

# The Victoria Times

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## Death and Devastation in Bay City

### 'Frisco Visited by Earthquake and Fire --Thousands of Buildings Destroyed

**San Francisco, April 18.**—San Francisco was practically wrecked by an earthquake at 5.10 this morning. The shock lasted three minutes. Thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed. The loss of life is reported to be great. There is no water, and fires are breaking out all over the city. All the wires with the exception of one are gone. The city hall, costing seven millions, is in ruins. Modern buildings suffered less than those of brick and frame. The terror and excitement are indescribable. Most of the people were asleep and rushed into the streets undressed. The buildings swayed and crashed, burying many occupants. Panic reigned in down-town hotels. The Lick house is badly damaged, but no loss of life is reported there.

Pablo. From that place the passengers will be taken by boat to San Francisco. This roundabout course was made necessary by the reported sinking of a three-mile section of the railroad track between Suisun and Benicia, which runs on the direct line between Sacramento and San Francisco. The road crosses some low land at the point where its tracks are reported sunk by the earthquake shock. The location of this reported sinking of the earth is about 30 miles from San Francisco.

At the offices of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad, in this city, a message was received from the company's agent in Nevada saying that the earthquake shock was severely felt throughout Nevada, and that all the wires were down west of Reno.

At 11.05 the Western Union received a report that a serious fire is burning at Berkeley, where the state university is located. The report came from Pinole, a station ten miles out of San Francisco, and the nearest point to the latter city, which the company had been able to reach up till the time of this dispatch. Berkeley is between Pinole and San Francisco.

**CONFUSION REIGNS.**

San Francisco, April 18.—8 a. m.—In the confusion which reigns everywhere it is almost impossible to learn details of the disaster caused by the earthquake this morning.

In general it may be said that the district lying between Market and Howard streets from the bay as far west as the city hall, has been badly wrecked.

The hotels in the vicinity of Third and Market streets were badly shaken up, but there seems to have been no loss of life there.

The Call and Examiner buildings as well as the Western Union building, have been badly wrecked.

The large department stores in this neighborhood were also ruined, but the earthquake occurred at an hour when they were empty, and no loss of life is reported.

Farther east on Market street toward the ferry slips and a section occupied by cheap lodging houses and hotels, and here it is that loss of life is reported to be very great, though the exact extent of it could not be ascertained at this hour.

Fires are burning in a number of places along Market street, and the water mains having burst, the authorities have resorted to dynamite to check the progress of the flames.

The residence section of the city, while badly shaken, reports no loss of life or serious damage.

**BACK TO DUTY.**

Salt Lake City, Utah, April 18.—Reports received by the Salt Lake offices of the Postal Telegraph Company from San Francisco would indicate that the first reports of the earthquake in San Francisco were exaggerated.

Superintendent W. P. Hawk was in communication with the San Francisco office of the Postal Telegraph Company after the earthquake. He was informed that it would be necessary for the operating force to vacate the San Francisco office. This was done, and the operators left the building, but returned within an hour, and business was resumed. San Francisco is reported that water mains on Market street had broken.

### Appalling Loss of Life--Early Reports Place Dead at 1,000--Flames Beyond Control.

**AFFECTED DISTRICT.**

Description of Territory Which Has Suffered From the Earthquake.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The meagre information available as to the disaster at San Francisco seems to indicate the area covered by the same as that affected by the earthquake early in the sixties and that of 1876. To indicate this section to those unacquainted with San Francisco it is necessary to give a short physical description of the city.

San Francisco is situated on the east side of the peninsula, separating the bay of the same name from the Pacific Ocean. It is a city of physical contrasts—steep hills and sand dunes. The former lie largely in the western portion, while the eastern is, in many parts, built on land recovered from the sea. The latter district has been affected by the earthquake, and present indications tend to show that the area is restricted to this section.

Previous shocks did great damage to the district mentioned—that of 1876 splitting the earth and throwing out the fronts of buildings—although, as far as memory can state, there was no loss of life.

Stretching from the water front to Kearny and Third streets, this section, both north of market, embrace almost the whole wholesale and financial districts, while that to the south is largely devoted to amusements—livery, foundries, coal and lumber yards. On the water front are located the extensive bunkers filled with Nansaimo and Wellington coal, and it is possible

bill, but even this is on a gentle slope and most likely on the margin of, not outside, the district covered by the disaster.

**FORMER CALAMITY.**

Resident of Victoria Recalls the Disaster of Over Forty Years Ago.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Wm. Catteral, the well known contractor, is among the few not particularly surprised at the announcement of the earthquake which has shaken the city of San Francisco to its foundations. Some thirty-four years ago or thereabouts he was a resident of that city, and went through an experience very similar, only perhaps not quite so severe as that to which those now there have been subjected. It was the last disturbance of any importance to visit 'Frisco until that of to-day. Although sufficiently disastrous in its effects the loss of life and property did not reach anywhere near the figure that the present catastrophe is expected to total. Then, according to Mr. Catteral, a number of men, women and children were killed, and quite a few of the least steady buildings collapsed.

At the first indication of that earthquake Mr. Catteral was engaged in the construction of a frame structure. As the shocks became more pronounced it commenced to sway and everyone faced to a clear sky in a group in a yard, finding bricks, mortar and timbers. But their fears proved groundless. The buildings in that neighborhood remained upright. Investigation, however,

### Latest News from Stricken City

**EARTHQUAKE AT SACRAMENTO.**

Sacramento, Cal., April 18.—A severe earthquake shock occurred here at an early hour this morning. There is great confusion and it is impossible to learn the full extent of the damage. No loss of life is reported.

It is safe to say that they have not been injured.

As the hours go by the excitement grows more intense.

Every few minutes explosions are heard as buildings are blown up to stop the progress of the fire.

The fires are spreading, and if the wind comes up San Francisco will experience the greatest conflagration of modern times.

On Lower Market street, the main thoroughfare of the city, many blocks of substantial buildings have been destroyed.

A big fire is raging on the corner of Sansome street and Pine street, one block from the Associated Press office.

The wildest rumors as to the loss of life are coming to the newspapers, but it is impossible to confirm them.

No reports have been received outside of San Francisco, but the damage about the bay must be enormous. Oakland is said to have suffered severely.

The Santa Fe roundhouse and machine shops at Point Richmond, across the bay, have collapsed.

**SOME BURNED BUILDINGS.**

San Francisco, April 18.—10 a.m.—The fire has reached Market street, near Third. The building next to the Claus Spreckel's building at Third and Market is in flames, and the fire extends along the south side of Market to Fourth.

The following buildings on New Montgomery street, between Market and Mission, have been destroyed: Pacific States Telephone Co., Rialto building, the Natoma building.

The twelve-story Mutual Life building on California and Sansome has also been destroyed.

**GAS WORKS BLOWN UP.**

San Francisco, April 18.—A ten-story building at 10th and Mission streets, adjoining the Grand Opera house, is apparently doomed and other big buildings between the theatre and St. Patrick's church.

Many people are fleeing from the Palace hotel, taking their personal effects.

The gas works south of Market street have been blown up and started another big fire in that section of the city.

A portion of the Mission, several miles from the business section of the city, is in flames.

The fire began at 22nd street, and is rapidly moving eastward.

Should the wind increase it may sweep the entire section of the city.

In Oakland five persons were killed by the collapse of the Empire building.

The George block at the junction of Market and Pine streets is in flames, and will be a total loss.

**RECOVERING BODIES.**

New York, April 18.—A report has reached here that a severe earthquake wrecked many buildings and caused loss of life in San Francisco this morning.

The shock was felt at 5.13 (San Francisco time).

Following the wrecking of buildings numerous fires broke out.

The Postal Telegraph office was wrecked and communication was lost at 8.50 (New York time).

There has been no telegraphic communication with San Francisco for more than half an hour.

At about 9.40 the Postal Telegraph Company had communication with their San Francisco office, but the connection again almost immediately.

In the brief period that the wire was working the San Francisco office reported that a number of buildings had collapsed and that the dead and injured were being taken from the ruins as quickly as possible.

His message came through the principal danger was from the fires, a number of which had started and were making great headway, owing to lack of water.

The Western Union Telegraph office at Fresno says that it is the most severe shock ever known. They have no further details.

**WITHOUT WIRES.**

Chicago, Ill., April 18.—The telegraph offices here are entirely without wires to San Francisco.

The Sacramento office of the Western Union reports a very severe earthquake west.

Los Angeles reports having lost all wires at 5.13 a.m.

Considerable damage from the earthquake is reported as having occurred in the city of Sacramento as well as in San Francisco.

### ONE THOUSAND REPORTED KILLED.

(Associated Press.)

**Kansas City, Mo., April 18—At 9.15 a.m. the Postal Telegraph Company received the following information from Los Angeles:**

It is reported that one thousand lives have been lost in the earthquake at San Francisco.

Both the Postal and Western Union Telegraph buildings in that city have been destroyed.

A serious fire is eating its way along the south side of Market Street, and at last account was within three blocks of the Palace Hotel.

Water mains were bursting, and the fire department was absolutely helpless.

The Palace and St. Francis hotels stood the shock.

People flocked to the telegraph offices to send telegrams to friends and were frantic because there were no wires.

The greatest damage was done to buildings south of Market street, where they are mostly frame and tenement houses. Fires occurred in every block in the district.

6.30 a.m.—A disastrous fire has broken out on the south side of Market street and is now within a block of the Palace hotel. The water mains have burst and the fire department is practically helpless. The utmost confusion exists. All business is suspended.

At this moment there is only one wire out of San Francisco, a Postal wire. The Postal building is badly damaged. The operating room is a wreck.

The power of every kind is gone and there are no lights, either gas or electric.

Neither the Palace hotel nor the St. Francis is gone, that is as far as the outside goes, but the inside, plastering, etc., is greatly damaged.

Between the post office and the water front there has been great damage by fire, which is burning fiercely and there is little or no water. The fire is burning both on

were collapsing, and that many fires were breaking out with no water available to fight the flames.

People are fleeing from the affected district.

**FLAMES ARE SPREADING.**

New York, April 18.—The Postal Telegraph Company learns that the fire is eating its way along Market street.

Water mains were burst by the earthquake so that there are no means at hand for fighting the conflagration. The electric lighting plant of the city has fallen and gas mains are disrupted.

The damage extends through the entire city. The Postal building was badly damaged and the operating room is incapable of use.

**DYNAMITING BUILDINGS.**

New York, April 18.—At 10.40 o'clock this morning the Postal Telegraph Company received the following message:

"At 5.13 this morning a terrific earthquake shock struck San Francisco, doing particularly damage in the district east and south of Market street, practically destroying six or eight blocks in the manufacturing and wholesale districts."

"The banking district was not seriously damaged, although small damage has been done over the whole town."

"Many persons have been killed and

### FIRES FOLLOW EARTHQUAKE

(Special to the Times.)

**San Francisco, April 18, 5.20 a.m.**—A disastrous earthquake visited this city a few minutes ago. Several buildings have been wrecked. The water mains have burst all over the town. Fires have started in every direction. The first shock threw the street cars off the tracks, and completely wrecked the telegraph offices. Only two wires are open out of 'Frisco, and these connect with Chicago.

The east and south side of the Postal Telegraph building.

The damage by the earthquake the severity of the water, are practically beyond control.

The office of the Postal Telegraph Company in the Hobart building was wrecked, as is the Associated Press building at 302 Montgomery street.

The residence portion is but slightly damaged, although nearly every house has been more or less injured.

**PEOPLE FLEEING FROM CITY.**

Kansas City, Mo., April 18.—At 8.35 this morning the Postal Telegraph Company here states that the only information obtainable from the West is that their operators at San Francisco had left their building in that city and reported that many buildings

wounded and a portion of the town is on fire, the water supply being shut off.

"At this moment they are dynamiting several large buildings. The Associated Press office was also badly damaged."

The Postal Telegraph Company has received information that the greatest damage from the earthquake was done to property in the following streets: Drumm, Battery, Sansome, Montgomery, Kearney, Spear, Main, Beale and Fremont.

**WILL TRY TO REACH CITY.**

New York, April 18.—The Western Union has received a report from Sacramento that the South Pacific railway will attempt to get a train into San Francisco, strating from Sacramento and taking a roundabout route to Vallejo, which is on the bay of San

**WATER FRONT IN FLAMES.**

Los Angeles, Cal., April 18, 10.50 a.m.—The latest news from San Francisco as to the situation is that the entire water front is in flames and there is no way of arresting the conflagration.

**PALACE HOTEL ON FIRE.**

San Francisco, April 18.—10.45 a.m.—The Palace hotel is now on fire.

Other buildings on fire are the Claus Spreckel's structure, 17 stories high; the Phelan building and the O'Farrell store.

The south side of Market street, between 4th and 5th streets, is now on fire, and the flames are spreading in all directions.

The city is now under martial law. It seems that the entire business section of San Francisco must be destroyed.

**FIGHTING FLAMES.**

San Francisco, April 18, 1.45 p.m.—Mayor Schmidt has called for the assistance of the entire Oakland fire department and has ordered that all dynamite available be used to blow up buildings in order to stay the progress of the flames.

**POST OFFICE COLLAPSED.**

San Francisco, April 18, 3.30 a.m.—The entire water front is burning. The post office was badly shaken and has entirely collapsed. The fish market at the corner of Clay and Mar-

these standing advertisements of British Columbia have been demolished.

Outside these business establishments there are two points of more than local interest—the city hall, the Palace hotel occupying the block bounded by Market, New Montgomery, Stevenson and Fremont streets. Built with a portion of the millions won by Senator Sharon from the Comstock, the Palace is known all over the world being especially famous for the palm court and banquet rooms. The old post office, another landmark damaged by the disaster of 1876, still remains, but its business importance is past, the old wooden structure being relegated to obscurity by the new post office building at Seventh and Mission streets, well outside the affected area.

The main artery of San Francisco is Market street, that runs from the Ferry building westward until further progress is barred by the mountains known as Twin Peaks. All the street car lines either run along or connect with this thoroughfare, and on that portion traversing the affected district dozens may be seen at any hour of the day or night. But it is practically deserted after business hours, employees and employed going to their homes leaving everything to the guardianship of watchmen and occasional police.

Dimly lighted by gas lamps at long intervals the area west of Kearny is almost a city of the dead after night-fall. A large portion of it north of Market is built on sand, and old-times speak with pride of the days when the water came up Montgomery street. In the built up area are located the Mills and Hayward buildings—two of the largest office blocks in the city, and the principal banks—including the imposing edifice belonging to the Canadian Bank of Commerce. On Battery street are located the consulates—the British and Italian occupying an old building opposite the old post office.

The only populous district on the low-lying area is the Italian quarter, clustered at the foot of Telegraph

showed that those in other sections had either not been as stable or the shaking had been more severe in some portions than in others.

As far as Mr. Catteral can remember the sections principally effected then were those traversed by Market, Kearny and Montgomery streets, and the missions. On some of the thoroughfares the cars were thrown from the tracks, buildings gave way, crushing the frightened populace as they rushed either and thither, looking in a frenzied way for some place of safety. Afterwards the scene had been desolate. Not only had quite a number of families been exterminated, but much valuable property had been destroyed. Judging the present calamity by what he had seen over thirty years ago, magnifying its severity and making allowance for the increased population and the larger number of buildings, Mr. Catteral considered that it would be difficult to imagine the extent of a terrible catastrophe which has overtaken the thriving and prosperous city of San Francisco.

While living in California, Mr. Catteral states that it was often mentioned by San Francisco residents that they were living in a district that was likely to be convulsed with an upheaval at any time. They stated that the site of the town was within the edge of the crater of the mountain mentioned shortly before. Another substantiation of the opinion is gathered by Mr. Catteral from the present disaster. Of course it is a matter of general knowledge that the people of Naples and neighboring towns have just gone through one of the most dreadful experiences in history. Towns have been wiped out owing to the unexpected activity in the crater of the long extinct volcano of Vesuvius. Thousands of fatalities have occurred, and the whole world suffered a shock as the news

"And the story?"

"A little," she said. "Hope I took. I—I try."

"I said Warrington about the girl in his office. Did—him?" he demanded, "or at as you had it, had never cared for one he did care to see her again. Is there a lake near his home?"

"May I come to had fled to the handle. Then she said, "Honey, is a lake, and perhaps you had it." Ruby Douglas.)

**REGULATIONS.**

Three days ago the late Mrs. Hole landed at Victoria, after a rough trip. While waiting for a port over the

addressing the station in consolation after this tiresome wait at half-price." "I was the one in no special way," said the Dean, "and you take at a much reduced