POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

VOL. XLVIII. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1908 NO. 35

SOUTHERN ITALY PRACTICALLY DESTROYED BY EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVE, AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PERISH

ONTARIO DEPORTS MANY LUNATICS

Eighteen Sent at One Time

Government Estimates Province Will Save $75,000 for Their Maintenance—Two Blocks Burned at Bracebridge—Loss $100,000.

(Special to The Telegraph).

Toronto, Dec. 28.—The Ontario government claims to have made a saving of nearly $75,000 by deporting eighteen insane patients who have been confined in asylums of the province. This party went across the ocean the other day in charge of a doctor appointed by the government, and is the first general deportation undertaken by the province of patients who do not come within the purview of the immigration act: that is, they had been in the country too long a time to be taken back free by steamships which brought them over.

The cost of deportation, however, was only $1,500, and the patients would have cost $4,000 apiece to keep in asylums for the rest of their existence, this figure being based on "expectancy of life" tables.

100,000 Bracebridge Fire.

Bracebridge, Ont., Dec. 28.—(Special)—A terribly destructive fire broke out here last night, wiping out the two principal business blocks of the town, and causing loss of more than $100,000.

The flames started in rooms occupied by L. E. Godson as law offices in the G. W. Sibbett block, and spread with great rapidity to the adjoining block, owned by John McCosh, both being a total loss. Both buildings were solid brick. The losers are:

Thomas & Co., jewelry, book and stationery, and publishers of the Gazette newspaper; loss $20,000, insurance $7,000.

John C. Carruthers, dry goods; loss $2,400, insurance $1,500.

G. R. Simmons, sporting goods; loss $6,000, insurance $2,000.

Max Axler, general store; loss $15,000, insurance $6,000.

James Whitten, hardware; loss $20,000, insurance $10,000.

Thomas E. Godson, law office; loss unknown.

G. W. Sibbett, on block, loss $14,000, insurance $8,000.

John McCosh, block, $16,000, covered by insurance.

DOUBLE SHOOTING AFFRAY IN AN ONTARIO TOWN

Syrian Fatally Wounds Brother and Badly Injures Woman

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Hawkesbury, Ont., Dec. 28.—A double shooting affray occurred here this evening in which a leading merchant of the town was fatally injured and a woman so badly hurt that she is not expected to live. The victim was J. M. Assaly, a wealthy Syrian merchant, who conducted a big dry goods store, and was also interested in a moving picture enterprise.

The assailant was his brother, while the second victim is a young woman, cousin to the two Assaly brothers, who recently arrived from Syria. The three lived in a house in Regent street, with a third Syrian named Patah. Salem Assaly has been peddling goods which he obtained from his brother, and for some time has worried the latter for money to start in business for himself. The latter refused, which led to frequent quarrels.

This evening, as the two brothers, the woman and Patah sat at supper Salem again demanded money, and when it was refused he jumped up, drew a revolver, and fired, hitting the woman at the base of the skull. As she fell the elder Assaly jumped up to seize the revolver, but his brother fired at him point blank, lodging two bullets in his brain.

Patah ran out as soon as the shooting started, but before assistance arrived Salem Assaly had escaped in the darkness, and so far no trace of him has been found. All neighboring towns have been notified, and it is expected he will be speedily captured.

Late tonight it was stated by doctors attending Mr. Assaly that he was dying, but that the woman had a chance for her life.

STRIKE CALLED ON NEW BOSTON OPERA HOUSE

Boston, Dec. 28.—Some 350 labor union employes of the George W. Harvey Company, builders, employed on the Boston Opera House, and a new hotel structure on Commonwealth avenue, were ordered out on strike today as it was claimed non-union men were also working on the jobs.

Mr. Harvey stated tonight that there would be no cessation of the work on account of the order.

BOLDEST ROBBERY IN NEW YORK FOR MANY YEARS

Burglars Worked on Safe in Full View of Street for Hours and Got $20,000 Worth of Jewelry.

New York, Dec. 28.—A safe robbery, which is said by the police to be unexampled locally, in point of daring, was revealed today by Oscar C. Jackle, a jeweler at 866 Third avenue. His place of business was entered last night and looted of $500 in cash and $20,000 in jewelry.

The burglars, who must have taken several hours to accomplish their purpose, entered the establishment by way of the cellar. After wrenching twelve steel bars from the cellar window, they sawed an opening in the ceiling and through this, entered the store above. Here, after vainly attempting to bore through the steel doors of the safe, which stood under a lighted gas jet in plain view from the street, they managed to pry the combination dial from the safe. Then through the small opening left they manipulated the bolts and levers so as to release the lock.

The only theory on which the police can explain the success of the robbery is that the cracksmen, who must have been particularly expert, had accomplices posted outside the door to signal them when the policeman on the beat, or passer-by, passed the door.

MONTREAL TORIES GET A SURPRISE

Liberal Captured St. Anne's in Provincial By-election.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, Dec. 28—Considerable surprise was felt in the city today at the emphatic defeat of Ald. T. O'Connell, the Conservative candidate, in the St. Anne's provincial by-election, by M. J. Walsh, the ex-member, who was defeated by a few votes on a re-count at the general election by Denis Tansey, who was subsequently unseated.

The vote was a heavy one for a by-election, 4,936 ballots being marked, as compared with 4,498 with the general election. The vote stood O'Connell, 2,130; Walsh, 2,266, a majority of 136 for the Liberal candidate.

MONCTON TEMPERANCE PARTY LOOKING FOR CIVIC CANDIDATES

Mayor Purdy Endorsed for Another Term — Memramcook Scott Act Violator Fined.

Moncton, Dec. 28.—(Special)—At a meeting of the temperance party tonight, the question of placing candidates in the field in the approaching civic election was discussed. Mayor Purdy, who has announced himself as a candidate for re-election, was endorsed and committees were appointed to select aldermanic candidates in different wards.

Mrs. John Lane, of Cortland (N. J.), who is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Wryne, in this city, fell down stairs a few days ago and fractured her wrists.

Francis Levett, of Memramcook, who was arrested last week on a charge of Scott act violation, was convicted before Magistrate Kay this afternoon and fined $50 and costs. A second case against the same party was dismissed.

Mrs. R. G. Warman, aged twenty-two, of this city, died in the hospital tonight after a short illness.

EXPECT FRANCO-CANADIAN TREATY TO BE RATIFIED SOON

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, Dec. 28—The Paris correspondent of the Canadian Associated Press, wires their London office today as follows:

"Mr. Fielding is still here, and for the past ten days he has been in conference with members and officials of the French government in relation to the objections made in the French senate to the Franco-Canadian treaty. Nothing has been made public concerning the negotiations but the Canadian circle in Paris are hopeful that the difficulties are being overcome, and that the treaty will shortly be approved by the senate."

THREE PROVINCES OF SICILY LAID IN RUINS WITH APPALLING LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

Towns of Messina and Reggio Virtually Wiped Out, and Thousands of People Are Buried in the Ruins--Terrific Upheaval of the Sea Sinks 500 Vessels in One Place, and Inundates Surrounding Country--Steamers Carrying Wounded to Safety.

Rome, Dec. 28.—The three provinces of Conzensa, Gatanzaro and Reggio di Calabria, comprising the department of Calabria, which forms the southwestern extremity of Italy, or "the toe of the boot," were devastated today by an earthquake, the far-reaching effects of which were felt almost throughout the entire country. The town of Messina in Sicily was partially destroyed and Catania was inundated. In Messina hundreds of houses have fallen and many persons have been killed. Owing, however, to the fact that telegraphic and telephonic communications were almost completely destroyed, it is impossible to obtain even an approximate idea of the vast damage done.

The fate of the entire regions within the zone of the earthquake is unknown, but reports received here up to a late hour tonight indicate that the havoc has been great and the destruction of life and property more terrible than Italy has experienced in many years. The uncertainty of the situation for many thousands has filled all Italians with the deepest distress, for they still have fear that the day may come when that part of the country which seems to have been most blessed by nature will be destroyed by the blind forces of that same nature which nearly 1,900 centuries ago overwhelmed Pompeii and Herculaneum. Al reports show that the present catastrophe embraces a larger area than the earthquake in 1905.

Tidal Wave Sinks Town.

The tidal wave which followed the earth shocks on the eastern coast of Sicily sunk vessels and inundated the lower part of Catania. It is known that a number of people were killed at that place, but the rushing waters carried everything before them and caused such an indescribable confusion that it would be impossible for some time to estimate the damage and the lives lost.

For a period the town of Messina and the whole province of Reggio were completely isolated, owing to interruptions to the telegraph and telephone, and landslides which obstructed the railways. Absolutely nothing was heard from Reggio throughout the day, while the first news from Messina came in a despatch which a torpedo boat, dashing at full speed along the coast of the peninsula, carried from point to point, always finding the wires down, until it reached Nicotera, where the telegraph lines were found to be intact. From that place the despatch was sent. It briefly stated that the situation was desperate and after summarizing the immensity of the catastrophe, ended with the announcement that Captain Passino, commander of the local station of torpedo boats, was buried under the debris, after having, with other officials, performed heroic work in trying to save others.

The Italian government proceeded energetically to relieve the far-spread distress, concentrating at the points of greatest need troops and engineers. Members of the Red Cross were dispatched to various places and camps and provisions were immediately prepared, all available railway lines and warships being used for their transport.

Several Thousands Killed.

The city of Messina has suffered probably more than any other place, the latest information coming indirectly from the region saying that two-thirds of the town was destroyed and several thousand persons were killed. The steamers Washington and Montebello, which were in that harbor, afterwards proceeded to Catania, loaded with injured, who were so stupified by terror that they seemed unable to realize what had happened, simply saying that it looked as though the end of the world had come. Five steamers left Catania for Messina to assist in removing the injured from that place, who are reported to number thousands.

At Catania, the panic-stricken people, fearing new shocks, absolutely refused to re-enter their homes and are camping in the squares which are free from water, and the surrounding country. The tidal wave sunk five hundred boats there and did great damage to several large vessels and steamers, including the Austrian steamer Buda. Not only did Catania suffer from the effects of a tidal wave, but a similar body of water inundated the handsome streets of Messina which flank the harbor, covering them with a thick layer of mud, which rendered more difficult the succoring of the wounded, many of whom could be seen lying under the wreckage. It is reported that the villages of Faro and Ganzirri, adjoining Messina, have disappeared. The effects of the earthquake were aggravated by fire from an explosion of gas, the flames which swept along several of the streets, adding terror upon terror.

Village Wiped Out.

In Calabria, the region around Monteleone, was most affected. The village of Stefanconi, the inhabitants of which number 2,300 was practically destroyed. Only five persons were killed, but many were injured. Mgr. Morabito, the Bishop of Mileto, who distinguished himself in the earthquake of 1905, did valiant work again today. He rushed into places where the ruins were the greatest and brought aid and encouragement to all.

Thousands of people abandoned their homes, although a terrific rainstorm prevailed and filled the air with lamentations and prayers. In some places, such as Prizzo, Cotrone, Santa Severina and Piscopio, the people had the courage to enter the churches, almost while they were falling and carry out the saints. They bore these in procession through the open country, invoking the mercy of God. In the mountainous regions inland, the population has taken refuge in grottos and caves where peasants and priests, soldiers and persons of gentler birth are living in common. Their bed is the ground and fires burn to keep off wild animals. In Albi alone 2,000 people are homeless.

Extraordinary scenes are reported at Catania. Following a violent earth shock at 5.20 a. m., the sea rose in a tremendous wave, which wrecked many smacks. A secondary tidal wave caused further great damage and wreckage. Awakened by the shock, the inhabitants fled panic-stricken from their homes into the streets and squares. Processions were organized and soon all the churches were filled with weeping crowds imploring divine mercy.

Cardinal Nava, Archbishop of Catania, exhorted the people to be calm. He promised that the body of St. Agatha should be carried around in procession. St. Agatha is regarded as the special deliverer from all scourges, and, according to history, the pious inhabitants of Catania diverted the course of the lava stream in 1669 when a fearful eruption of Mount Aetna took place, by extending the veil of St. Agatha towards it, thus saving the city, for the lava turned aside near the Benedictine monastery and descended into the sea. While the number of deaths at that place is now believed to be large, there were several tragic occurrences. Among the children swept away by the tidal wave was a boy fifteen months old, who was torn from the arms of his mother. The mother, too, was overcome by the force of the water and lost consciousness, but her body was caught by a railing and remained there until she was rescued.

Another Town Destroyed.

Midnight reports say that Reggio, the capital of the province of Reggio di la Clabra, eight miles from Messina, on the opposite side of the strait, has met the same fate as Messina, but these reports have not been confirmed, owing to the lack of telegraphic facilities.

A very severe shock was felt at Caltanissetta, a city of Sicily, and, although much damage was done, no one was killed. The shock created great alarm and notwithstanding the downpour of rain, the whole population remained in the streets throughout the day and marched in religious procession.

The Pope was greatly distressed at hearing of the scourge that had afflicted the loyal population in the south. He could hardly credit the truth of the despatches, describing the devastation and fatalities as ten times greater than in 1905. After kneeling fervently in prayer, his holiness arose and said, as he said three years ago, that he felt his place was amidst his suffering children. It was his firm intention to order that instructions be given for beginning the journey, but his physicians and those attending him insisted that it would be impossible for him to undertake such a fatiguing expedition in the present condition of his health.

At midnight a regiment of soldiers left here for Calabria.

Messina a Town of 90,000.

Messina, next to Palermo, the chief commercial town of Sicilly, with upwards of 90,000 inhabitants, is situated on the Strait of Messina and is overshadowed by a range of rugged rocky peaks. It has experienced many vicissitudes.

During the eighteenth century Messina was overtaken by two overwhelming calamities—a fearful plague, in 1740, from which 40,000 persons died, and an earthquake in 1783, which destroyed almost the entire town.

DROPPED DEAD AFTER HE TRIMMED CHRISTMAS TREE

Collins Munroe Sent Wife to Call Girls to See Their Presents, and Was Stricken in Her Absence.

Digby, Dec. 28—One of the saddest homes in Digby county this Christmas season was that of the late Collins Monroe, at Culloden, Broad Cove. Mr. Munroe and his wife got up as usual Christmas morning and distributed their gifts on a prettily trimmed Christmas tree. When all was ready he said, "call the girls." Mrs. Monroe went up stairs, and returned only a few minutes later, and found Mr. Monroe dead, having suddenly expired of heart failure in his excitement to make everything pleasant for his wife and family on Christmas morning. The deceased was 54 years of age and is survived by a wife and two daughters, all of whom were at home at the time of his death. He had for many years worked in the United States, but had returned about three months ago and had complained more or less of not feeling well. The funeral took place from his late home yesterday morning with interment at Culloden, the services being conducted by Rev. A. J. Archibald, pastor of the Digby Baptist church.

ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF CANADIAN GRAIN FROM AMERICAN PORTS

More Than 16,000,000 Bushels Sent That Way of This Year's Crop.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, Dec. 28—The total grain shipments from Fort William and Port Arthur of the crop of 1908 during the season of navigation which closed on Dec. 12, amounted to 43,935,596, as against 23,482,497 bushels in the corresponding period of 1907.

Of this season's wheat shipments 23,593,374 bushels were carried in Canadian and 12,418,109 in foreign vessels.

In all 16,286,157 bushels of the Canadian grain crops of 1908 were shipped for export via United States ports.

Noted Athletes Suspended.

New York, Dec. 28.—At a meeting of the registration committee of the Amateur Athletic Union tonight, six prominent athletes were suspended.

They are: Melvin W. Sheppard, Chas. Bacon, Harry F. Porter and George V. Bonhag, of the Irish-American Athletic Club; F. G. Bellars, N. Y. A. C., and J. J. Lee, formerly of the Boston A. A., but now unattached.

The charges against the men was professionalism, the allegations being that they accepted or asked for exorbitant expense moneys.

SCOTS PLANNING WARM WELCOME FOR CANADIAN CURLERS

Banquets and Receptions Will Be Tendered Them at Edinburg and Glasgow—Play at London Feb. 11.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, Dec. 28—A special London cable says: The Canadian curlers play the London Caledonians at the Princess Skating Club on Feb. 11, a date which synchronizes with the Canadians passing through London to take part in the international bonspiel in Switzerland.

A deputation of Scots curlers will meet the Canadians on their arrival on Jan. 20.

A banquet will be held at Edinburgh, at which Lord Strathcona will preside. The city council of Edinburgh will give a luncheon in the city chambers. The corporation of Glasgow will also give a similar reception.

In response to a circular from the secretary of the Royal Club, inviting the provinces to select rinks to play the Canadians, 23 out of a total of 31 took advantage of the offer.

Aged Halifax Citizen Dead.

Halifax, Dec. 28.—(Special) — Patrick Forrestall died this morning. The deceased who was in the ninety-fourth year of his age, was one of the oldest citizens of Halifax. Mr. Forrestall was an alderman in 1860, at the time the Prince of Wales (now King Edward) visited Halifax. He is believed to be the last member of that council living.

BIG TIMBER DEAL IN NOVA SCOTIA

Dickie Property Sold

English Syndicate Pay $1,567,500 for the 405,000 Acres and Eight Mills—Royal Bank of Canada Negotiated the Sale.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 28—One of the biggest lumber deals in the history of the Maritime Provinces has been put through in England. Under it the properties of the Alfred Dickie Lumber Company in Nova Scotia pass to an English syndicate headed by Sir Thomas Trowbridge, the chief promoter of the Blacksod steamship enterprise from Ireland to Canada.

The price to be paid for the Dickie properties, which include 405,000 acres of timber lands and eight mills, is $1,567,500.

The deal was put through by the Royal Bank of Canada, which practically has been managing the property for a year or more and which has a claim upon it of nearly $1,000,000, including interest. For several months the negotiations have been conducted by Duncan Cameron, inspector of the Royal Bank, who returned from England by the Tunisian.

A part of the deal is that the purchasers are to build a line of railway from Halifax eastward to Guysboro and the Strait of Canso. This railway will tap all the properties except that at Tusket in the western part of the province and will be subsidized by the government.

The Tusket property consits of 60,000 acres and is disposed of at a rate of $6 an acre. The 345,000 acres in the east are being sold at $3.50 per acre.

Alfred Dickie has large timber areas in Labrador and Newfoundland. These are not included in the deal. The manager of the new company will be T. N. McGrath, who is now in charge of the mills at Tusket.

The deal is a good thing for the Royal Bank and will also mean active lumber operations.

SAYS STRATHCONA CAN HAVE A LIFE BILLET

Hon. Mr. Lemieux Denies Rumor of High Commissioner's Retirement, and Hopes He Will Hold His Position Till He Dies.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux was in the city today for the first time since his return from England, and took advantage of the occasion to give an emphatic denial to the rumors that have been circulating through the press to the effect that Lord Strathcona intends resigning from the Canadian high commissionership in England.

"There is not the slightest foundation for these stories," said Mr. Lemieux, "Lord Strathcona will, if he so desires, remain in England as Canada's high commissioner and honored representative so long as there is breath in his body, and we hope he will be spared many years to do credit to the dominion at the heart of the empire."

The story had been widely circulated both in Canada as well as in the United States that Lord Strathcona was shortly to retire and that the succession to the high commissionership had been offered to Sir H. Montague Allan, of Montreal.

FOOLHARDY BOY LOST HIS LIFE

Wanted to See How Near He Could Skate to Thin Ice Without Falling In--Body Found Two Hours Later.

Westbrook, Me., Dec. 28.—Millard Meserve, fourteen years of age, was drowned this afternoon while skating on the Presumpscot river at Cumberland Mills. He, with several young friends, was skating and doing stunts, and one of these stunts was to see how near they could go to the thin ice without falling in. Young Meserve broke through and was carried some distance. A rescue party was at once organized, and for two hours the searchers with grappling irons in a boat searched for the body before they found it.

LIBERALS WON ALL QUEBEC BY-ELECTIONS

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, Dec. 28—The result of the three by-elections in the province aside from that in St. Anne's division, Montreal, which also went Liberal, shows the Gouin government was successful all through.

In Chateauguay, Mercier, Liberal, defeated Desrosiers by 100; in Quebec Centre, Lechaire, Liberal, defeated Lavigeur by 125, and in Laval, Levesque, Liberal, defeated Leblanc by 125.

WOODSTOCK CIVIC ELECTIONS JAN. 18

Mayor Balmain Declines to Run Again and Ald. Thorne is a Candidate.

Woodstock, Dec. 28—The town election will be held on Monday, Jan. 18th. Mayor Balmain, much to the regret of the citizens, has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election. Of the present council Messrs. Hagerman, Dugan, Fawcett and Fisher will probably again offer their services. At the request of a great many electors Ald. Thorne has decided to run for mayor.

TEN MEN KILLED IN BLAST FURNACE CAVE-IN

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 28.—Two bodies have been recovered and eight more are known to be buried in the cave-in of a trench at the blast furnace plant at Ensley tonight. Several other laborers and two foremen were injured. Most of the dead are foreigners.

MISS ROOSEVELT NOW LAUNCHED IN SOCIAL WHIRL

President's Youngest Daughter Made Debut at White House Last Night.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—Tonight in the historic East Room of the White House, beautifully decorated for the occasion, President Roosevelt's youngest daughter, Ethel, made her debut. Preceding the dancing in the East Room, which began at 10 o'clock, Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Roosevelt received the invited guests in the Blue Room. Miss Roosevelt's gown was of white satin, trimmed with crystals, while that of her mother was of dark blue satin.

Seldom, if ever, has the East Room presented a more attractive picture. Seated on a platform at the north end of the room was the marine band orchestra, the scarlet of whose uniforms against a background of green formed a fine setting for the beautiful colors of the gowns of the other fair debutantes. The invited guests numbered about 400, only unmarried members of the younger set participating in the dancing. Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Mrs. J. Emlen Roosevelt, Miss Simpkins, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bacon, Mrs. Chas. A. Munn, Mrs. Richard Wayne Parker and Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth.

Theodore Roosevelt, jr., who came home from Connecticut to spend Christmas with his parents, remained to attend the dance.

At midnight the music ceased and the guests partook of a supper which was served at small tables arranged along the lower corridor and rooms leading into this corridor. Previous to the ball, Miss Roosevelt was the guest of honor at a dinner given by Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Bacon at their residence.

MORE SCARLET FEVER AT CHATHAM

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Chatham, Dec. 28—Invitations have been issued for the annual ball of the Chatham Lawn Tennis Club to be held Wednesday evening, Dec. 30.

The outbreak of three new cases of scarlet fever today was a disappointment to those who thought the disease was dying out.

J. F. Gleeson, of St. John, was in town today auditing the books of the Father Morrissy Medicine Company, Limited.