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Hawaiian Gazette.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

W. N. ARMSTRONG, EDITOR.

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AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE.

GRANDEST FLOW YET RECORDED

ERUPTIONS DESCRIBED

First Authentic News of Active Craters.

AS VIEWED FROM THREE DIRECTIONS

Graphic Accounts of One of the Most Awe Inspiring Spectacles of the Age.

"Words fail me to describe the awful grandeur of the magnificent spectacle presented by the eruption,' writes one of the Advertiser's special correspondents who was in the first party to reach the slope of Mokuaweoweo and gaze upon one of the greatest spectacles of modern times. Below will be found the first authentic accounts of the present outbreak of the volcano of Mokuaweoweo. Three special correspondents describe the spectacle as seen by them at periods [illegible] tions, while a fourth gives his impression of the scene as viewed from the Volcano House, some twenty-five miles away.

The upper of the two craters shown in the above is the one from which the lava has ceased to flow. It is throwing out such volumes of smoke, steam and ashes as to hide the pit from view. The lower crater is about two miles lower down the mountain, and this is the one that is furnishing the stream of lava now flowing towards Hilo.

WITH THE FIRST PARTY.

(Special Correspondence.)

Kau, Hawaii, July 12.—The first expedition to the flow of 1899 left Pahala about 4 a. m. on Friday, July 7, and consisted of the following: John Sherman, Wm. Mann, L. Chong and cousin, Miss A. Crook Miss N. Crook, Miss M. de Canno, Lawrence Crook, George Dawson, W. P. Fennell and the guide, Peleiilii; also Kanakahelila, in charge of the pack train. At 7 p. m., after a very rough trip, we arrived within a few miles of the scene of eruption, but could go no further on account of darkness, and it was impossible to go any further with horses. The rest of the trip to be finished on foot, which was very trying at an altitude of about 12,000 feet. Our aneroid registered 13,100 feet, but it must have been mistaken, as the summit, 13,650 feet, was in front of us, and it looked as if it was about 1,500 feet higher.

We pitched tent and had supper and prepared to rest for the night. Several of the party were affected with mountain sickness. At 7 p. m. the temperature was fifty-one. Next morning at 6 a. m. it was about thirty-five. Notwithstanding the intense cold most of us preferred to sit outside wrapped up in our blankets gazing on the grandest of sights only a few miles away.

In the morning after an early breakfast those who were able started for the craters. We had to tramp about three miles over a rough aa flow, which was very hard on the shoes; it took about an hour and a half to cross it, but we were well paid for our trouble, as it brought us up to the upper blow-hole, or crater, and the sight that met our gaze is impossible to describe. There was a large lake of fire about 100 feet in diameter which seemed to be one large fountain throwing liquid lava and boulders about 300 feet high, which fell to the earth again to form the Hilo flow. A large stream of fiery red lava was rushing from the base of the crater, or cone, about forty feet wide, going at a rate of about thirty miles an hour. We could trace it for about three miles, then it was lost to view by smoke and fog. (This is the Hilo flow.) The guide said there was another flow going toward Waimea from the same crater, but the writer was not able to distinguish it.

The noise as the lava was being forced up was something terrible. It seemed as if there was a large body of lava trying to reach the surface and that it was held in a strong enclosure, and was fighting to get through to the surface. Our guide advised us not to go too near the cone. It looked that at any moment the force behind the cone would blow the walls to pieces, as they did not seem to be very thick. Besides the large lake, there were about ten other fountains throwing fire and lava high into the air, which also fell to the ground, helping to feed the lava flows. Around the southern base of the cone were sulphur banks.

About two miles lower down, and a little northeast, of the upper crater, was another crater, from which the flow to Kau received its supply. Although we were about two miles from it it seemed to be a great deal larger than the upper crater. It looked as if it was a vast sea of fire boiling over; it did not throw fountains as high as the upper ones, nor is it as violent, but we could see the red lava rushing to and fro, throwing large splashes into the air and falling on the rim of the crater. Quite a large part of the rim was formed which we were watching.

Although it was daytime the lava was of a dark, fiery red. Some of the boulders thrown up in the upper crater must weigh several hundred pounds.

If the walls on the east side of the upper crater should be blown out (as they do not seem to be very strong), it would cause a new flow and would probably unite with the Kau flow from the lower crater and if it did it would make it a tremendous flow. The Kau flow seems to be traveling very rapidly. When we were within about ten miles of Kapapala Ranch on this side of the mountain we could [illegible] it was between the Volcano House and Kapapala Ranch. If it continues on its course it will come out near the flow of 1881 and will cross the road about ten miles below the Volcano House. [illegible] On our way up we had an earthquake; about half an hour after we left the craters while cross the aa flow we had another, and Sunday morning at 8 o'clock we felt one at Kapapala Ranch.

We were about 300 yards from the upper crater on a blow hole. A party from Kona went up to the crater from there to within a mile and a half of the scene of eruption. They had to walk sixteen miles from the crater of Mokuaweoweo to the new craters.

They report no fire in Mokuaweoweo but plenty of smoke. It is reported that the upper crater has stopped; if so that should end the Hilo flow, as it receives its supply from it.

Our guide maintained that all of these flows are as flows.

WITH THE SECOND PARTY.

The flow, which comes from the side of Mauna Loa, has reached a point midway between the two mountains, Loa and Kea; turning at right angles to its former course. It is now heading towards Hilo, and slowly creeping up towards the boundary line of the Humuula Sheep Ranch land or Aina Hou, as it is commonly called. The flow is heading right in next to that of '55, and threatens to pass through the main part of Hilo should it be an extensive one. Such an outcome, however, is extremely improbable as the flow would necessarily have to be a long continued one to reach the town at all, and in the next place it would bank up against the '55 flow and thus exhaust itself in spreading out over the Aina Hou land.

The first break in the mountain side was about one and a half miles above and a little to the right of that of the '55 flow. Perhaps a day later, a second break occurred about a mile directly below the first. The first break is now enveloped in a cloud of smoke otherwise there are no signs of activity there.

At the second break there are two cones close beside each other—perhaps 50 feet apart. The lower of these was not active but evidently had been so within two or three days. The upper of these cones is the seat of the present activity. The interior of the cone was a little more than half filled with molten lava which was constantly being thrown up in great masses hundreds of feet high; these would break into countless fragments, numbers of which fell on the sides of the cone and about it. From a gap on the side between the two cones there was pouring a great stream of lava 50 feet wide. Striking the back of the lower cone it was deflected from its course to the left, otherwise it might have followed the course of the '50 or '55 flow. Noiselessly, and without a ripple on its surface except at the lower part of its course, where it takes on a wavy motion, this mighty stream rushes down the side of the mountain at the rate of fifty or sixty miles an hour. It continues on down the mountain side in a straight line four or five miles, confined between low banks fifty feet apart; then it divides and flows less rapidly. Sublime, magnificent beyond description, awe inspiring was that great, silent rush of lava; a scene once seen never to be forgotten.

The whole region about the cone is covered with new flows; one of those, an aa flow, went a considerable distance towards Kau, and another two or three miles down the '55 flow. At night the scene is one of great beauty from a distance; with the long line of fire extending down the side of the mountain, and the magnificent fireworks of the cone. The only noise to be heard is that which comes from the cone, and which very much resembles the dashing of the waves against sea cliffs; the sound gradually increasing in force to a roar and then diminishing until it was scarcely audible.

The writer was one of a party of thirty who started for the scene of the flow. Of the party fourteen reached a point where the erupting cone could be viewed to advantage, and ten of these went to the cone, spending some time there watching the flow of lava and some of them even climbing the adjacent cone and looking down into the boiling lake of lava. More, if not all, of our party would have reached the flow under other circumstances. In the first place it was over an entirely new trail for fully half of the way. Again, the party was too large. And lastly a number of the party not at all accustomed to walking.

Undoubtedly the best way to reach the spot from Hilo is by the route our

(Continued on Page Three.)

HILO LIT UP.

While the Kinau was at Mahukona on Saturday morning [illegible] Captain Matson, [illegible] to the husband, Captain Matson, that on the previous evening the town of Hilo had been lighted up with the glow from the eruption on Mokuaweoweo. She described the scene as magnificent in the extreme but somewhat alarming, as it impressed everyone with the nearness and the grandeur of the eruption. Old-timers remembered nothing like it.

From this it would appear that either a fresh eruption had taken place or that there was greater activity at the scene of the outbreak described elsewhere in this paper.

Commodore George C. Beckley of the steamer Kinau says the view along the coast at Kawaihae was obscured by smoke but at Mahukona a beautiful view of the top of the mountain was obtained. He brought down a specimen of the lava from the present flow which will be on exhibition at the Hawaiian News Company's store today. He describes it as being of a very heavy flint-like nature, with the general characteristics of iron ore.

A private letter from Waimea to a government official states that the lava flow had reached a point four miles from the Humuula and that it was half a mile wide and still spreading.

SAW BOTH CRATERS.

Writing on Wednesday night last on Adventure correspondent says: "Up to the time of writing our party have made the nearest approach of any to the craters—within 300 yards. Imagine two large lakes of molten red-hot lava, confined within cones, rushing to and fro trying to escape and throwing numerous fountains high into the air. I confess to being frightened at the terrible noise and momentarily expected to see the side facing us blown out, as the wall seemed to be thin. If it had been, judging from the force of the fountains, it would have reached where we stood. Our guide refused to go any closer. The eruption in the large hole in the upper crater seemed, when saw it, to be caused by a great many fountains, making it appear continually as one vast sheet of fire, with huge boulders interspersed here and there.

"It is an awful trip on horses. Ours were badly cut up, and all along our path were traces of blood from their feet. We were eight hours traveling over lava with no sign of vegetation. We left all vegetation behind us at 9,000 feet, except a little bunch grass. Each of us carried a small piece of wood on his horse for fuel."

S. S. COLUMBIA

Goes as Far as Hilo and Comes Back Again.

JAPANESE FIREMEN NO GOOD

After Some Repairs and Taking on More Coal She May Start Again Saturday.

4 p. m.—Foreign steamer off Barber's point.

5 p. m.—Looks like City of Columbia.

6 p. m.—City of Columbia off the harbor.

7 p. m.—City of Columbia at anchor in naval row.

When her mail hooks had caught hold and fast in the nose of naval row last evening and the hammer head shark had renewed acquaintance with the barnacles on her bottom, even the waterfront looked contented and calm now that the old familiar City of Columbia had come back again. She has left the harbor many times and oft but like the proverbial copper always turns up again. There was a sort of you-don't-love-me-Charley air about her when she came swinging around the light house corner and when commander F. D. Walker came down the gangway he explained matters fully.

The City of Columbia sailed from Honolulu Thursday, July 12, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and had good weather all the way to the windward side of Niihau, which she reached the following Saturday. This slow passage was due to the inexperienced Japanese laborers who had been shipped as firemen. The best the nine of them could do, with the assistance of three Japanese coal passers, was to raise the steam to thirty pounds, just sufficient to drive the Columbia about six knots an hour. And they were getting warm. So Capt. Walker doubled all the deck hands to help in the fire-room but it was found when 200 miles from Honolulu that it would be cheaper and safer to return. The coal would have been exhausted before Hongkong was reached. After some deliberation it was decided to come back to port, get a crew of experienced firemen and coal passers and try it again. The trip back was as uneventful as the one out. It was like General Somebody's army going up the hill and then coming down again. The Europeans on board were a tired lot of men from their exhausting work in the stake hold. The engineers, water tenders, and others had given full satisfaction, Chief Engineer Murray putting in some hard work himself. But the Japanese simply could not do the work required in the fire room.

The Columbia's hull did not leak perceptibly after a few day's out. There was some trouble with the check valves leading into the boiler and the rudder is somewhat wonky. But W. R. Rowell, the managing owner, hopes to have these defects remedied with small delay and as there is still a large quantity of coal on board, it is possible the Columbia will sail for Hongkong again by the end of the week.

A diver will go under the stern this morning to make an examination of the rudder and the machinists will start immediately to correct the pitkins in the engine connections.

MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO.

Adopt All of Superintendent Cassidy's Recommendations.

At the meeting of the directors of the Mutual Telephone Company held yesterday afternoon, Superintendent Cassidy submitted a long report embodying recommendations for improvements already set out at length in this paper. After some discussion and further explanation by Mr. Cassidy the directors adopted the report as a whole.

"This means," said Secretary Lane last evening, "that I am directed to order the new switchboard recommended by Mr. Cassidy by the next mail. It should be in running order inside of four months, by which time we also expect to receive many new telephones. The Waikiki service is to be further improved."

No Longer Raising Cane

Captain John Kidwell has sold his entire interest to about 50 acres of cane land, together with the growing crops thereon, to the Waiakea plantation, to which the property is contiguous. The price paid has not been made public.