

## **Latest From Montreal**

(Per Montreal Line.)

Montreal, Oct. 30 – At ten minutes past 11 o'clock this forenoon, two distinct and rather violent shocks of earthquake were felt in this city, one immediately after the other. The motion was oscillatory and horizontal, in a direction north-west by south-east. In the upper stories of Lofty buildings, it was experienced as a rocking motion. The shock, altogether, occupied about 30 seconds, and whilst it lasted, persons who were seated rocked on their stools or chairs, as though the building had received a severe blow, and was reeling under the concussion. The shock, as first felt at the City Hall, caused the bells to ring, and the officials to rush into the passages, while others, not knowing exactly what they did, ran to the windows fronting the river, expecting to see the worst, the building, etc, etc, over the harbor. It, however, stood the shock, but shook from side to side in an alarming manner, while the butchers and others in the market rushed into the street. In Jacques Cartier Square, everyone looked to see Nelson's monument coming down; for a few seconds it visibly vibrated fully a foot, but the old Admiral, though he nearly toppled over, yet weathered the earth-quake, and remains steadfast, like the old flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze. The old building opposite the monument, at the corner of the square and Notre-Dame street, oscillated, so that several stones from the coping of the chimney's head were thrown right into the street onto the City Passengers railway track. One lady narrowly escaped being struck by a stone that fell on the edge of the sidewalk. The Court House building, perhaps the most extensive in the Province, rocked in a very unmistakable manner. Those who were on the basement flat did not feel the shock so acutely, though the walls shook, and underfoot, one could feel the ground trembling, accompanied with the usual low rumbling noise. In East Craig street, the shock was of a mild description, yet it was felt by all the inhabitants, and caused great alarm. The massive drill-shed, in Craig street, was shaken, but does not seem to have suffered.

In St. James street east, the greatest consternation prevailed. The hundreds of boys and girls employed in small factories and manufacturing warehouses in the wildest dismay rushed into the streets, as did also the clerks of some of the monetary institutions near the Place d'Armes Square. In St. Francis-Xavier street, the "Wall street" of Montreal, the brokers were equally apprehensive, and before the shock of the earthquake had ceased the middle of the street was thronged with bareheaded brokers, some clutching their bankbooks, and not a few presenting a picture of fear and anxiety, that if it had been possible to transfer it to canvas, would have made the fortune of the painter. At Point St. Charles and Bonaventure Railway Stations, the shock was distinctly felt, and the ground shook so that many cars on the track and siding were set in motion. In Griffintown the ground trembled so much that the people rushed from their houses in the greatest consternation. A few chimney tops were shaken and toppled over in this and other districts in the city, but no serious accidents have occurred. The earthquake did not apparently disturb the river nor the shipping in

the harbor that we have heard of. A house at the corner of Callieres and Commissioner streets has been considerably shaken. The walls are cracked in several places, and in one instance there is an opening of nearly an inch. It is to be noted that the earthquake set nearly all the door and room bells in a house situated on the centre of the city ringing. Above Sherbrooke Street and on the mountain side the shock was less severe. At Young's buildings in McGill Street, the shelves were so severely shaken and moved that packages were thrown down. A gentleman informs us that a few seconds before the first shock was felt the needle of a mariner's compass which he was looking at, commenced to vibrate. Somewhat surprised, he proceeded to examine the compass more closely, when he experienced a rocking motion, and instantaneously the needle shifted to N.N., and this same movement was repeated on the second shock.

Mr. Underhill, the optician, says that it passed from south to north. The motion was tremulous, gradually increasing till after 14 seconds duration. It suddenly ceased when at its highest to be followed after five seconds interval by a second sharper shock, lasting four seconds. The barometer fell from 29 62 to 29 54. No appreciable change of temperature was noted.

Telegrams from a great many different points show that it was felt as far west as Owen Sound, and all intermediate points. Also in the townships and eastwards.

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### **Latest from Three Rivers**

Three Rivers, Oct. 20. – A very severe shock of earthquake was felt here this morning, at 11.20 a.m. One chimney fell, and three or four damaged. Almost every inhabitant was in the streets for a few minutes after the shock. It was also felt on the water.

## **The Earthquake**

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### **SCENES AND INCIDENTS,**

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The Earthquake of yesterday, which is the leading topic of the day, was felt in this city about twenty minutes past eleven, and lasted for at least 25 seconds. Upon the length of its duration a variety of opinions would seem to exist, some of our citizens going so far as to say that it lasted at least a minute, if not longer. We think 50 seconds over the mark, but upon comparing statements it may be fairly concluded that the vibration lasted fully 25 seconds, and was undoubtedly the most violent shock that has been experienced in Quebec for many years. The scenes and incidents resulting from it throughout the Province are so numerous that it would take weeks to publish full particulars of all that transpired. In the public buildings in the city of the greatest fear consternation prevailed, clerks and messengers competing with each other in their effort to escape the fearful consequence which often follow these terrible convulsions of the earth. In the streets, when the real cause of the commotion became perceptible, people stood fixed in fear, remaining in that position until the danger had passed away; others of more nervous temperament ran to and fro, with arms extended and pale with fear, exhibiting all the features of insanity. One of the most remarkable scenes occurred in the Court House, where over 300 people had assembled, it being the first day of the October term. Thanks to the prompt intervention of one or two of the legal gentlemen who were present, the temporary fear which had seized hold of the people was allayed before any serious accident occurred.

### **AN EYE-WITNESS**

Inform us that four seconds at least had elapsed before the cause of the commotion was known. Mr. Justice Stuart, who presided, exhibited great calmness by remaining seated, a circumstance which contributed largely in allaying the excitement. As usual a great many women were present, but we must say in their favour they behaved the more calmness than the representatives of the sterner sex. The building shook for several seconds with great violence, making a noise similar to the straining of a ship under a heavy gale of wind, when the people numbering over 200 started from the seats, and forced their way to the doors, scampering pell mell down the stairs, until they reached the Place D'Armes in front. After the shock had passed over, and the usual composure resumed, an attempted was made to proceed with the business, but it was found impossible. The witnesses, fearing a second shock, had decided to leave the building, nay of whom did, without venturing to return. In the policy Court and Prothonotary offices, the same consternation and fear prevailed, the clerks fleeing with the greatest rapidity to escape the anticipated danger. One instance of prudence and propriety is reported, in which an official

attached to the building determined to put his trust in Him, who controls such events, dropped upon his knees at the first alarm. It would appear from reports that the same excitement prevailed in other public buildings including the

### CUSTOM HOUSE AND BANKS.

In the first named place, the officials without exception, rushed to every point of degrees, some of them running wildly, without stopping, until they reached Peter street. In the Montreal Bank, the same anxiety to escape the impending danger prevailed. While we admit that a subject of this kind ought to be treated seriously, at the same time it is impossible to think over the many ludicrous incidents which occurred without smiling. A bystander states that the first official of this bank who escaped to the streets, stood with hair on end like the quills of the fretful porcupine, the weapon of his office, gracefully perched behind his left ear, and a silver half dollar in each hand. It was only after repeated assurances that the danger was over, that he recovered sufficient composure of mind to return to his duties. In the private dwelling of an other house in Arthur Street, the occupant was on the point of sitting down to dinner. The good wife had served out the repast, while the lord and master of the mansion attended to the wants of their little darling, - his only son and heir. In a second the cups, saucers, and other things upon the table, moveable, were distributed about the floor, leaving the parties present under the firm impression that the day of judgement had arrived. In St. Joseph street, the chimney tops fell in numbers, and can be yet seen scattered about in confusion. In St. Roch's the commotion from this terrible electric wave was felt in all its power. The people rushed to the streets in the wildest confusion, many of them appearing in public dishabille. Owing to the excitement which prevailed, but little notice was taken of this informality of costume. In Quebec and Union Banks would appear the same desire of *sauve qui peut* seized the officials. In the office, without exception, the clerks following the example of their chiefs took temporary leave of absence. In the Post Office, a gentleman informs us that the letters positively shook in the boxes, but none of them opened.

The towers of different cathedrals vibrated for several seconds, causing in one instance the bell to sound an alarm. The bells in the St. Louis Hotel and Court House rang loudly, and in the first named building a gentleman jumped into Haldimand Street from the drawing room window.

### OTHER SCENES AND INCIDENTS

The poor little children who attended the different city schools, ran out in the greatest alarm and terror, many of them rushing wildly to their homes screaming with fright. A young girl employed in the Rubber Factory, Paul street, jumped through a window with fright. A similar incident took place as we learn in Woodley's show factory, which may end fatally a schooner lying on the beach of St. Charles River appeared to those on board as if she had been lifted several

feet out of her position. Persons who happened to be in the vicinity of our office rushed wildly in, asking for explanations, some of them firmly believing that the iron plates of our steam boiler had parted company with the rivets. In the Journal office, the men employed in the composing room, at the top of the building, were seized with fright, and rushed in the greatest confusion and terror down the steps, many of them carrying the typo's "stick" in their hands, not halting in the race until they reached the open space in front of the building. A large stone was detached from the building of Mr. Joseph Davidson, St. Joseph Street, St. Roch falling to the ground and nearly killing a horse. The chimnies of the residence of Mr. Vezina, grocer, same street suffered seriously. The chimney of the house occupied by Mr. Davis, same street, was also damaged, as well as the residences of Mr. Huot, grain merchant, and Mr. George Lemelin.

#### ON THE CITADEL,

The shock was felt with great distinctness, causing the soldiers to turn out with even more dispatch and rapidity than in answer to the morning parade call. The solid masonry of this great fortification was noticed to shake to its foundation, and many of the officers looked forward to an avalanche of the entire cape, landing the frowning Citadel into the cold waters of the great St. Lawrence, which flows at its base.

#### SOMETHING ABOUT EARTHQUAKES.

In every part of the world the surface is subject to be shaken at times by movements taking place in the interior and transmitted somewhat like a wave to distant regions. No country escapes these visitations, but in volcanic districts they occur more frequently than elsewhere; and commencing in these, they have been known to pass beneath sea and land, from one atmosphere to another, till full one-eighth of the entire surface of the globe has been more or less disturbed by the movement. Such was the great earthquake of the year 1755, known as that of Lisbon.

Of all the calamities to which man is exposed, there are none of so fearful a character as earthquakes; none involve such terrible and devastating destruction to life and property. There are none of the approach of which he is less forewarned, and none against which he can take fewer precautions. The very mysteriousness of the danger oppresses him with terror. He is ignorant in what form it is most imminent, or in what direction to seek a way of escape. Of modern earthquakes that of Lisbon, in 1755, and that of New Madrid, Mo., in 1811, present some of the most interesting details. That of Chili, in 1822, is interesting for the permanent elevation of the country between the Andes and the coast which attended it. The area thus raised has been estimated to equal full 100,000 square miles, and the height of the elevation to vary from 2 to 7 feet. Lines of sea breaches at higher levels and further inland indicate the previous lifting up of the same region at different times along the same lines. A

depression of the land was occasioned in the island of Jamaica in 1692, when Port Royal, the capital, was carried down, with greater part of the buildings in the city, beneath the surface of the water. A thousand sores or more thus sank in less than one minute, the sea rolling in and driving the vessels in the harbor over the tops of the houses. A similar catastrophe occurred on a much more gigantic scale in the Island of Java in 1772, when Papandayang, then one of the loftiest of the volcanoes in this region, was in action; an area suddenly sank down, including the mountain of 15 miles long and 6 miles broad, carrying with it 40 villages, and destroying 2,957 of the inhabitants.

#### LATEST TELEGRAMS

The following are the latest telegrams received at our office upon the earthquake:-

River du Loup, En-Bas, 11:30 a.m.

Shock commenced and lasted 45 seconds, appeared to come from N.W. The shock was quite heavy, rather rumbling.

Three-Rivers, 11:25 a.m.

A very severe earthquake has just passed over this city. The vibrations were very severe, lasting several minutes. People ran out of their houses.

Berthier

We had an earthquake very strong at half-past 11 to-day.

Sorel, 11:14 a.m.

A shock of earthquake was distinctly felt here, of nearly a minute's duration.

St. John's, Que. 11:15 a.m.

A severe shock of earthquake at 11:15 a.m.

Rouses Point, 11:20 a.m.

A severe shock of earthquake

Moore's Junction

We felt the earthquake very bad here.

Boston

A shock of earthquake was felt here and all along the line from Montreal.

L'Orignal, 11:15 a.m.

We felt a very severe shock of earthquake which lasted about half a minute.

Sherbrooke, 11:25 a.m.

Felt the earthquake here. Shook the office books off the table, and the clock down.

Coteau Landing

A severe shock of earthquake this morning, shook the buildings.

St. Andrews

A shock of earthquake this morning, lasted 30 seconds.

St. Catherine's

A shock of earthquake felt here.

Ottawa

No shock.

Albany

No shock felt within 16 miles of here. Felt in Schenectady, N.Y. Cambridge, N.Y. and Cooperstown, N.Y.

Point Levi, 11:15 a.m.

A dreadful shock of earthquake here.

Richmond, 11:17 a.m.

A severe shock felt here. The buildings at the station rocked a good deal.

Montreal

A shock felt here very severely, within 30 seconds of the time felt at Quebec.

New York, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>

A severe shock of earthquake was felt in this city this morning, at about 11 o'clock. Shocks were also felt in Schenectady, N.Y.; Cleveland, Ohio, Boston, Burlington, Vt.,; Portland Me.; Troy, Saratoga, Warrenburg, and Warsaw, N.Y.