

SEISMOLOGICAL DISPATCHES.¹

Belated dispatch, June 24, 1917.

Mount Etna broke into an unusual volcanic action yesterday at about 10:30 p. m. (true local time, 9:30 p. m.). The northeastern crater, which was formed in 1911, ejected reddish smoke and incandescent lapilli for about 30 minutes. Spurts of flames continued at intervals for several hours after the ejection of solid matter ceased. A similar phenomenon occurred in 1900 from the central crater. The northeastern crater is about 10,000 feet above sea level; the highest point of the volcano is about 10,750 feet. The matter ejected reached a maximum height of about 1,000 feet above the crater; part of it fell back into the crater and part fell upon the slopes of the volcano. There was a light wind from the west during the eruption; no seismic disturbance accompanied the phenomenon and there was no damage to life or property. (Consular Service.)

Report received by the Navy Department from Commander J. M. Poyer, governor of American Samoa. (Belated dispatch, June 25, 1917.)

About 6:30 p. m., June 25, an earthquake and moderate tidal wave occurred here. Earthquakes are somewhat frequent here, but this was the severest one that has occurred, according to old residents. No one was injured. A few buildings on the island were injured, notably two churches—one in Leone and one in Pago Pago—which

¹ Reported by the organizations indicated and collected by the seismological station at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

were so badly damaged that their further use is dangerous and has been forbidden. There was no damage at the naval station. The observatory at Apia broadcasted the following information by wireless: "The observer here places the center of the disturbance about 75 miles southwest of Samoa and considers it was due to a submarine landslide. No serious damage was done. Earthquake violent for about minute and a half, and minor shakes were experienced throughout the night at intervals. Tidal waves about 3 feet high were experienced on south coast of Savail, Upola, and Tutuila, causing minor damage, but no loss of life."

The rise and fall of the water in Pago Pago Bay exceeded that reported from Apia. The bay is much narrower at its head than at its mouth, with the result that at the head of the bay the water rose and fell between 5 and 6 feet above and below normal. Many of the natives were frightened and sought refuge in the mountains for the remainder of the night. (Assoc. Press.)

London, August 6, 1917.

A violent earthquake, which caused great damage, has occurred in the southern portion of *North Island, New Zealand*, according to a Reuter dispatch from Wellington. The Wairarapa district, northwest of Wellington, suffered most severely. Pioneer residents of North Island, the dispatch adds, describes the quake as the worst since the terrible upheaval 60 years ago. (Assoc. Press.)

Wellington, New Zealand, August 9, 1917.

Further severe earthquake shocks occurred at Wairarapa, northwest of Wellington. There were no casualties. (Assoc. Press.)