VOLCANO NOTES AND NEWS

DIDICAS VOLCANO

During March, 1952, a passing ship reported submarine volcanic activity at Didicas Rocks, about 38 miles north of Cape Engano on northern Luzon in the Philippine Islands. Previous activity during 1856 and 1857 had resulted in the formation of a cone about 700 feet high, but the cone had been almost completely destroyed by wave erosion previous to the current eruption.

The *Manila Bulletin* for June 20, 1952, states that on March 20 the new cone was about 200 feet high. On June 17 observers were flown over the volcano in a U. S. Navy plane. The cone was then about 3,000 by 4,800 feet across and 800 feet high. At the summit of the cone the principal crater was about 0.25 mile in diameter, and a new crater had opened on the southwest flank of the cone. The column of white cloud from the volcano was visible 70 miles away.

The explosive phase of the eruption appeared to be vulcanian in character. Angular rock fragments ejected from the crater fell on the outer slopes of the cone and rolled down them, accompanied by clouds of yellowish dust. Large chunks of black material, apparently solidified lava, were observed to be perched unstably on the crater rim, occasionally falling down the outer slope or back into the crater. Ash from the volcano was falling on Calayan Island, 25 miles to the north, but not in sufficient quantity to cause damage. Photographs suggest that the structure may be a domical protrusion, with craters blasted in it by explosion and its flanks mantled with pyroclastic debris.

ALEUTIAN VOLCANOES

Austin E. Jones, seismologist in charge of the Geological Survey's observatory on Adak Island, has supplied the following notes on the activity of Aleutian volcanoes during 1951.

Gareloi, which was weakly active during 1950, was quieter during 1951. At Kanaga volcano, light wisps of steam were noted on quiet, probably humid days. At Great Sitkin a steam column, 1,000 to 2,000 feet high at times, was reported, but no ash was observed. Korovin volcano was steaming in November, 1951. G. R. MacCarthy reported a large, dense column of mingled dark fume and steam at Cleveland volcano on November 1. The volcano was also reported smoking during December. Lieutenant Sinclair, of the ship TAKL 36, reported running through muddy water for 2 miles 3.7 miles off the island of Bogoslof on September 21. G. R. MacCarthy visited Bogoslof early in November and reported that there were no signs of activity for many years past. An officer of one of the TAKL ships reported that Pogromni volcano was not active on July 2, but that it was smoking on July 5 to 7.

In July, Shishaldin volcano was reported "throwing fire and glowing." In September and probably during early October, glow was seen from ships, but on October 15 A. E. Jones could distinguish no activity from a plane passing 50 miles to the north. On October 15, a column of steam half as high as the cone stood above the crater of Frosty volcano.

Pavlof volcano was reported to be in minor explosive activity during August, 1950, the activity culminating in November and

continuing through the winter. R. D. Jones, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, saw it active on January 15, 1951. On April 1, it was reported in rhythmic explosive activity, but in mid-May R. D. Jones found it quiet and reported it as quiet until late fall. In October, fresh ash was reported on the north slope, and later R. D. Jones reported that on November 13 a sudden small explosion was seen, and it continued active through the rest of the winter.

On August 9, A. E. Jones saw the volcanoes from Pavlof to Douglas, and, although an ash fall near Katmai had been reported a few days before, he could see no signs of activity.

CATALOGUE OF VOLCANOES

Catalogue of the Active Volcanoes of Indonesia, by Dr. M. Neumann van Padang, is Part I of the *Catalogue of the Active Volcanoes of the World, including Solfatara Fields.* Published in 1951 by the International Volcanological Association, part of the cost of printing was borne by a grant-in-aid from UNESCO. It is available from Professor Francesco Signore, General Secretary of the Association, Via Tasso 199, Napoli, Italy, for the price of $5.00 (U. S.).

The project of a catalogue of the active and recently active volcanoes of the earth was initiated at the first meeting of the Association in 1922. Its execution has been long delayed for various reasons, not the least of which is the difficulty of editing in multiple languages. The decade of turmoil accompanying World War II necessitated temporary abandonment of the project. Dr. B. G. Escher, president of the Association for the period 1948–1951, deserves sincere congratulations for having successfully revivified the project so soon after the end of the war.

The volcanoes of the world have been divided geographically into 19 principal groups, which are delineated on the map accompanying *Catalogue of Active Volcanoes of the World,* by W. Q. Kennedy and J. E. Richey, issued in 1947 as a supplement to *Bulletin Volcanologique,* series 2, volume 7. The Indonesian volcanoes constitute group 6. Within the group are nine subgroups, and within each subgroup each volcano is assigned a number. Thus the volcanoes of Java are subgroup 3, and the serial number 6, 3–25 represents the volcano Merapi on Java.

Part I of the Catalogue contains 271 pages. The description of each volcano includes its name, location, and height; a short description of the form and structure of the volcano; a list of known eruptions, made compact by the use of standard symbols to describe the activity; a description of the rock types comprising the volcano and a table of chemical analyses when available; and a brief bibliography of the principal literature dealing with the volcano. Maps of the entire region and the subregions are given, as well as black and white maps, cross sections, and sketches of many of the individual volcanoes. Some of the individual maps are less distinct than could be desired, because of direct reproduction from earlier publications, without redrawing. Even so, they are of great aid in following the text, and their large number is highly commendable.

The publication will undoubtedly prove of great value as a reference work, and the author deserves the gratitude of the volcanological profession for having undertaken and accomplished the enormous task of compilation represented by it. It is sincerely hoped that additional sections of the Catalogue will appear in the near future.