Coquille City Herald.

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J. A. DEAN, Editor and Proprietor

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TUESDAY, NOV. 30, 1886.

Earthquakes.

What is known and believed about earthquakes by geologists was condensed into an hour's talk by Professor John S. Newberry, in Hamilton Hall, Columbia College, at a recent meeting of the New York Academy of sciences. In the course of the lecture, which took an extended range, the character and causes of the recent disturbances on this continent were referred to as likely to be better understood hereafter than at present. The speaker said that although the Charleston earthquake had produced startling effects and killed some people, as an earthquake it was not a very great affair. There was nothing remarkable in its phenomena. There had been earthquakes that had carried off 10,000 and 20,000 and 60,000 persons at once, and 250,000 lives were reported to have been lost in the island of Java in what might be regarded as a single earthquake.

An exhaustive inquiry in regard to the seat and depth of the Charleston earthquake had not yet been made, he continued. From all quarters, inquiries had come to him about the Charleston earthquake. Because he was a geologist he was naturally appealed to for information in regard to the most striking of earthly phenomena, and while he did not assume the title of "Professor of Earthquakes," he felt that he ought to answer the questions as far as he was able. The peculiar terror inspired by these shocks was not lessened by familiarity with them. It was not surprising that a profound sensation had been caused by the Charleston disturbance, and that the statements with regard to it were widely contradictory.

An earthquake is neither a novel nor a mysterious occurrence. It is among the most common of terrestrial phenomena. Not an hour, perhaps not a single minute, passes in which some portions of the earth are not vibrating from this cause. An earthquake is a movement caused by the shrinking, from the loss of heat, of the interior of the earth, and a falling in of portions of the crust in consequence. That the interior of the earth is intensely hot is indicated by wells and mines sunk in all parts of the world. Heat increases about one degree Fahrenheit for every 50 feet below the earth's surface. Dr. Newberry gave the temperature of different wells in this country and Europe as demonstrating this, instancing particularly a well in Europe sunk 3,390 feet at which depth the thermometer indicated 115 degrees, and another a little over a mile in depth, where the temperature was shown to be 131 degrees. There were some exceptions to this rule, but the statement that below 3,000 feet in certain wells it had been found that the temperature declined was a fraud. At the rate that he had indicated, the heat would be so fervent that all substances would be melted. it was believed that the earth's crust was thicker than this would indicate, because the increase of heat might be slower at a great distance from the surface. The heat of the interior was constantly escaping to the surface. Since the outer crust had lost its heat, it no longer contracted.

Mountain chains resulted from readjustments of the earth's surface caused by earthquakes. The folds and fractures seen in every mountain belt could not have taken place without great disturbances, and in every mountain range are evidences of many earthquakes. In the highest mountain ranges, like the Himalayas, the work of elevation is constantly going on. Displacements are constantly taking place all over the world. They occur in paroxysms, and the pressure being relieved, earthquakes follow. As the population of the earth increases, the number of observers increases, and the loss of life is correspondingly greater.

In New England, during the last century, there have been a great many earthquakes. In 1727 the country about Newburyport was shaken up in the same way that it had been at Charleston recently, but the damage was small in comparison. Chimneys and stone walls were thrown down, there were ruptures of the surface, and jets of sand were thrown up. In 1638 there was a great revolution in the topography of the country, and as shown by Brigham in his work on volcanic eruptions in New England from 1638 to 1869, there were 231 earthquakes worth chronicling during that period, besides many smaller ones.

At the time of the shock felt in this city on August 10, two years ago, the professor was alone in his room in the college. He heard a sound like the rumbling of a heavy wagon in the street, and the buildings shook. In the geological cabinet the marbles were thrown down in the case. In Japan, where there are incessant earthquakes, an extensive system of taking observations has been instituted. It will doubtless be found that the line of disturbance in the Charleston earthquake was parallel with the Alleghanies, and its depth from 10,000 to 20,000 feet. It is not likely that the center of the disturbance was under the ocean, as some supposed, for if it had been it would have caused a great wave. An earthquake wave coming from below often exerted its greatest force on the surface, as in the game played by boys, called "snapping the whip," the last boy felt the effect the most.

The place of disturbance causing the earthquake in Charleston was in the speaker's opinion, to the westward of that city, and not underneath it. The earthquake was in the old crystalline rocks that underlie Charleston, stretching from the westward. It was reported that there was a slight change in the depth of the water at that place. The area of vibration was probably an ellipse, with the longest line running north and south. It has been estimated that the maximum depth of earthquake disturbances was $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the minimum $2\frac{2}{3}$ miles. The pressure of subterranean reservoirs of water are among the causes of earthquakes. The twisting of chimneys and monuments did not necessarily indicate a gyratory motion in the earthquake. An adhesion of a portion of the base might account for it. Explosive earthquakes were probably caused by large quantities of water being brought in contact with molten lava, and steam had played a large, though generally a secondary, part in producing them. Earthquakes are merely incidents in the process of mountain building.

The theories of Sir William Thomson and others as to the great thickness of the earth's crust are now generally considered untenable, and it was believed that it was only about 50 miles in depth. It was probable that the viscous zone acted as a buffer between the liquid interior and the solid crust. The flexibility of the crust showed that it was not of great thickness. The lecturer dwelt upon the proximate causes of earthquakes, such as atmospheric pressure, and said it was not so absurd as some thought to believe that atmospheric conditions had something to do with them.—Scientific American.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Roseburg, Oregon, Nov. 5, 1886.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the county Clerk of Coos county, Oregon, at Empire City, Oregon, on Monday December 27, 1886, viz: Abram A. Higley, pre-emption D. S. No. 5003, for the ½ of N. E. ¼ and S. E. ¼ of N. W. ¼, Sec. 31, Tp. 26 S. R. 11 West, Wil. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz:

Ed. Bunnell, Marcell Grinler, James Waller } of Fairview, Coos county, Oregon.
Jacob Higley of Sumner, Coos Co., Oreg.

Chas. W. Johnston.
nov16 Register.

NOTICE.

To the Honorable County Court of Coos County, State of Oregon.

We, the undersigned, legal voters of Randolph precinct, in said county of Coos, and state of Oregon, hereby most respectfully ask that a license be granted to Joseph Walser, to retail spirituous liquors in less quantities than one gallon, in said precinct, county and state, for the period of six (6) months.

H D Dalmas, H F Miday, J W Perkins, John Cripps, William Simms, J J Perry, D H Getchell, D J Lowe, George Jakobsen, J Candlish, M L Thompson, J W Gregg, W Hutchison, A Pershbaker, Evan Morgan, John Erickson, W Hammerburg, Henry Hansen, Richard Thrush, J Thrush, E W Getchell, Frank N Getchell, G Grube, Jos. Barker, Thomas Wells, John Beatie, Robert Beatie, Wm Howell, Wm Fairman, L W Record, Frank Lawrence, B A Franklin, J D Howell, S R Carleson, Abram Rose, S Petersen, C F Helgren, J N Russell, Peter Johnsen, Edw. Fahy, A D Walcott, Jacob Schmidt, J A Wahl, Andres Carlsen, Joseph Cissna, Joseph Flam, Peter Nelson, Jens Jenson, Edward Frisk, J F Lewis, F Hustik, Wm Berry, Edward W Fahy, John Walstrom, John Hamblock, S Danielson, C Goodman, A Goodrich.

Notice is hereby given that I will apply to the county court of Coos county, state of Oregon, at the January term, on the 4th day of January, 1886, for the license prayed for in the foregoing petition, for the precinct of Candolph in the said Coos county, and state of Oregon.

Joseph Walser.

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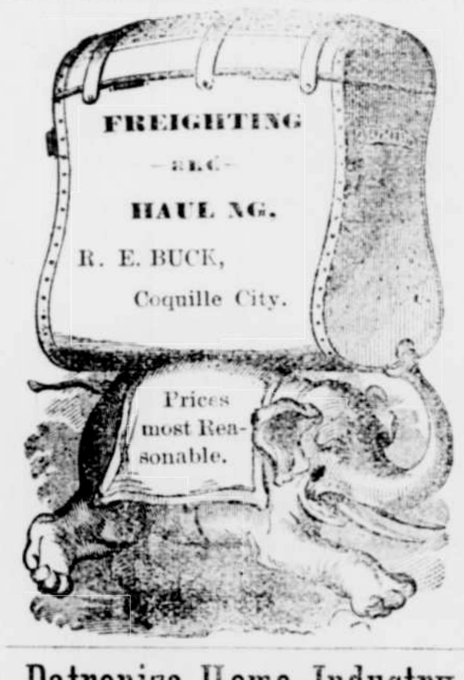

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