

**San Luis Obispo Tribune (Weekly), Volume 8, Number 405, 19 May 1877**

The Tidal Wave

The trouble noticed in the waters at Cayucos last week, and reported to us by Mr. Cass, proves to have been the effect of a tidal wave, and was noticed at different points all along the southern coast. Contemporaneously with this, Peru, in South America was visited by an earthquake and tidal wave, doing immense damage, amongst which was the destruction of the town of Arica, on the Peruvian coast. Only the bare report has been given by a message that has found its tortuous way over the wires from that country. We hope that it will not prove so disastrous of life and property as did the tidal wave of 1868, that was observed along the western coast of America from the Columbia River to the Strait of Magellan, and that crossed the Pacific at the rate of 600 miles an hour. In speaking on this subject, the Alta says:

We believe that the wave of 1868, as observed on the coast of California, did not anywhere show greater fluctuation than on the 10th inst., at Anaheim, where there was a rise of twelve feet in a few minutes, whereas the ordinary tide rises only four feet in not less than three hours; so we might infer that the tidal wave of 1877 was as high on the coast of South America as that of 1868; but this inference is probably incorrect, since we have no report of serious damage on Thursday last from any place save Arica, whereas nine years ago the losses were great at a dozen different ports. The entire losses of South America by earthquake in 1868 were estimated at 30,000 lives and \$300,000,000 in property. The immense active volcanoes of the Andes have doubtless an intimate relationship with the frequent earthquakes along the coast at their western base.