

EARTH TREMORS EXPERIENCED IN CANBERRA

DALTON WAS CENTRE OF DISTURBANCE

SYDNEY, Friday.

A severe earth tremor, with its centre at Dalton, near Gunning, was felt throughout many parts of the State at 8.30 a.m. to-day.

In Sydney the tremor was not severe, but other areas reported that buildings rocked, walls cracked, chimneys swayed, water tanks burst. More than 100 bottles of liquor were smashed in an hotel and some areas reported cattle panicked when the tremor was felt.

At Gunning, reports were that the first shock lasted 18 seconds and was followed by minor tremors up until 11.30 a.m.

Country centres, which reported tremors, included Katoomba, Blackheath, Laura, Fenrith, Gungahlin, Mittagong, Gunning, Dalton, Wagga, Junee, Harfield, Kiama, Albion Park and Moss Vale.

The Director of Riverview Observatory (Father O'Connell) said the first tremor occurred at 8.31 a.m.

It would be impossible to state the actual cause of the tremors without an extensive on-the-spot examination in the Dalton-Gunning area; however, such tremors were usually caused by the slipping of rocks along a fault line in the earth's crust.

LIQUOR SMASHED AT DALTON

The licensee of the Royal Hotel at Dalton (Mr. Edward Cahill) said he was dressing when the tremor began.

"The bedroom rocked and I was showered with plaster. There was a shattering of glass and downstairs more than 100 bottles of liquor were smashed," he added.

Mr. Stanley Martin, storekeeper, of Dalton, said he was shaving when the glass started to dance. Every room in the house was damaged. Plaster crashed from the ceiling smashing crockery, glassware and or-

naments and damaging furniture.

"Within a few minutes the streets were filled with people, mainly women, who were alarmed at the severity of the tremor," he added.

DOG HAD PREMONITION

A kelpie dog, owned by Mr. Martin, had a premonition of the tremor, said his owner. He rushed yelping into the lounge a few seconds before the tremor commenced and covered underneath a table.

Gunning residents said the tremor was preceded by a noise resembling a big explosion.

There was a good deal of damage to houses in the Gunning area.

In Canberra, cracks appeared in the walls of a number of houses and shook crockery on breakfast tables. A picture frame, enclosing a black and white drawing of an early Federal Ministry, fell to the floor of the Government Whip's room at Parliament House and was shattered.

THOUGHT A LANDSLIDE

Residents at Laura thought a big landslide occurred or an old mine had fallen in.

Blackheath residents said their homes seemed to shake for almost a minute.

Mittagong felt the tremor at about 8.30, while Yass and Moss Vale reported feeling the tremor

ABOUT 8.00, while
Vale reported feeling the tremor shortly afterwards.

At Coledale and Woonona, residents said houses shook and crockery rattled on tables but there was no damage.

At Camden a bedroom floor appeared to lift and a house was shaken.

A faint rumbling sound accompanied the tremor at Young and lasted for about a minute. Tables and chairs were shaken, but there was no damage reported.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £2000

No one has been injured in Dalton, but 13 people, found wandering the streets in a dazed condition after this morning's tremor, were treated for shock. Damage to buildings is estimated at about £2000.

Children fled from the Dalton school when the second severe tremor struck at 1.35 p.m. It was followed by another tremor at 3.45 p.m.

During the day the town has experienced 80 to 90 minor tremors.

To-night, most of the town's residents were walking the streets, fearful of a further severe tremor. Old residents say it is usual for a further and more severe tremor to follow about 18 hours after the first. People were afraid to go to bed.

Mr. Cahill said at midnight that the town had been rocked by two more severe tremors. They happened at 9.40 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. The tremors were so severe that they shook the building.

Since 6 p.m. the town had had

The first tremor occurred at 8.23 a.m. and lasted for six seconds. A table at Fairbairn aerodrome was moved three inches and a safe at Parliament House was dislodged. A barograph at Fairbairn meteorological station was the only instrument to be affected.

The second tremor occurred at 1.35 p.m. and lasted four seconds.

Residents in Reid probably felt the first shake more severely than in other suburbs, although no damage was reported.

Reports of the tremor were received from Delegate, where it occurred at 8.12 a.m. and Kiandra at 8.20 a.m.

At Delegate the postmaster reported that kettles were moved from stoves and bottles and tins dislodged from shelves.

There is no seismograph at the Commonwealth Observatory at Mt. Stromlo or the meteorological station at Fairbairn.

The chief geologist at the Bureau of Mineral Resources (Dr. N. H. Fisher) said last night that the centre of the tremor was at Dalton.

He asked that people, living in areas adjacent to Canberra, who had felt the tremors, to report them to the Bureau of Mineral Resources at Canberra, which is making a survey.

Dr. Fisher requested that, if possible, residents should state the time, duration, their impression, visible effects, noise if any, and personal sense of direction of the tremors.

It is considered unlikely that the tremors will have any effect on Lake George.

more than 150 minor tremors and persons living in brick houses had evacuated them.

Mr. Cahill stated that people, living in weatherboard homes, had thrown their places open to accommodate the persons from the brick houses.

Shortly after midday to-day, Singapore experienced light earth tremors, lasting a few seconds.

Tremors Shook Homes at Canberra

Two earth tremors, which lasted six seconds and four seconds respectively, startled Canberra residents yesterday. No damage was reported although the tremors caused windows to rattle and cupboards and movable objects to quiver.

The first tremor occurred at 8.23 a.m. and lasted for six sec-