

MAGNETIC DISTURBANCE AT TIME OF ERUPTION OF
MONT PELÉE.*

COINCIDENT, as far as can be at present ascertained, with the time of eruption of Mont Pelée on May 8, a magnetic disturbance set in which was registered on the self-recording instruments of the two U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey magnetic observatories, the one at Cheltenham, Md., seventeen miles southeast of Washington, and the other at Baldwin, Kansas, seventeen miles south of Lawrence. The preliminary reports received from Mr. L. G. Schultz, in charge of Cheltenham observatory and Mr. W. C. Bauer, in charge of Baldwin Observatory are sufficient to indicate that the disturbance began at practically the same instant of time at both observatories, viz., at 7h. 54m. St. Pierre local mean time. According to the newspaper reports the catastrophe befell St. Pierre about 8 A.M. of May 8 and it has been stated that the town clock was found stopped at 7h. 50m.

Purely mechanical vibrations caused by earthquakes are often recorded by the delicately suspended magnetic needles, as for instance the Guatemalan one which was felt at the Cheltenham Observatory on April 18 from about 9h. 20m. to 9h. 50m. P.M., 75th meridian mean time.

time stated and continuing until midnight of the 9th. Even on the 10th tremors were still discernible. (At the time of writing the subsequent curves had not yet been received.)

Until further information has been received from other observatories, it cannot be determined definitely whether this magnetic disturbance was due to some cosmic cause or came from within the earth's crust and was associated with the Martinique eruption. The coincidence in time is however a remarkable fact.

L. A. BAUER.

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,
May 17, 1902.

THE GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE WAVES OBSERVED
IN CANADA BY R. F. STUPART.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: By permission of Professor R. F. Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada, I send you herewith seismograms (Milne system) of April 18, local reckoning, recorded at Victoria, B. C., and Toronto, Canada; also a print of the magnetogram (bifilar trace) at Agincourt, nine miles from Toronto.

Each of these records the earth billows emanating from the region of the recent earthquake in Guatemala. Professor Stupart states

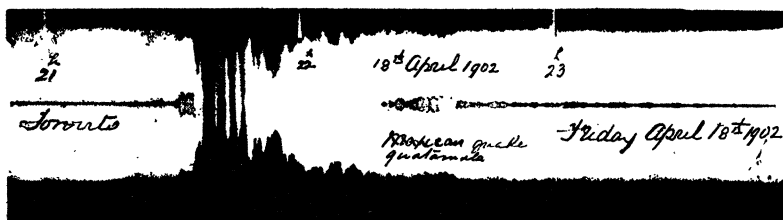


FIG. 1. Record of Milne Seismograph, Toronto, April 18, 1902.

The disturbance on May 8, however, was distinctively a *magnetic* and not a seismic one and hence was not recorded on seismographs. The Cheltenham magnetograms exhibit magnetic disturbances amounting at times to .00050 to 0.00060 c. g. s. units (about 1/350 of the value of the horizontal intensity) and from 10' to 15' in declination, beginning at the

* Communicated by permission of Superintendent O. H. Tittmann, Coast and Geodetic Survey.

that "the preliminary tremors began at Toronto 2 h. 30.5 m. A.M., April 19 of Greenwich mean time, and at Victoria 2 h. 31.3 m., G. m. t. Large waves began at Toronto 2 h. 35.5 m., but at Victoria 2 h. 37.2 m. The maximum wave occurred at Toronto 2 h. 38.0 m., but at Victoria 2 h. 50.7 m. The end occurred at Toronto 5 h. 24.0 m., but at Victoria about 5 h. 36.4 m. The amplitude at Toronto was over 25 mm.