

## SLEEP OUT IN OPEN

### Residents of 'Quake-Affected Town

CANBERRA, March 12

Up till to-night, nearly 200 earth tremors had been felt in the little town of Dalton, 40 miles north of Canberra.

The town, now being called "Trembletown", is still being shaken, and cracks have appeared in the earth. The tremors began at 8.30 a.m. yesterday.

Many of the 400 residents last night slept out in cars, and under beds and tables, according to the Royal Hotel licensee (Mr. E. P. Cahill).

Most children could not sleep because of fear, and many adults were kept awake by the howl of dogs and whinnying of horses. Cattle panicked during the night.

Residents expect the tremors to continue for two more days, but they are hoping the worst is over.

Major tremors occurred at 8.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. and 3.45 p.m. yesterday, at mid-night, and at 7.30 a.m. to-day.

Mr. Cahill said the quakes had rocked buildings to their foundations. Another big shock would send his hotel tumbling to the ground. The walls were already out of plumb, and many new cracks had appeared since yesterday.

Practically every house in the district had been damaged.

The cracks in the earth he said, were a few inches deep.

Since the first big shock, which made a noise like thunder, the town "has been quivering like a dog drying itself".

The people were becoming accustomed to the shocks, and were not nearly as terrified as they had been yesterday.

Yesterday women and children had run screaming into the streets when the first shock occurred. Many refused to re-enter their homes, despite heavy rain.

Sceptical reporters were interviewing Mr. Cahill in his hotel when the second big shock occurred at 1.30 p.m. yesterday. The building rocked and plaster fell from the ceiling, hitting reporters.

"Now do you believe us?" an onlooker shouted when the rumble died away.

Later, at 3.45 p.m., when the third big shock hit Dalton, reporters saw the church spire tilt crazily and big water tanks sway dangerously.

A former R.A.A.F. pilot said the first shock sounded like the explosion of a 1000lb. bomb.