

**QUAKE RAISES SEA BED 15,000 FEET**

**Submarine Upheaval Near Japanese Islands Raised One Part Of Ocean Floor From Depth Of 15,000 Feet to 120 Feet.**

By HALDEN TALBOT  
Universal Service Staff Correspondent

London, Sept. 8.—On the day—May 23—on which Japan was visited by the most violent earthquake since the catastrophe of 1923 there is every reason to suppose that a great submarine upheaval simultaneously took place in the Bay of Biscay, radically altering the bed of the ocean and forcing it up to within 120 feet of the surface where soundings of more than 100 times the depth had previously been obtained.

Oceanographers and seismologists the world over are waiting detailed official reports with the greatest interest, and it is stated that the British Admiralty intends to send experts to take soundings should these reports bear out the statements already at hand.

Tending to support the evidence thus far known is the fact that on May 23 the coast of Brittany was visited by a sudden storm, accompanied by huge waves, which at Penmarch caused the loss of 20 lives.

On the day in question the transport *Lolret*, bound for Oran (Algeria) was in the southern half of the Bay of Biscay, about 100 miles south west of Rochefort. Although the wind was light, the sea was strangely disturbed, so much so that it became necessary to slow the engines.

When the sea abated normal speed was resumed, but suddenly a huge wave was observed sweeping northwards. The wave struck and slightly damaged the *Lolret*, then passed on its way. The sea, except for this uncanny phenomenon, was again fairly calm.

The spot where the *Lolret* met the tidal wave is close to the submarine depression known as the Fosse de Cape Breton, or Cape Breton Deep. This has always been regarded as a sort of pit or abyss in the ocean bed. Its sides, according to the charts, drop sheer from the edge of the so-called Continental Shelf. Vessels sailing above the Shelf can find bottom at a depth of 600 feet or less, but soundings taken in Cape Breton Deep range from 6,000 to 15,000 feet.

When the *Lolret* was returning to Rochefort, July 16, and was crossing the Cape Breton Deep a sounding machine was employed to determine the approach of the Continental Shelf. Her exact position was not known, wireless and other bearings having been taken. According to a report sent by the *Lolret's* commander to the French Minister of Marine the first sounding was taken at a point where the chart shows a depth of 13,713 feet.

The lead, however, found a gravel bottom at 120 feet!

After this startling discovery soundings were made continuously for eight hours. The depths found ranged from 113 feet to 450 feet. These soundings in the words of a British Navy official, "demonstrate beyond question the existence of an unknown submarine plateau covered with mud, sand and gravel, situated on the site of a former pit 13,713 feet deep."