

300,000 DEATHS SAY SOME, BUT OFFICIAL ESTIMATE IS 115,000

Horror of Situation at Messina and Reggio Grows With Every Hour

WORK OF SUCCOR NOW Relief Expeditions Making Their Way to Scene of Devastation--Report of Fresh Disaster

ROME, Dec. 31.—Estimates of the death toll of the earthquake now current among the Italian people. It is enough to know that the catastrophe is overwhelming, figures would add nothing to the grief of the stricken nation, nor move to greater relief those upon whom the work of relief and rescue has fallen. Every channel open to the government has been utilized to this end and other nations have been quick to come to its assistance, even before the cry for aid went up. Ship loads of fugitives have been carried out of the stricken zone to Naples, Palermo, Catania and other ports and, according to the minister of marine, rescue vessels to the number of 40 are now centred in the Strait of Messina and 5,000 soldiers are being landed on the two coasts. Most important of all now is the question of the living. Thousands of those who escaped the falling walls and the sweep of the tide are starving and without clothes or shelter. They can scarcely long survive their sufferings. The first thought has been to carry food and covering for these hapless people, and it has been decided by the government to send a fleet of emigrant steamers to transport them to other places. The latest reports received at Rome say that there have been many intermittent shocks after the first, to which the greater part of the destruction is attributed. The British warship Minerva reported by wireless to Malta that two severe shocks occurred at Messina last night. Professor Riccio, director of the observatory at Mont Asta, states that his instruments have recorded 42 distinct shocks after the first, but during the last thirteen hours they have been almost continuous. Asta and Stromboli are now quiet, and he is certain that the earthquake was not of volcanic but geologic origin, similar to that of 1783. Liard C. Griseon, the American ambassador, will leave here tomorrow and will proceed to Messina and other places in the south on an Italian warship in search of information concerning missing American travelers. It has been found impossible to obtain tidings of the hundreds of foreigners, supposed to have been in the zone, about whom inquiries have been made to the government and the various embassies. The horror of the situation at Messina and Reggio grows with every fresh dispatch. One of the correspondent places the death toll throughout the entire territory as high as 300,000, but this appears to be extreme. Others make their outside estimate 200,000, but the official estimate, as made by the Minister of Marine, still holds to 100,000. Relief expeditions which have been making their way to Reggio have encountered tremendous obstructions all along the route. They report eighteen provincial villages beset by those already mentioned in Calabria as having been completely ruined. This would indicate that the earthquake's havoc was not confined to the coast. What has become of the inhabitants of these villages is not known. Those that were left alive after the destruction of their homes doubtless find the great army of refugees seeking safety or have fallen by the wayside. The Calabria coast for thirty miles has been torn and twisted. From Reggio to Reggio, a distance of twenty-five miles, is half demolished. Assistance has reached but few of these places and they are practically without supplies of any kind. At Reggio surgical operations are being performed with pruning knives, but at Reggio even that is impossible. Bands of thieves infest the country and the despair of the unaided villages is complete. Hunger supplies the motive force of shocking violence and pillagers and robbers defy the few surviving policemen and soldiers. NEW YORK, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The United States supply ship Celtic, which was to have met the returning battleship fleet with holiday cheer, sailed out of New York harbor this afternoon on an entirely different mission, but without changing a single item of her cargo. She will go to Messina after a brief stop at Gibraltar, with a million and a half of navy rations for the earthquake sufferers. DISTRESSING BEYOND WORDS. MONTELEONE, Dec. 31.—Each tale would seem to surpass the other in horror and misery, but the experience of a band of refugees from Messina and Reggio who made their way on foot into Palmi is distressing beyond words. The Messina refugees succeeded in getting away from the Sicilian coast in sailboats. After a frightful experience in crossing the strait they landed on the Calabria coast. Here they were met by the haggard refugees from Reggio and the various groups

FORWARDED BY MAIL

ROME, Dec. 30.—Large quantities of telegrams addressed to people in Messina have been forwarded from here by mail because of the lack of wire facilities. There is practically no chance of these messages being delivered. It is impossible for anybody to seek out the addresses among the survivors. There are still numerous small villages in Calabria from which no news has been received. Many of these are inaccessible, and it is feared that when the reports do come in they only swell the fatalities. Every fresh dispatch received is monotonous in its recital of death and desolation. The same heartrending story doubtless will come from practically every village and hamlet in the doomed area. It has been learned the Capuchin monks at Reggio escaped death and did brave work in rescuing the less fortunate. Of the twenty-two nuns at the convent of San Vincenzo di Paolo only seven remain alive. They are now engaged in nursing the wounded. A naval observer of the destruction of Messina says there were four tidal waves, ranging in height from twelve to thirty feet. Thirty minutes elapsed between the rolling in of the first and the final destructive onslaught of the last wave. The weather in Calabria continues abominable. Heavy rain fell at night and the thermometer goes below freezing. SAD PROCESSIONS. PALERMO, Dec. 31.—The roads between Palermo and Messina are filled with long and sad processions of wounded refugees, and the sight is as seen as they painfully make their way to the eastward are simply heart-rending. They all say they think they are the only survivors. The walls of several of the principal buildings of Messina are still standing, but they are so weakened that they will have to be demolished as soon as possible to prevent fatalities among the rescuers. Every day this undermined masonry comes crashing down. Only yesterday, when his majesty the king was in the facade of a five-story building collapsed only a few hundred feet from where the king was standing. Two priests have arrived at Messina from Scylla, on the Calabria coast. They confirm the previous reports that this town of 5,000 people has been completely annihilated. They say they are practically the only survivors. They escaped with their lives because at the time of the quake they happened to be in the vault of the church, a portion of the building that resisted the general collapse. The priests say also that the ruins of the city are so completely annihilated that they are practically the only survivors. They escaped with their lives because at the time of the quake they happened to be in the vault of the church, a portion of the building that resisted the general collapse. The priests say also that the ruins of the city are so completely annihilated that they are practically the only survivors.

ALD. BAXTER OPPOSES IT

City Too Small For Board of Control

PRESENT SYSTEM O. K. Declares Advantages of Proposed System Cannot Be Pointed Out

PARIS IN THE GRIP OF HEAVY BLIZZARD

French Capital Swept By Most Severe Snowstorm Since 1870

PARISIANS ENJOY IT

PARIS, Dec. 31.—What first looked like a little flurry developed into a real snow storm today, when Paris was visited by the first of the kind this season. The storm was not only the first of the season but was the most formidable known in years, so the memory of the "oldest inhabitant" was set in motion by the phenomenon. It was not until near the noon hour that the snow began falling heavily. From then on there was no cessation. By five o'clock about four inches of snow covered level spaces in the Paris district, and it was that fine, white and fluffy snow that looked like a streak of ink flowing between white banks. Some persons declared it the heaviest snow storm seen in Paris since 1870, while others asserted that by the records the last great continental comparable with that of today was in 1878. Horse drawn vehicles were soon rendered useless, as the horses were slipped and fell on the treacherous pavements. Later, however, the animals were able to obtain a footing in the deep snow, but all idea of speed and distance had to be abandoned. The superiority of automobiles was strikingly demonstrated. Within one hour after the beginning of the storm the city was a scene of confusion. The streets were filled with the unusual spectacle of cabs and cars driving humbly through the snow. The streets were almost paralyzed and suburban railway lines were reduced to all kinds of uncertainties and delays. The metropolitan underground system was practically the only one in the city not affected by the storm. In the central part of Paris the effect produced by the storm was almost weird. Automobiles ran great snow mounds, forcing their way through the blast, and the drivers looked as if they might be tackling one of the Siberian relays on a round the world trip. Thousands who have survived the disaster, the authorities have agreed that the only course is to transport them as quickly as possible out of the stricken territory. Accordingly, it has been arranged that all the Italian emigrant steamers shall go to Messina and various other ports for the purpose of taking off the refugees and distributing them to the different cities of Italy. King Victor Emmanuel today visited all the wrecked villages along the Sicilian coast, everywhere meeting the same scene of desolation. Tomorrow he will visit the villages and hamlets on the coast of Calabria. The news of Calabria that has been overwhelming. Messages from Messina state that what is most needed now are the elementary necessities, water, bread and light. The streets at night are in absolute darkness and this is taken advantage of by thieves and murderers who gather about the banks and palaces for purposes of robbery. Coal oil lamps are called for abundantly.

LEON TALKS; TONY SILENT

Italian Murder Case Continued

FOSTER TESTIFIES One of the Italian Prisoners Tries to Start Controversy

ANDOVER, Dec. 31.—The trial of Tony Aronin and Leon Segetti, the two Italians, for the murder of Edward Green, was continued yesterday at Andover, and although much evidence was heard, the progress was quite slow. It now seems that the trial may not be finished this week. When court opened today, Chief of Police Foster was the first witness called. Mr. Foster testified that on Sunday, upon being informed of the murder, he drove through the Miranichi from Bristol in company with Joseph Pierson. They took the right of way in the direction of Piaster Rock, searching the different camps as they went along. That Sunday night, witness and Mr. Pierson arrived at Piaster Rock, where they met Officer Whitfield Bishop and James McLeis. They left Piaster Rock on Monday morning and drove back towards Piaster Rock and reached Piaster Rock about 5 o'clock that day. Upon arriving there, witness declared, they discovered the two prisoners, who had just come in from the woods. The arrest was made by Pierson and witness. Chief Foster then produced the jewelry box owned and carried by the deceased. In addition he showed the gun and pocketbook. Joseph Pierson followed, and his evidence was along the same lines as that given by Mr. Foster. Bernard Walsh was the next witness called, and his evidence occupied a considerable time, although nothing new developed. He had known both the prisoners for about two months, and he had frequently seen them with guns, which he considered were the same ones as produced in court. Richard Pierson was the next witness called and swore that the accused murderers did not pass his camp on the night of the murder. It is supposed the prisoners left the portage road before reaching the camp of the witness just where Constable McCreck took up the trail on Monday. David Chapman told about the same story as Mr. Walsh. His examination will be continued tomorrow morning, when the case will be resumed at 10 o'clock. There are about a dozen more witnesses to be examined. The prisoners were again in court at the hearing today. Tony wore a sober face and seemed to realize his position. Leon, however, seemed indifferent. He would rest his arm on the rail and bury his face in his hands, seeming not to care. Several times, when the interpreter was reading the evidence to him, he started a controversy and had to be silenced by the court.

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Mystery Surrounding Foul Murder of Harriet Warren Said to Be Solved at Last

Henry Palmer Arrested at Charlottetown—It is Alleged He Made a Full Confession While an Inmate of Penitentiary—Warren Case a Mystery for Five Years

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., Dec. 31.—A sensation was created today by the arrest of Henry Palmer, aged twenty-six, nominally on the charge of larceny but really in connection with the death of Harriet Warren, aged thirty-three, found murdered October 19, 1894, in Charlottetown with her head horribly gashed with an axe. Palmer was among the suspects arrested, but was dismissed for lack of evidence. A man named Power was also arrested but being pronounced criminally insane was sent to an asylum, where he now remains. Palmer was in the penitentiary for two years for jail breaking, also a time in the asylum. It is claimed a confession was made in the penitentiary which led the authorities to take action. The police are confident, but it is understood they are looking up evidence to be given this day week, when Palmer comes up for trial. The Warren case has been a mystery to the authorities, several detectives from the United States being employed on it without success. Hon. John Richards, the new commissioner of agriculture, who went to the county for re-election, was returned by acclamation for the second district of Prince county. Election petitions were filed against Wyatt and McNeill of Summerside, James Kennedy, Kensington, Conservative, and John Agnew, Liberal.

DECEMBER MONTH OF MANY CHANGES

It Rained and Snowed and the Wind—She Blow Blow, Blow!

December on the whole has been a month of rapid changes with considerable cloudy weather and high winds. At times the weather has been quite cool and at other times it has been very warm. The average temperature for the month was 24 degrees above zero. The highest registered was on the 1st, 7th and 8th, when 32 degrees were registered. The minimum was 4 below zero on the 23rd of the month. The total precipitation amounted to 4.8 inches, consisting of rain and snow. Of this amount 4.7 inches were of rain with 1-2 inch of rain and melted snow; .6 inches of snow which reduced to .58 inches of rain.

PAST YEAR RECORD ONE IN AMOUNT OF TAXES COLLECTED

The Chamberlain in conversation with the Sun yesterday afternoon stated that the tax collectors for the year ending last night would exceed in volume those of any previous year. This is thought cannot alone be attributed to the increased water rate, as the rate for general taxation has been considerably lowered during the year. The showing is regarded as being all the more remarkable when it is taken into account the financial depression experienced and the general prevalence of hard times. Speaking roughly, the Chamberlain anticipated an increase of \$15,000 in water tax collections and \$20,000 in general taxes. The policy of the present civic administration in increasing the staff of collectors is thought to have contributed considerably to the existence of a record showing.

PAST YEAR WORST IN THE HISTORY OF THE LUMBER WORLD

Outlook Not Much Brighter

AMOUNT ON HAND

It Is Less Than Half Total Shipments of Last Season

Conditions in the local and foreign lumber situation show little improvement and none of the prominent dealers continue to hold many feet on hand, and are shipping only in small quantities. Never before have such conditions prevailed, and 1904 will be put down as an unprecedented season in the lumber world. Local dealers are only receiving small orders from outside places, due to the dull markets. So far scarcely anything as compared with other years has been shipped from this port, and while larger shipments are confidently looked forward to after New Year has fairly started, they will by no means touch the shipments from St. John by local dealers in other years. In fact, it is now quite certain that no shipments will be made which will necessitate the loading of a special steamer, as has been the case before. Speaking in general, there is something like 18,000,000 or 20,000,000 feet of lumber on hand at the present time. This may be augmented by about 4,000,000 feet coming here by rail from outside points. Last year the shipments alone amounted to about 45,000,000 feet, so the difference will be readily seen. The markets both in England and the United States show very little improvement and unless they improve considerably the outlook for the future is quite poor.

ISLANDS DISAPPEAR

ROME, Dec. 31.—The Vatican states that a wireless message from the Strait of Messina reports that Lipari Islands, a group of volcanic islands in the Mediterranean near the coast of Sicily, have disappeared. The total population of the group numbers 25,000 and must have inevitably perished. The minister of marine has rushed a torpedo boat to ascertain the facts. MAY HAVE BEEN AMERICANS. ROME, Dec. 31.—It has been impossible as yet to ascertain whether there were any Americans at the hotels in Messina. The Hotel France collapsed at the first shock and sixty guests were killed. It is asserted that none of these was American. Only two waiters escaped, as they were already up and had the feeling of a fall under the altars of the hotel. The Continental hotel was destroyed, but it seems that no Americans were stopping there. Almost all the guests at the Hotel Tricarica, including J. C. Martens, the Swedish consul, are dead. Nothing has been learned definitely as to the number of Americans in that hotel, which was the leading one of the city. A tragic episode at Reggio was the rescue of Deputy Demostri Tripodi, mayor of the town. His family had escaped, but he disappeared and his children felt certain that he was buried under the ruins. They set to work to find their father and they struggled with the ruins for 24 hours, without rest and without food. Only a miracle, they thought, could bring him back to them. Eventually, however, the father was found, but he was badly injured, but still alive. The joy of the family was not long for the deputy died soon afterwards. Giuseppe Valentino, another member of the chamber of deputies, also is among the dead. The Pope has sent to the bishops of the earthquake zone \$20,000. He is also sending special envoys to report on the needs of the victims. The Pope has suspended all audiences and solemn mass will be sung for the repose of the souls of the victims in the churches at Rome, at the expense of the Pope. WILL TRANSPORT THEM. In view of the impossibility of properly housing and feeding the tens of

WANDERER AIMLESSLY

CATANIA, Dec. 31.—Refugees from Reggio and Messina continue to pour into Catania today and the city presents a sad sight. It is a hospital, with each house in a ward. Thousands of half-nude individuals of both sexes have gathered along the muddy beaches on either side of the ruins of Messina. These are wandering aimlessly, seeking food and trying to get away from the city. Children have died from exposure and the cases of madness are increasing. The refugees have succeeded in reaching the outskirts of Messina this morning. It has been learned that Deputy Pulci, who survived the disaster, has since died of his injuries. During the past night the warships in Messina harbor threw their searchlights on the ruins, to enable the rescuers on shore to continue their work. The work of succor is going on feverishly, and the forces are still only inadequate. The stretch from decomposing bodies is becoming overpowering. BERLIN, Dec. 31.—The municipal council of Berlin has given \$15,500 and the council of Frankfurt-on-the-Main \$4,000 for the succor of the Italian sufferers.

LOST NO TIME

"We lost no time in setting about the work of rescue. We established an open-air hospital on the shore where we received and treated a thousand people—men, women, and children. We also saved the safe of the Bank of Sicily, with its treasure, weighing two tons. "I estimate the deaths at Messina conservatively at 50,000. The mind shrinks from contemplation of the present condition in the stricken city; that there are thousands of persons still alive in the ruins and that countless numbers must die, much longer than the earthquake. During all the time we were in the harbor of Messina, our vessel shivered intermittently, though shaken by some huge marine monster. "I could relate pathetic stories without number. Under some wreckage enclosed in a kind of a little cubby-hole and protected by two heavy beams, I discovered two little babies safe and uninjured. They were comfortable as possible and laughing and playing with the buttons on their clothes. We could find no trace of their parents, who undoubtedly lost their lives. It made a terrible impression to see the bereaved children. Many of the little ones live while their parents are dead, while we saw mothers with dead babies in their arms. It was also indescribably painful to see the many who had gone crazy from grief. They searched and searched under the ruins for their loved ones, even keeping up the quest after they had been brought on board our ship."

GRISCON GOING

ROME, Dec. 31.—The foreign office has completed arrangements for Lloyd C. Griseon, the American ambassador, to leave Naples tomorrow on board an Italian steamer for Messina. Mr. Griseon is to get to the spot and gather information regarding the fate of the Americans who are supposed to have been in Calabria and Sicily at the time of the disaster. The ambassador will take with him several consular officers, among whom he will divide the work. As soon as the service of investigation is started the consular officers will return to Messina. Bayard Cutting, Jr., the American consul at Milan, will take charge of the consular interests in Messina. Winthrop Chandler of Philadelphia will accompany the ambassador to the south.

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