IS IN VOLCANO BELT

Weight of New York's Tall Buildings May Break the Earth's Crust

CENTER OF WEAKNESS

Committee of Geographical Society Appointed to Make Observations in Reference to Possibility of a Catastrophe.

Special to The Globe.

NEW YORK, June 14.—Will it be the destiny of New York to be some day wiped out by the most gigantic cataclysm in the history of the civilized world?

The idea is not an inviting one, but it is being seriously discussed by a small group of men connected with the Geographical society, who possess an international reputation as seismologists.

Seismic disturbances have hitherto run along certain lines on the earth's surface, as we learned from our primers on physical geography, and while it is possible for earthquakes to occur in any part of the world, owing to the operation of subterranean gaseous forces, of the workings of which we have as yet no means of obtaining knowledge, the lines hitherto laid down are very apt to be followed.

This brings New York state directly into into the seismic belt, which, beginning in the Green mountains, sweeps southward through Baltimore, Richmond, Raleigh and Charleston to the Atlantic coast, whence, beneath the ocean, it proceeds in a direct line through the West India islands to Martinique and St. Vincent.

It is a trite fact that volcanic disturbances are caused by the breaking of the earth's crust, caused by the deposit of silt at the mouth of big rivers, as, for instance, occurred in the case of the late eruption of Mont Pelee, due to the deposits brought down by the Mississippi river. The tremendous volume of mud carried down by the Mississippi is spread over a large surface of the ocean bed, but nevertheless accumulated at certain points, due to the action of certain ocean currents, so as to overweight the crust of the sea bottom.

Great Accumulation of Silt.

In the case of New York city there is a larger accumulation of silt from the Hudson, proportionately to area of discharge, than is the case with any calculable given point in the West Indies from the Mississippi deposits. This deposit has built up the enormous sand banks at the mouth of our harbor, and is accumulating at such a rate, owing to the impediments which it has created in the bar, that undoubtedly before another generation has passed dredging on an extensive scale will have to be resorted to in order to make navigation for ships of heavy draught possible.

While the seismic line does not pass directly through New York city, the geological formation from Troy to New York favors the possibility of a crack running in the direction of the Empire City.

The apparent safety of New York lies in the fact that the city itself (with some exceptional spots) is built upon rock and that the bed of the Hudson is also to a certain extent rocky.

The exceptions to this rocky formation are shown in the large areas of soft mud beneath the North river on which it is now proposed to erect tunnels for the Pennsylvania system, the swamp, and certain districts of downtown New York, where the ground had always, before filling in commenced, been considered boggy or marshy. Similar spots of soft ooze in the bed of the East river, shown by the work occasioned by laying the foundations of new bridges, are also considered as opportunities for some sporadic outbreak.

Surface Is Rocky.

But, taken as a whole, the formation of the ground upon which New York city is built is rocky and of such a character as not to allow the escape of those pent-up gases accumulating beneath the surface which is in an alluvial formation would find free vent and therefore obviate danger of a seismic convulsion. More important, however, than any of the natural means for breaking the earth's crust is the building of the tremendous edifices which are being put in New York as fast as capital can be found to erect them. Particularly in the lower part of the city is this going on at a rate which bars the possibility of computing the number of pounds pressure being placed upon the square inch of surface. It is from this piling up of stone and brick and mortar upon a soil which has the least power of resistance of any part of the earth's crust in the neighborhood of New York that seismologists fear a catastrophe some day which shall whelm this country in a disaster which is too hideous to contemplate.

Should the over-building, in conjunction with the deposits washed down by the Hudson from Albany, result in such a cataclysm the experts are figuring that the volcano created will appear either in the vicinity of the swamp or at some part of the low-lying eastern short of Long island, where the surface is supposed to be particularly tenuous.

It will be a surprise to most people to learn that so seriously has this matter been considered by the Geographical society that a committee has been formed to make as accurate observations as are possible on the subject.

A peculiarity of the rough diagnosis formed by the geographers offhand is that Wall street will be one of the first places to be blotted out by the possible catastrophe and on account of its unsavory reputation as a nest of trusts and trade combinations detrimental to the public weal the warning letters. "Mene mene tekel upharsin" are said to be already written on the yet unformed walls of the new stock exchange.

—Wilfred Parsons.

STREET IS STORKLESS

Bellevue Place, Chicago, Appears to Be Devoid of Young Children

NO BABIES BORN THERE

People Living There With Little Ones Have Moved There From Elsewhere—Queer Facts Connected With the Street.

CHICAGO, June 14—Incidental to a suit which was brought before Judge Tuley recently, in reference to the custody of a child, Dr. H. N. Lyon stated that his practice, which used to be largely among children, is not so now, for the reason that there are very few children to be found among his city patients. Furthermore, he is said to have remarked that in fashionable Bellevue place the child residents can be numbered without using all the fingers of one hand, and that scarcely a baby has been born there for the last six years. This startling statement elicited considerable surprise and comment. If not, why not, was the natural query. What have the Bellevue place people done to incur the hostility of the stork, who, statistics tell us, is lavishly generous in daily gifts to Chicago? And then, what becomes of the children?

Doctor's Wife Talks.

With a view of solving the mystery, one bent upon investigating the matter visited the office of Dr. Lyon. The doctor was not in the city, but his wife, Dr. Ella Hancock Lyon listened to the questioner with a smile that was reassuring.

"Yes, it is true," said Mrs. Lyon, "that there are few children on Bellevue place, and it is a long time since a baby was born there. Oh, there are a few babies who live on the street, but you will find in most cases that they have moved from somewhere else and are not natives.

"The reason for this scarcity of little ones? Why, simply because in the last few years there has been a grand exodus to the suburbs of the people who have children or who expect ever to have any and who are not so tied by lack of means or by the exigencies of business that they are unable to leave the city.

"I am myself an exemplification of the case in point. About three years ago my husband and I gave up our home on Bellevue place and moved out to Wheaton. We did this for the sake of our children. While this tendency to emigrate to the country is a fine thing for the youngsters, it must be admitted it is a trifle hard on the doctors whose bread and butter depends to a considerable extent upon their practice among children. Just think, not even a colicky baby to break the monotony of our present day practice among adults! It is true, I am often called in consultation by some of my old patients in the country with reference to their children, but that is about all there is in the way of that kind of practice.

Sand Piles Disappear.

"Conditions, you see, have changed very much during the past few years. Why, when I was a child on Bellevue place we used to go down to the lake and simply revel in the sand piles, but now everything is so exceedingly clean and proper that there are no longer any sand piles for the children to dig in. That wall on the lake front has settled all that. The poor little tots in this day and generation may walk demurely down to the lake with their nurses and then turn and walk demurely home again with clothes quite as spotless as when they started out.

"The yards on Bellevue place are small and not at all suitable for even diminutive sand piles, and altogether the life over there isn't conducive to a free and happy childhood. I remember how, some years ago, some little boys in the neighborhood used to play on our steps every day. 'Why do you like these steps better than your own?' I asked one day. 'Because,' said one of the little chaps, 'mamma has so many callers that we are always in the way on our steps.'

"The suburbs now have all the modern conveniences and transportation to the city and is so easily and quickly accomplished that there is very little inconvenience attendant upon living out of the city. There are also advantages of good schooling, and picture for yourself the bliss of the youngsters who are enabled by their country life to indulge their penchant for cats, dogs, rabbits, gardens and all the rest that makes for the joy and freedom of a child's life. Yes, I consider this trend of inclination for the country among the well-to-do class a very encouraging outlook. It is giving back to the children their rightful heritage—the birthright of which they have been deprived, this going back to nature—and I doubt not the coming generation will be better in mind and body. Of course, we are all familiar with the old proverb that most of our great men have come from the country. So that is the long and short of the reason that not only in Bellevue place, but in all similar districts, there are comparatively few children. I recently heard the pastor of a large and fashionable church on the North side say that in the last few years very few children have been brought to him for baptism."

Few Children in Street.

A stroll along Bellevue place confirmed the facts stated in so far as there were very few children in evidence on the street. A hand organ man, evidently unaware that Bellevue place was bereft of the patter of childish feet, was evolving the choicest melodies of his repertoire, but he looked melancholy and forlorn, for he hadn't a single follower and there were few pennies in the little tin cup. Of course, children are not wholly extinct in this fashionable neighborhood, as there is a private school and kindergarten at 37 Bellevue place, which, like the world, would be a desert place "were there no little people in it."

Dr. Mary E. Hanks, of Bellevue place, has a practice largely among adults owing to the fact that children are at a premium in that locality. Several ladies were visited who reside on this charming street and were found to be childless and, not having children themselves, had failed to take cognizance of the lack of juvenile life in that locality.

"My baby is fifteen years old," said Mrs. Chesbrough, of 17 Bellevue place, "and as I spend my winters out of the city and, in fact, am very little here, I feel scarcely capable of expressing an opinion upon the subject. This much, however, I can say: "There is an apartment building on this street which used to be nicknamed 'The Herod' because children were under a ban and were absolutely prohibited from taking up their residence within its immaculate precincts. In course of time it so fell out that babies were born there. This was indeed a deliverance. However, as the parents of these infants were not ordered to destroy their offspring and as there was no general massacre, the stigma resting upon this building has been removed and it has ceased to be called 'The Herod.'"

Bellevue place is one of the most attractive and fashionable residence streets on the North side. It is two blocks long, extending from the lake to North State street. Its residents are mostly people who have long resided there and whose children have grown up. The young people who have married have for the most part moved away. Theodore Thomas' residence is on Bellevue place and he is one of the many childless ones.

WALKING IS EXERCISE

REALLY BETTER THAN WORK IN A GYMNASIUM

Organs May Be Kept in a State of Healthy Equilibrium by Going Afoot to and From Business—Tramps Into the Country Better Than Hogsheads of Medicine.

It is a strange fact, but true, that that which costs little is not thought worth while seeing or having. Fresh air and exercise, two of the most important factors in retaining health or regaining that which has been lost, factors which exist everywhere, and some within the means of even him who has no purse, are, as a rule, least valued. Everyone can walk, but it takes time. The money value of time is looked upon as so prominent a factor in modern life that everything that will reduce time consumed in doing a given thing, in sleeping, in eating, in traveling, and in all our occupations, is considered a blessing. We eat and sleep at the rate of sixty miles an hour, and grumble because we can't reduce the time.

The old-fashioned plan of traveling by stage coach, stopping at night at the inn, and halting, at noon, at the tavern, to have a quiet dinner, is quite out of date. It is voted too slow. Perhaps we make more money than our forefathers, and there is a bare possibility that we may lose more. We may even live longer than our fathers, but it will be in a shorter time. Where our fathers lived hours we compress those hours into minutes, and are the happier the more condensed we can make things. We defy the laws of nature and expect to evade punishment.

Dickens represents the traveler of the future generation as wearing a movable stomach and sending it into the restaurant to be filled while he attends to business. A physician has invented a nutritious pill, one of which is said to be equal to three ordinary meals. Going it one better, an aspirant for notoriety has invented an elixir, which, if we believe his story, is a veritable elixir of life and does away with the necessity of any food at all.

Everything Must Be Hurried.

The age of mad hurry concentrates everything into this one idea of expedition: everything must be done in the shortest time possible, with the least work possible. Time-saving and labor-saving inventions are eagerly sought for. But with all this hurry we see that people appreciate the value of exercise. Hence we see all sorts of schemes and contrivances, lift cures, pocket exercisers, and so on, devised to assist nature, but all tending to the same purpose—to do the work of an hour in a minute. True, these are better than none, but as a substitute for natural exercise they are failures, and the man is foolish who expects that five minutes' worth of exercise with an arrangement of springs and rubber will be of great value. The heart, the lungs, the brain and every organ of the body demand a different exercise. They demand, above all, rest, or its equivalent, change, and if deprived of these a sickly constitution or an early grave will be the result. These time-saving exercises are well enough in their way; so are gymnasiums, but, after all, they are a good deal like hospitals, a refuge for the sickly, but no place for the well. The most natural, the most healthy, the most attractive and the least costly method of exercise is walking. Walking brings one into the fresh air, which is not present in stifled rooms or gymnasiums. Walking thoroughly exercises all the bodily organs, stimulates to new life and eliminates effete matter. The recreation is free to all, no matter how meager their pecuniary resources, but to be of value it must be true walking and not sauntering or loitering.

The good walker carries his head erect, expands his chest, moves quickly so that all the energies of the body are aroused. The eye should be active as well and should note the beauties around it. It is far better to walk with a companion who will take your thoughts away from yourself and give you thoughts in return. You can exchange opinions, you can stop occasionally both to rest and enjoy the striking scenes. Above all, you should avoid the mistake of making the walk a matter of business. Much of the benefit of walking is due to the recreation combined with it. Exercise in a gymnasium loses much of its value because it is work, the idea of work cannot be eliminated from it. But in walking the mind is occupied by the surroundings and forgets the body and work. Above all do not attempt to become a fast walker, do not try to get ahead of time or establish a record. Of course there are some people who are getting exercise all day, and if they only had fresh air with it it would be in a state of health. Men employed in manual labor out of doors do not suffer in this regard; the sufferers are those who have something and are seeking to make it more, and who do not pay the proper attention to the demands of the body in seeking it. Business duties, often offered as an excuse for this neglect, are shackles forged by our own hands. We are slaves of our own desires.

Walks Which Are a Luxury.

If a person cannot spare the time to take a walk into the country during the evening, or still better during the early morning, he can at least walk to and from his place of work or business. Such a walk is not a hardship, but a luxury, and will keep all of the organs in a state of healthy equilibrium.

There is no pleasanter mode of spending a vacation of a week or two than to take a pedestrian trip. There is an utter lack of anxiety and care, and instruction may be combined with exercise. It is better than hogsheads of medicine.

It is not necessary to have an expensive outfit, indeed it is folly to procure one. Old clothes come into play, especially old shoes. It is the height of folly to get a new pair of so-called walking shoes with thick soles and made of stout leather. These by their weight and stiffness render the walk a penance instead of a pleasure, and are likely to nip the project in the bud. A pair of shoes to which your feet have become accustomed and which you have not to break in, or rather will not break you in, are the best, and it is better to wear a low quarter shoe than a congress or laced boot. Unless traveling through very rough country, leggins are a nuisance, as they heat the feet and legs, but the trousers should be short, and if looks are not objected to, knickerbockers are the most comfortable leg wear.

For bodily wear woolen is the best. The most sensible shirt is of light flannel made similar to the jacket of a suit of pajamas, opening in front like a Prince Albert coat, fastened with soft "frogs," and having a standing band collar close in front. Several of these with other clothing needed, and toilet articles and conveniences, should be sent ahead by express. A light felt head with a broad brim is the most sensible head gear. All clothing should be loose and easy. A loosely fitting blouse waist and a short flannel skirt will meet all requirements. If a suit is to be purchased the best choice is one of the blue flannel often called a yachting suit. A cane should be taken, which should be stout, and have a crooked handle somewhat resembling a shepherd's crook. This renders it comfortable in carrying, and it is available for use as a hook.

Keep a Journal or Log Book.

Before starting on your trip it is essential to get a good map of the country through which you intend to pass. On this you can mark out your route, and in addition make memoranda beside those placed in your note book. The value of the trip can be greatly increased by keeping a journal or log book on your trip. You can mark out on the map the trip that you expect to take, and allowing twenty-four miles a day, you can find at what place you will stop on successive days. The valise and other luggage can then be sent ahead. Under no circumstances attempt to carry a pack, for aside from the looks it will soon make a person uncomfortable, and spoil all the pleasure of the journey.

A certain amount of training is not unwise. Walking a few miles around the home country will put the legs and body in walking trim, but the first few days of the journey do not try to establish a distance record. A rate of three miles an hour is sufficient, and for a day or two ten or fifteen miles should be all that is attempted. Day by day the distance may be increased until what at first would have been fatiguing becomes a pleasant recreation. Upon this easy start depends the success of the trip. Even after ten miles the first day it is likely that the pedestrian may wake up in the morning with tired limbs, but this will wear off as soon as you take to the road.

The best time to travel is in the early morning as soon as it is light. The air seems fresher and the landscape more vivid and you escape the parching heat of midday. Rest during the middle of the day; say from 10 o'clock to 3 or 4 and start late in the afternoon to finish the trip marked out for the day. To divide the distance proportionately walk two-thirds of the distance in the morning and the other third in the afternoon. Never travel on an empty stomach but before starting in the morning drink at least a cup of coffee or milk and eat a piece of bread; and later in the morning take a regular breakfast. Never eat a hearty meal directly upon reaching the place where it is served. Rest an hour or two before dinner and an hour or two after. If you get hungry on the way you can usually find a country store where you can buy crackers and cheese and you can usually get milk at any farm house. In fact this phase of a walking tour is one of the pleasantest. The farmer and his family are usually glad to see any one from the city and to talk with him, and the most enjoyable tour is one in which all towns are avoided as stopping places only putting up at farm houses on the way. Many characters are met who would make a fortune on the stage if they would only go on and act natural and a country store especially of an evening is better than a music hall or variety theater. But to enjoy this part of the tour one must be a gentleman in all things. A man who goes on a tramp is very apt to leave his good manners at home with his good clothes and while he looks like a tramp he is apt to act like one. The farmer clothed for his work is not always prepossessing but he has a good heart that rings true to another good heart if you approach him right. Tell him who and what you are and what you are doing and you will be sure of a hearty welcome but don't put on airs if you don't want to be put out.

Health-Giving Qualities.

Any one who has tried this method of recreation will find that there are inconveniences which a man of ordinary strength cannot endure and he will find the experience not only pleasant at the time, but one that he will recall with pleasure in later years. Aside from its health-giving qualities such a tour is instructive to one who has eyes to see and ears to hear and the savoir faire.

Much depends upon the choice of a route. It is far better to strike out through a new country, avoiding beaten paths of travel. The newness of the scene and the novelty of the surroundings are much more pleasant than those nearer home. A good plan is to take the cars and go into the country, and then walk back. In this way walking trips of a day or a week or a month may be enjoyed with the least annoyance and the most pleasure.

The companion chosen should be one of kindred tastes and one who can take things philosophically. Nothing will destroy the pleasure quicker than one who is always grumbling. For that reason it is difficult to make up large parties because there will be such a variance of opinion and desires that the pleasure will be spoiled by constant quarreling or disagreement.

There are certain common-sense precautions to make the trip profitable. First, there should be some object more than merely walking. If that was the only object in view, one might as well get onto a treadmill. If you are artistic in temperament, the scenery will have a thousand points of beauty; if you are interested in botany, there are myriad studies at your feet; if geology claims your attention, you have ample material; if you like to fish, a line and hook will not take much room in your pocket, and a sapling will serve as a pole. You can even camp out along the road and cook your fish fresh from the brook with roasted corn and baked potatoes, but be careful in these little variations that you commit no trespass or theft. Don't forget the pocket compass, for in taking short cuts through woods and fields it is easy for one to get lost.

Use Water With Great Care.

At the end of each day's journey take a tepid sponge bath or a plunge if you desire, but be cautious about water inside or out when you are heated or tired. The temptation is strong to quench one's thirst at every well and spring but aside from the danger from drinking when heated the change of water is apt to lead to diarrhoea. Cooling off rapidly by taking off the coat is another source of danger and worst of all is the temptation to fling oneself down in some cool shady spot upon the grass grown or leaf carpeted spot to cool off and rest. If you do not resist this temptation you might as well prepare for the rheumatism at once. Getting wet is another thing that frightens the pedestrian. Under ordinary circumstances a person receives no injury if he does get wet provided he continues to exercise while drying off. One certainly does not want to be encumbered with an umbrella on such a trip and a mackintosh is a nuisance. Some shelter can usually be found and thus the severity of the storm abated. But if you do get sick on the way don't attempt to continue the trip until it is safe to do so. Keep the idea in mind that you are not on business but pleasure bent and you will return home invigorated in mind and body.

—Leon Noel.

JAMES R. KEENE,

Who Has Just Told King Edward All About the Bulls and Bears.

NEW YORK, June 14.—James R. Keene, whose long and confidential chat about finance with King Edward at Lady Lister-Kaye's dinner has made all Wall street jealous, is one of the cleverest talkers in New York, and one of the wittiest men in the street. Mr. Keene, by the way, is English born, but that is all there is about him that is English. His father was a wealthy London merchant when the future financier was born, but, failing in business, came to America. Of course King Edward received Mr. Keene as an American, and Mr. Keene could not, by any stretch of imagination, be regarded as being anything else.

LOVE IS ALIENATED BY THREE

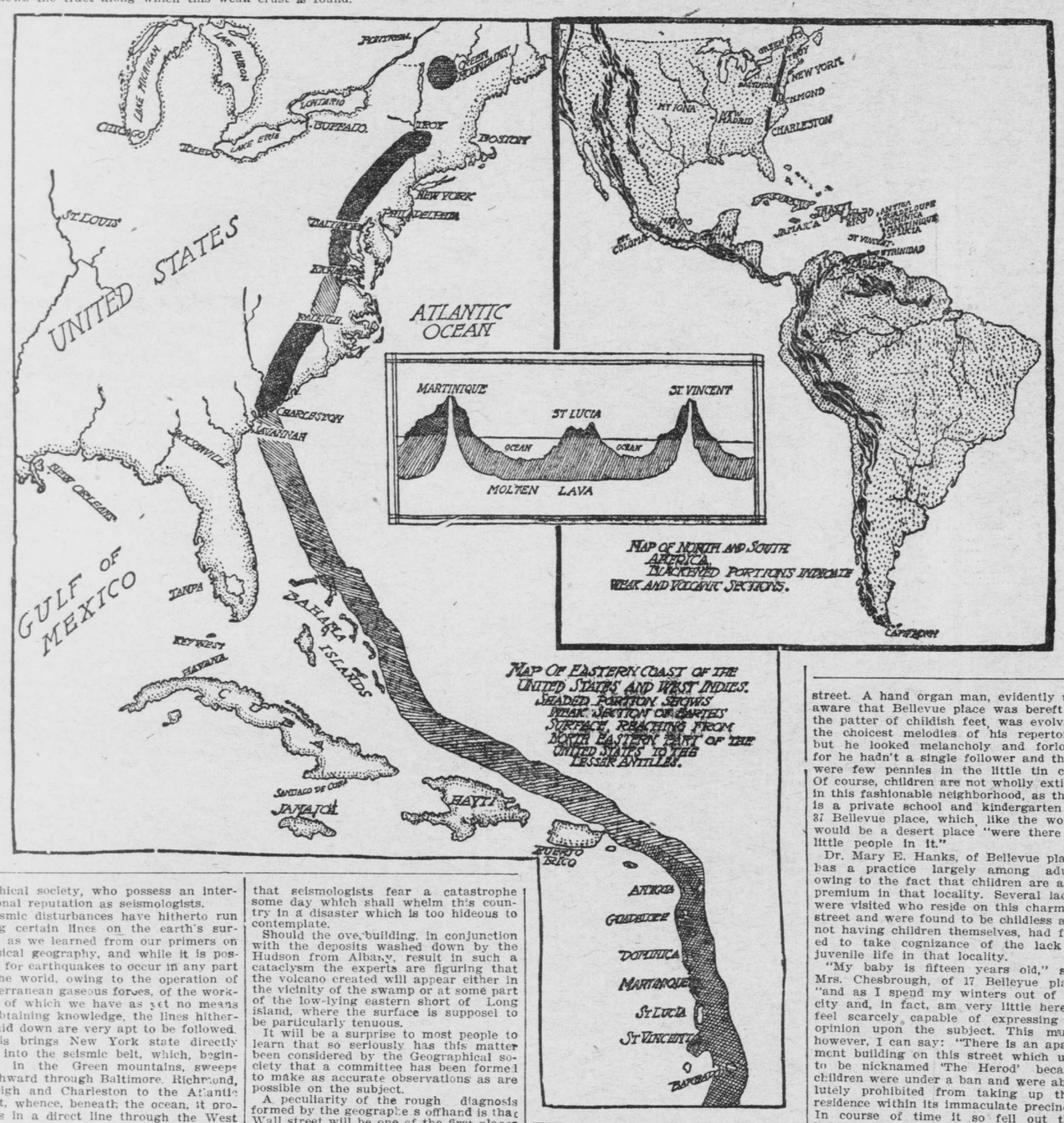
Queer and Sensational Suit for $9,000 by a Baltimore Widow.

BALTIMORE, Md., June 14.—Mrs. Sarah J. Stewart, a widow, and her two daughters, Mary Louise and Julia Crangle, were each sued for $3,000 damages in the Superior court by Mrs. Laura V. Spurrier, widow of Harry R. Spurrier, who alleges that the affections of her husband, now dead, were alienated from her by the defendants.

The declarations in all three suits are almost identical. They declare that Spurrier lived happily with his wife and children until about 1893, when the defendants by their "acts, blandishments and seductions alienated the love and affections of the plaintiff's husband and destroyed her happiness and the happiness of her home." Mrs. Spurrier says she suffered "great pain of body and great distress of mind." Mr. Spurrier, the declarations state, died at the home of the defendants.

WHERE THE SEA OF MOLTEN LAVA MAY SEEK VENT.

The scientists tell us that the interior of the earth is a surging sea of molten lava that at any moment may burst forth at any place. Naturally such eruptions are most likely to occur where the earth's crust is weakest, and the above map of the eastern part of the United States and the West Indian islands shows the tract along which this weak crust is found.



Minneapolis & St. Louis and Iowa Central Railways

To Peoria, Marshalltown and Oskaloosa.

On and after June 8th, through trains with Pullman sleepers will leave St. Paul daily at 7:00 p. m., arriving Marshalltown 3:10 a. m., Oskaloosa 5:10 a. m., Monmouth 9:08 a. m., Peoria 11:30 a. m.

"The Milwaukee"

Is the only line running Chicago trains from St. Paul and Minneapolis through Milwaukee.

Its celebrated "Pioneer Limited" train is the famous train of the world, and carries private compartment sleeping cars and sixteen-section sleepers, with berths higher, wider and longer than those of any other sleepers in America.

The very lowest rates to all points.

Baggage checked from residences and tickets delivered.

Office, 365 Robert street. Telephone, 98.

C., M. & St. P. Time Changes.

Sunday, June 15th, "The Milwaukee" will reduce the time of its day trains between the Twin Cities and Chicago. No. 6, which leaves Minneapolis 7:50 a. m., and St. Paul 8:30 a. m., will reach Chicago at 9:25 p. m., instead of 9:45 p. m., as heretofore, and No. 5, which leaves Chicago 9 a. m., will reach St. Paul 9:50 p. m. and Minneapolis 10:30 p. m., 25 minutes earlier at St. Paul and 20 minutes earlier at Minneapolis than on the old schedule—both trains daily. A daylight ride on these trains along the Mississippi and through Wisconsin is indeed a pleasure.

Homeseekers' Excursions Via Great Northern.

The Great Northern sells homeseekers' tickets at one fare plus $2 for the round trip to points in the Northwest to and including Wenatchee, Wash. Tickets on sale first and third Tuesdays of each month to and including October.

For full information call at City Ticket Office, 332 Robert St., St. Paul.