertising Club has given the college a Wilip-Galitzen seismograph (vertical component). He states that the instrument was shipped on March the 8th and that he hopes to have it in operation late in the spring. This instrument should furnish valuable information on future activity in the New York state region, as well as in the seismic regions of the Mississippi valley, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence River.

Rev. F. W. Sohon, S.J., Director of the Georgetown University seismograph station reports a recent letter from Father Repetti of the Manila Observatory in which Father Repetti states that two components of the Wilip-Galitzen type are being installed there.

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Prof. Bailey Willis on returning from a trip to Africa recently stopped in Washington. He states that the earthquake region of East Africa which he visited is one of considerable activity.

On March 18th Commander Heck gave a talk before the Sigma Xi chapter at Swarthmore College. The subject was "Earthquakes a Challenge to Science."

There is evidence from correspondence that the inclusion of personal and general interest notes is received with favor. This serves to keep members in touch with recent happenings in seismology and adds interest for those not concerned with highly technical matters. The editor asks that notes of this sort be called to his attention. All notes received will be included but facilities for collecting these are incomplete and only cooperation of members will prevent omissions.
