

A QUAKE AT SEA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 31.—The ship John C. Potter has arrived here, having safely passed through an experience almost unparalleled in maritime annals. She was in the midst of an earthquake at sea. The captain of the vessel does not insist that it was an earthquake in the sense that it was a shaking of the solid ground far beneath him, but he does say that the effects produced on board the Potter were precisely those that would have been produced had the vessel been on dry land during one of the convulsions that the earth hereabouts is sometimes subject to. Every man on board felt the shaking and everyone who experienced the tremor agrees with the captain when he says that it must have been a convulsion of the earth that shook the ocean.

The ship had been all the season at Pyramid Harbor, Alaska. She had a dozen or more fishermen on board when she started home, and more than one hundred Chinese, who had been employed in the cannery. The ship had stores for her own crew, and when it came to dividing with the Chinese it was found necessary to put all hands on a short allowance.

The first part of the voyage the vessel was laboring heavily with adverse gales. Cooped up as the Chinese were, made matters on board no better. What with short stores and rough weather the captain himself was well nigh disgusted. Then came the break in the storms. For several days there was just a nice sailing breeze and the sea was smooth enough to please even a landsman.

On October 12 the weather was perfect. The ship was gliding smoothly along under full sail. Nearly everybody was on deck that could be and all hands felt as well as hungry men could feel. Suddenly it seemed as if the ship was sinking. Every person on board felt that peculiar "gone" feeling typical of earthquakes. The whole vessel shook. The yards shivered, making the masts rattle. The shaking of the ship made every bit of the standing rigging "crawl." In other words, even the taut ropes shook as loose lines might be shaken. The life-boats moved, the water vats shifted, everything on deck took a start. There was no sudden thump, but a quaking that lasted for fully half a minute, as it seemed to most of the men. The ship shook long enough to bring the Chinese scampering out of their bunks. It was, indeed, a courageous member of the crew whose face did not blanch while the queer sensation continued. When the "seaquake" ceased everything was smooth and lovely as before and the ship was bounding on merrily through the tiny waves as if not the least disturbed.

Capt. Meyer at once took pains to fix his latitude and longitude in order to report the strange occurrence. In his official report made to the Merchants' Exchange, the captain described the ocean wonder in these words:

"On October 12, in lat. 43.5 N, 123 deg. 12m. W., experienced a severe shock of earthquake lasting twenty-five seconds. It made the ship shake as if it had been jumped over a coral reef in a heavy swell."

A SHOCK HERE.

An earthquake shock of short duration is reported to have been felt in Los Angeles at 9:20 o'clock Wednesday night. The vibrations were from east to west.