

NOVA SCOTIA FEELS SHOCK SEVERELY; BUT LITTLE DAMAGE

Nova Scotia Shaken By Earthquake Shock; But Little Damage

(Continued from Page One)

An extra line of men and women stood behind the operators and took down the connections as soon as the calls were finished. As soon as the shock became noticeable the telephone exchanges were besieged with calls and as many as forty calls would face a single operator simultaneously.

In the Lorne Exchange where the automatic system is used the added load put the telephones out of commission for some time and traffic was suspended for some time.

At the Court House the floor was in vibration and it was thought the trouble was partly local. Janitor Smith dashed to the basement and inspected the boiler and piping and reported all working in good shape. By this time occupants of all the offices in the building had rushed out in the corridor when the vibrations ceased it was felt the vibration might have been caused by some new machinery operating in the Technical College machinery building.

Rumors to the effect that trains had been delayed by the disturbance were unfounded, according to the C. N. R. dispatcher on duty. As far as he could learn, he said, every train was moving on time and none of the conductors had reported having felt the tremor. The officials took all precautions, he said, to act in a case of emergency, and notified all the train crews of the disturbance.

In Halifax North the tremors brought back memories of the great Halifax explosion of December 6, 1917, when that section of the city was left in ruins and hundreds lost their lives. The alarm was general for a few minutes, while people rushed from stores and homes to the street.

One family on Kane Street began to move the furniture from their home to the street.

The new ice-breaker being built in the Halifax Shipyards for the Dominion Government, at a cost of \$1,000,000 trembled during the disturbance, and last evening the men were running lines on the hull to see if it had shifted its position on the stocks.

Frank Lowe of 198 Young Street was sitting in front of the stove at 4.34 in the afternoon, with his feet in the over, and he stated that the stove seemed to jump over an inch at the first tremor.

NEEDLE THROWN OUT OF POSITION

The seismograph at Dalhousie failed to accurately record the resultant earth movement of yesterday's quake due to the fall needle or pen being thrown completely out of position by the severity of the shock. The construction of the instrument is such that a small needle or pen of very light construction is suspended in such a manner that its outer end or pen point travels lightly over a revolving graph or coordinated card the resulting vibrations of the earth being transferred through the delicate mechanism of the instrument to the

pen which in turn causes a resulting marking of the card. At its inner end or pivotal point the pen is held in position by a small shaft passing through it, laterally, leaving it free to swing vertically on this axis.

Yesterday's disturbance was of such violence as to cause the pen to be thrown completely free of the card thus the point of maximum disturbance was unregistered. Fortunately, however, authorities were on hand in time to adjust the instrument before the shock had been in progress for any length of time.

Professor J. H. L. Johnstone, in conversation with The Halifax Chronicle, last night, said that the disturbance was the greatest to be recorded in the University instrument since its installation. The shock started at 4.34 p.m. and continued to record about two and a half hours. An after shock occurring at 7.03 last evening permitted the authorities to estimate with some degree of accuracy the epicentre of the shock which they have estimated to be in the vicinity of the Quebec Labrador. Accurate information the professor explained cannot be obtained until such time as the records of the shock as recorded on the various seismographs in Canada and the United States have been compared. The local shock as computed from the movement of the pen on the Dalhousie instrument which swung in a radius of four of five inches was one twelfth of an inch.

A dozen chimneys crashed in the Charlotte Street section of Sydney, several barns were reported to have collapsed in the outlying districts, a supreme court witness fainted in the course of a trial, and a scene shifter in a theatre fell twenty-five feet to the stage and escaped with a shaking up. Many stores found their stocks of goods tumbling to the floor.

Apparently the shock was not felt seriously in any of the province's coal mines. In the Acadia Mine at Stellarton it was not felt at all, nor on the Number 2 slope at Westville, though workers in Number 1 slope were aware of the disturbance.

Factory machinery was stopped for a few minutes at Truro, although there was no marked apprehension. A couple of chimneys went by the board at Kentville.

A rapid survey made by mine officials at Glace Bay disclosed no displacements as a result of the quake. Miners coming out of the collieries were aware of the shock, and it was feared for a time that the underground workings would be affected. No damage was reported.

Rumors that the Bell Island mines had collapsed were prevalent in Newfoundland, but were without foundation. The shocks were scarcely felt in Bell Island. The Fogo wireless station reports the shock was not felt at that point. The after-shock, coming at about 7.30, Newfoundland time, was felt in several parts of St. John's.

Saint John and Moncton report shocks of an intensity comparable

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Experts Undetermined As To Exact Location of Disturbance—One Advances Theory That It Was Caused By Slight Displacement of Earth Along the Columbian Fault — No Serious Damage Reported — Nova Scotia Seems To Have Been Shaken Most Severely.

Nova Scotia yesterday rocked for two minutes under the most severe earthquake ever experienced in the province. There were two tremors, between 4.33 and 4.35 in the afternoon, and the disturbance, which was felt from Newfoundland and parts of Quebec, down to the New England States, kept recording at Dalhousie University seismograph for about two and a half hours.

While the experts argued over the telegraph wires as to whether the centre of the disturbance was in the St. Lawrence Valley, farther up in the Labrador, or off under the ocean, reports came into Halifax of chimneys tumbling and dishes breaking in several parts of the province.

Indication of the most serious damage reported anywhere in the city last night, when it was stated that several cables of the Western Union Cable Company had been broken somewhere off Newfoundland.

The first snow storm of the season preceded the quake, and it was followed by heavy rain accompanied by a thirty-six mile gale. High tides were reported all along the coast line. A huge tidal wave was reported along Northern Cape Breton, and something of the same sort was experienced off the south shore. The water rose so high in Halifax Harbor that for a time it flooded the section of Barrington Street near the Ocean Terminals.

REMINISCENCES OF TRAGIC EXPLOSION.

All was confusion in Halifax business buildings following the tremor. Streams of men and girls rushed to the street. Reminiscences of the tragic explosion of 1917 were in the air.

Several girls fainted, including one on the way out of the Roy Building with the crowd and three at Simpson's.

At the Post Office clerks reported that the upper floors of the building shook so they feared disaster. In some offices calendars and pictures were shifted by the tremors. The old clock on the Customs Building shook.

INCIDENT HAS EXAMPLES OF HEROISM

The incident had its examples of heroism, many of which will never be brought to light. At the Sackville Exchange of the telephone company, the operators struck to their switchboards and kept the service going though terrified by the shaking of the building. One or two of the girls became hysterical and were removed, their places being filled immediately with extras.

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)