

river of 2,000 feet or more of sand and gravel, known as Temple Bar conglomerate.

6. Profound faulting and uplift of the plateau and erosion of Grand Canyon.

7. Erosion—during which moderately mature valleys were formed, the most conspicuous in western Arizona being Detrital-Sacramento Valley, presumably formed by the ancient Colorado.

8. Eruption of 3,000 feet or more of rhyolite and andesite.

9. Erosion—formation of Mohave peneplain.

10. Uplift and eruption of older andesite.

11. Erosion.

After a statement of the evidence upon which the subdivision is based, it was shown that the epochs might be correlated with those of neighboring regions. The more recent ones, as given above, were compared with those of Lake Bonneville and the older ones compared with the epochs of erosion, uplift and volcanic activity of the plateaus. The marine sediments of the Pacific Coast, while far from the region described, are divisible by unconformities and changes in fauna into formations representing epochs of uplift and volcanic activity alternating with epochs of quiescence similar to those of the Colorado River region, and may, upon further study, prove valuable for purposes of exact correlation.

In summing up the results of his studies, the speaker emphasizes the fact that in the Lower Colorado region, where fossiliferous strata are absent, so far as known, the sequence of Tertiary and Quaternary events can be established from physiographic evidence; that the epochs established on this basis are comparable with those of neighboring regions; and that certain lines of evidence, especially the one relating to mid-Tertiary peneplaination, give promise of definite correlation.

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*Secretary*

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### FAKES AND THE PRESS

ON January 24 a paragraph, starting apparently from St. Louis, was disseminated throughout the country by the various press

associations stating that a sudden diminution in the flow of oil in the wells of south Texas and Louisiana had taken place immediately after the earthquake at Jamaica, accompanied by a corresponding increase in the flow of the wells of northern Texas and Louisiana. Investigation has shown that this statement is a so-called 'fake,' namely, a lie perpetrated either as a joke or for the purpose of affecting business transactions in oil and land. The geologists whom the present writer consulted assured him at the beginning that the statement could not possibly be true, but he thought it worth while to endeavor to trace the matter back to its source. Of course the author is anonymous and unknown. Very few items in the daily newspapers appear as based upon the statements of responsible persons who are willing to vouch for their correctness. A newspaper is essentially a collection of the gossip and hasty impressions that have occurred during the day, set off in skilful headlines by the managing editor. The readers must therefore accept every statement with a grain of allowance. 'Newspaper science' has come to be a byword of reproach, and we have on several occasions in the last twenty years exposed fake tornadoes, meteors, lightning and grossly exaggerated earthquakes. In some cases like that of the present instance the newspaper report, by misleading investors, has a certain money value to the community, that is to say it can cause a loss, but no gain. It is analogous to a libel, but it is not clearly provided for by any law. It is a grave question whether Congress can not by some legal enactment check the publication of all items that convey erroneous impressions relative to matters in which the whole community is interested. The community has a right to protect itself from every species of crime. The law is made for the community, as well as for the individual. Can not some of our legal friends devise a law that will check the publication of fakes or condemn the fakist to the insane asylum, as being a joker dangerous to the community?

C. A.