

EARTH TREMOR DISASTERS MAY BE ERADICATED

Carnegie Institute Believes That Plans May Be Perfected to Safely Escape Bad Effects.

(By The Associated Press)
 WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Whitman can never hope to harness the forces of nature to the extent of preventing, or even fore-telling, earthquakes, it is not impossible, says the Carnegie Institution of Washington, that scientists may be able to devise methods of fore-stating their disastrous effects by the selection of safer locations for cities and by appropriate methods of construction.

Earthquakes have occurred ever since the crust of the globe began to form. Indeed, the condition of instability is the earth's normal one and man long has suffered in consequence. To say then that what mankind has characterized as a phenomenon, which is as sure and as inevitable as an eclipse of the sun, might be shude finally, seems almost an impossibility. Yet such thorough studies of the nature of quakes and their occurrence have been made in recent years that in future years, construction of great buildings, dams, and even cities, may be affected by recent discoveries in geology.

Earthquakes are a natural occurrence in certain regions where the mountains are alive. Carnegie officials declare. There are districts, like the Atlantic Coast, where the mountains are dead, but around the Pacific and in a great belt which reaches across Asia and the Mediterranean, the mountains are still growing. In their growth large masses comprising many thousands of cubic miles of rock are pressed against each other, but are held by friction until the strain becomes too great. Then they slip and what is called an earthquake occurs. This is the modern theory of earthquakes. It has been developed through prolonged studies and demonstrated by observations of many minor quakes and of the lines along which they occur.

The earthquake plane is often spoken of as a fault, but it is really not a break, a recent statement of the institution declares. It is the surface between great masses which never have been united, but which for ages have been slipping past each other; and where this plane comes to the surface of the earth there is a line called an earthquake rift. The greatest of these rifts in the United States, so far as known, extends along the coast ranges of California for a distance of six hundred miles. It passes just west of San Francisco, to the east of Los Angeles, and disappears in the Gulf of California. Along the San Andreas rift, as it is called, earth shocks have occurred at different times in different sections.

South of that stretch for some 250 miles there has been no movement since 1857 when a severe shock occurred. The mark of which may still be traced across the desert plains like an irrigation ditch. Still farther south there have been several lesser shocks, but none of great violence, although there is evidence of considerable activity in the section east and west of Los Angeles.

For some years now, the Carnegie Institution has been deep in the study of earthquakes, and only recently organized the advisory committee in geology, calling on the co-operation of many other scientists to aid in the research. Its activities have resulted in the discovery of many facts of practical importance to mankind in this connection. The co-operation of the United States Navy was obtained in making a deep-sea sounding survey extending as far as a tangent to the California coast, and while the survey was made to find the trend of earthquake rifts, it resulted in important data for mariners and map makers. Through the financial assistance of the Carnegie

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Foundation, of New York, Dr. Halley Willis, seismologist of Stanford University, was sent by the institution to Chile to study the effects of the recent earthquake there and survey, the aim being to arrive at the probable causes.

It might be asked what value to mankind will result from the expenditure of great sums for the study of a natural occurrence which, it is admitted, can never be prevented and which may continue to exact its toll of human lives and property. In view of the fact that scientists can now locate the great rift lines along which the quakes have occurred and seem sure to occur again in future, they are able to speak of like earthquake rifts as they speak of live volcanoes. It is known by the form of the volcano or by the occurrence of eruptions within historical time that it is potentially or actually active, and much the same may be said of the earthquake rifts. They are lines of special danger on which no schoolhouse, skyscraper or dam should be built. They should be avoided, as far as possible, by railroad lines, bridges, aqueducts and other public works, and yet it happens that they often run through valleys where such works are suggested by the conditions of the ground. As long as buildings remain in their position they run the risk of inviting destruction. It was added, but it is not difficult by proper study to locate the lines of danger on a map and to make the information public for the benefit of engineers and others. Indeed, there is now being published an earthquake rift map of the state of California, showing the lines of active rifts and also of faults that are supposed to be inactive, as a result of the work carried on in co-operation with the institution's advisory committee.

That is how the engineers who laid out the new water supply line for San Francisco were able to remove it from the former line which followed an active rift for miles, and locate it along a mountain range, where, if it moves at all will move as a block and not become dislocated or destroyed.

A. A. White Files On Flathead Water Rights

COLUMBIA FALLS, Mont., Jan. 29.—Filing on water rights on the Flathead river in Bad Rock canyon near here, has been made in the county recorder's office at Kalispell by A. A. White, land owner of Montana and Oregon.

Preliminary surveys of the site have been started. The notice of appropriation of water rights calls for 10,000 cubic feet a second, which is full capacity at low water stage. Mr. White announced here that as soon as the survey has been completed and necessary information concerning the project is available, he will submit to Henry Ford at Detroit a proposition to take over the site for furnishing power for an automobile factory. If the offer is accepted, he declared, he is prepared to assign it to the manufacturer for one dollar.

KELSO BRIDGE COMPLETE.

KELSO, Wash., Jan. 29.—Kelso's temporary bridge was opened to travel yesterday. It is a substantial structure, connecting the east approach of the old bridge with the new bridge. Vehicular traffic over the structure is limited to one direction at a time. Foot passengers must keep on the upstream side of the bridge and vehicles on the downstream side. Kelso

work has been placed for the lift span of the new bridge and the steel is being assembled.

CO-EDS ARE DEFICIENT.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 29.—Almost half of the girls enrolled in the Walla Walla high school claim exemption from physical training on the ground of physical disability. Records show that of the 506 girls enrolled in the school, 257 have filed statements from physicians asking that they be relieved of the physical training required by state law.

Efforts are being made to work out a plan whereby the number of exemptions can be lessened.

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La Grande Evening Observer

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