

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

The News

VOL. LIV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1916

NO. 38.

ALLIES SUFFER REVERSE ALONG RIVER AISNE BUT IT WILL NOT MATERIALLY AFFECT GENERAL OPERATIONS

War Damage Near the City of Warsaw



Wrecked home of wealthy landlord at Rokitno, eight miles from Warsaw. Picture was taken three days after desperate battle between Germans and Russians.

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS MAY BE 50,000

Terrible Trail of Death and Disaster Over Vast Extent of Country—Fifteen Thousand Perished in One Town, and 4,000 Are Alive Under Masses of Debris—Twenty Towns Levelled and as Many More Suffered Great Damage—Hospitals in Rome Full of Wounded, as Well as Many Private Houses.

(Canadian Press.)

Rome, Jan. 14.—The toll of death and injured in the great earthquake that has swept over central and southern Italy has not yet been made up, but all advices reaching Rome indicate the ever growing extent of the disaster.

Towns with thousands of inhabitants have been overthrown, and from some of these come details which show an immense loss of life. The estimates ran tonight from 25,000 to 50,000 dead and injured, and yet there are several sections, which undoubtedly felt the earthquake in full measure, from which no estimates can be obtained.

Thousands of dead lie beneath the mounds of debris which once were dwellings, churches and public institutions, which crumbled under the earth's vibrations.

Not even an estimate of the aggregate fatalities is yet obtainable, as numerous places are still isolated, owing to the severance of telegraphic, telephonic and railroad communication. It is known, however, that Avezzano is a necropolis, and that also in Sora, some 25 miles to the southeast a large number of lives were lost. In Avezzano and vicinity, it is estimated that 15,000 persons perished, and that the dead in Sora will total 1,000.

So far as is known about twenty towns have been absolutely levelled, while an almost equal number suffered serious damage. In all these places persons were killed or injured. In the ruins throughout the day volunteers worked heroically, endeavoring to extricate wounded or rescue the bodies of the dead. King Victor Emmanuel himself directed the work at Avezzano, where the piteous bodies of persons caught beneath wreckage could be plainly seen.

It is estimated that in Avezzano 4,000 persons are buried alive, some of them school children in an institution which collapsed. Only four soldiers of the garrison of 400 in the town escaped when the barracks fell.

Sora, with its population of 20,000, was almost entirely destroyed. All the municipal and government authorities perished. Four hundred and fifty bodies already have been taken from the ruins there and large numbers of injured are under treatment.

Trains arriving in Rome from the east, are bringing hundreds of injured into Rome, where they are being taken to hospitals and private houses for treatment.

Surgeons and nurses are being despatched from all directions into the stricken districts to minister to the needs of the injured, while troops are being sent to the ruined or damaged towns to guard against vandals.

Among the towns which are said to have been virtually destroyed are: Avezzano, Sora, Capelle, Magliano, Marsi, Massadabbe, Collarmele, Cerchio, Celano, Lelli, Paterno, San Forno, Giosamari, Scourcola, Capistrone, Antrosano, and Castronovo, and Civitella, Ortosamaro, Santelino, San Benedetto, Ortochicco, Goenello, Bisegna, Balzorano, Camistro, Civitellandantino, Castellafiumi, Pagniotra, and Sorbo are badly damaged.

From many other places come reports of slighter damages to property and minor casualties.

Rome, Jan. 14.—At Sora, sixty miles southeast of Rome, in the province of Caserta, another shock occurred today. The population, panic-stricken, fled from their homes. The town, which has a population of some 30,000 inhabitants, was almost entirely destroyed. About two-thirds of the houses collapsed under the shock and others which were cracked and tilted down later. Royal Palace fell.

Prince Colonna, the mayor of Rome, placed at the disposal of the refugees several hotels, where food and lodging will be furnished at the expense of the city.

The towns of Avezzano, Capelle, Magliano, Marsi, Massadabbe, Collarmele, Cerchio, Celano, Lelli, Paterno, San Forno, Giosamari, Scourcola, Capistrone, Antrosano, and Castronovo have been practically destroyed.

Estimated Dead at 25,000.

London, Jan. 15, 8:25 a. m.—According to the Rome Tribune it is estimated that the victims from the earthquake number between 25,000 and 30,000.

Only 100 Survived in Avezzano.

London, Jan. 15, 9:40 a. m.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Rome says: "In the Marsi, the region around Lake Fucino, at Avezzano, there are 20,000 victims of the earthquake. The quake also destroyed 100 houses and 500 people have been recovered from the wreckage."

Deputy Signor, who represents Avezzano in the Chamber of Deputies, has asked for 25,000 soldiers and material for help.

Fifteen other towns in the Marsi have been destroyed, and others damaged. "Of the 12,000 inhabitants of Avezzano only 100 survive."

London, Jan. 14, 5:14 p. m.—The Central News publishes a despatch from Rome, giving the recital of an Avezzano refugee.

"I can best describe Avezzano by calling it an immense cemetery," this man said.

BRITISH AVIATORS DROP BOMBS ON THE GERMAN POSITIONS AT ANTWERP

Amsterdam, Jan. 14, via London, 5:30 p. m.—The Telegram in its issue of today, says it has learned that British aviators last Monday dropped bombs on the German positions at Antwerp.

The damage inflicted has not been learned.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN RUSSIA SHOWS NO GREAT SLACKENING

Petrograd, Jan. 14.—The following official statement was given out here tonight: "The minister of finance declares that the completion of the mobilization has made possible the gradual restoration of traffic on the railroads of the country. The traffic in November, 1914, was only 22 per cent lower than that of November, 1915.

The postponement of the payment of debts which had reached maturity, and the various financial restrictions imposed, caused considerable commercial difficulties during the first weeks of the war. The situation, however, soon became better, and the unfavorable effect of the war upon commerce is becoming less and less, thanks to the measures for aiding credit and restoring merchandise traffic on the railroads.

Unemployment in the various industries is not noticeable, except in the regions where the war is in progress. Except in the small portion of Russian territory occupied by the enemy, industrial activity shows an important slackening.

This comparatively favorable showing is due, in the first place, to the greater productivity of labor following the cessation of the sale of spirits. The productivity has increased from thirty to fifty per cent, and this, to a large extent, makes up for the shortage of labor consequent upon the calling of the workers to the colors."

Avezzano a City of Dead and Dying

The Few That Escaped Were Almost Helpless to Rescue the Thousands Pinned Under the Ruins, Crying For Aid—About All the City Officials, Priests, Nuns and Monks Perished—Army of Soldiers, Doctors and Nurses Now Heroically at Work.

(Canadian Press.)

Avezzano, via Rome, Jan. 14.—Avezzano is filled with dead and wounded and wrecked houses. It is like the ruins of a cemetery. Those who escaped the destruction of the earthquake went heroically to work to rescue those pinned under the fall of the walls. They could not seem to understand the delay in dispatching aid to them from Rome and other centers, forgetting that more than twelve hours passed before knowledge of the gravity of the disaster reached the outside authorities.

Nearly all the civic officials of Avezzano, including the mayor, the under prefect, the judges, the commander of the carabinieri, and parish priests, monks and nuns perished. The college, with more than 100 pupils, collapsed. The governor of prisoners, jailers and the doctors and patients in the hospitals were carried off in the wreckage.

The only notable person who survived was the head of the police, Signor Ottavio.

Desperate appeals are heard on all sides from under the wreckage for help. The efforts of Signor Ottavio and the few hundred survivors have stalled helplessly, for they lacked implements with which to effect a general rescue.

About fifty persons, all of them wounded, were taken out with great difficulty. They lay about, without shelter, and without their wounds being dressed, owing to a lack of medical supplies. Later doctors appeared on the scene and operated on some of the injured, under blazing torches. They were then removed to the station, where they were made as comfortable as possible in trucks.

Assistance came at last from Arsoi and Anquila, and this morning large rescue parties arrived from Rome and Pescara.

Thirty thousand soldiers have been distributed throughout the earthquake district.

More Canadians Seriously Ill at Salisbury

At Number 1 Canadian General Hospital, Netherdown:

Lt.-Col. R. H. Labatt, Fourth Battalion, with duodenal ulcer. Next of kin, Mrs. Isabelle Labatt, Hamilton, Ont.

Private Wm. H. Gardner, Thirtieth Battalion, with pneumonia. Next of kin, Mrs. Sarah Gardner, 10 West street, St. Catharines, Ont.

Private William Henry Phillips, Royal Canadian Dragoons, with pneumonia. Next of kin, Mrs. Lillian Phillips, Seaforth, Ont.

Private Charles R. MacKenzie, Fifteenth Battalion, with pneumonia. Next of kin, John R. MacKenzie, Beaverton, Ont.

Smallpox Breaks Up Church Revival

Newell, W. Va., Jan. 14.—Sixteen cases of smallpox were discovered here today among persons who have been regular attendants at a church revival service. The service was ordered discontinued and arrangements were made to close the schools.

FRENCH ADMIT THEY HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BACK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF SOISSONS

Paris, Jan. 14, 11:40 p. m.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"Last night our troops were successful in a sudden attack with the object of overrunning the trenches recently constructed by the Germans to the northeast of Fouguescourt, north of Roye (Department of the Somme)."

"The attacks of the enemy in the region to the north of Soissons have been stopped.

"The flooding of the river Aisne, which destroyed our bridges, rendered very precarious the communications of our troops operating on the first slopes of the right bank and we were obliged to evacuate them from their reinforcements. This has been the essential cause of the withdrawal of these troops, which were fighting under difficult conditions.

"We were obliged to abandon several cannons as the result of the breaking down of a bridge. We have rendered all of them unfit for use.

"The Germans have made prisoners, particularly of wounded men, who, in the withdrawal movement, were not able to take with us. On our side we have made a number of important prisoners, not wounded, belonging to seven different regiments.

"To sum up, the success is a partial one for our adversaries, which will have no influence on the operations as a whole. In fact, by reason of the obstacle presented by the Aisne and the dispositions which we have taken, the enemy will be unable to utilize to the south of the river the success which is of purely local character.

"On the rest of the front there is nothing to report."

Petrograd Reports Progress on the Vistula

Petrograd, Jan. 14.—The following official statement was issued from headquarters tonight:

"Yesterday we made progress on the right bank of the lower Vistula, our troops changing positions in a manner favorable to them.

"The cavalry of the enemy operating in this region was repulsed, leaving Serpukhov in possession of our vanguard.

"On one other front nothing has occurred, other than skirmishes and artillery duels. Our reconnoitering parties have been active.

"On the left bank of the Vistula isolated German attacks were easily repelled by our fire.

"On various portions of our Austrian front the enemy tried to cannonade our position with heavy guns, but the efficient fire of our batteries soon silenced the Austrian artillery."

Russian Explanation of Caucasus Operations

Petrograd, Jan. 14.—The official report from the Caucasus army, issued tonight, follows:

"To avoid any false understanding of our operations in Azerbaijan during the last few days, the general staff of the Caucasus army deems it expedient to give the following explanation:

"From the beginning of the decisive action in the principal region of this theatre of the war it appeared necessary to re-group our troops. In accordance with this we proceeded in Azerbaijan to concentrate our troops at certain places, which demanded the evacuation of several points we had occupied previously.

"This re-arrangement of our forces was not under pressure of the enemy, but in accordance with a specially devised plan. During this operation no important action took place, except an engagement which our advance guard had near Mianoud. Thus we did not evacuate Azerbaijan, but adopted changes in position answering better the new developments."

Turks Say They Are Advancing

Amsterdam, Jan. 14, via London, 5:26 p. m.—There has been received here an official communication given out at Constantinople by the Turkish authorities as follows:

"Assisted by Persian troops, our army is steadily advancing in Azerbaijan provinces, Persia, in order to deliver the country from the Russian yoke.

"We have had further notable successes, occupying advanced positions of the Russians in the vicinity of Teflis.

"A number of tribesmen of the British army of occupation in Egypt have surrendered to our vanguard."

New Zeppelin On Trial Flight

Geneva, via Paris, Jan. 14, 8:35 p. m.—A new Zeppelin airship left Friedrichshafen yesterday on a trial flight of an hour. After skirting Lake Constance the airship disappeared over the Grand Duchy of Baden, and later returned safely to its shed. Prior to making the trip a German aeroplane made a scouting tour in order to prevent a surprise by French artillery.

It is reported that the new Zeppelin will depart shortly for service on the North Sea.

Berlin Hears of Russian Dismissals

Berlin, Jan. 14.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—A statement given out by a German news agency credits the Hamburg Fremdenblatt with the assertion that eighteen Russian generals have been dismissed from important positions.

WHINS, TER SHOCK HER MOTHER

On Missanabie, Suffering

Two-year-old Nephew had — Toronto Man Passenger on C. P. R. Vain Effort to Find

would have tried severely the pleasure of any person.

Miss Daen was apparently trying to get the terrible days that marked the end of the Huner, she spoke briefly of incidents that had burned deeply in her soul a knowledge of horrors too full for words; her way of sorrow in country desolate, she referred to in sentences that in their brevity had greater meaning than vivid detail—the memory of the war was before her and had made her deeply in action, in contentment.

Mother Died.

The Germans entered her native city, Hermonde, Belgium, in the second week of October, and on the night of the day the invaders came the Daen was the sleeping quarters of fifty.

The Germans did not cause any trouble during the night, Miss Daen as they were evidently glad to rest; in the morning they became ugly, practically destroyed the residence had sheltered them. The actions of soldiers greatly frightened Miss Daen's mother, and she had to be carried off, unable to bear up under great strain.

In October 15 Miss Daen left Hermonde with her nephew and finally reached safely in Rotterdam, traveling the way on foot. Then England was reached and, at last, Canada. Here, in a land of peace and plenty, far from the noise and sounds of the war that had had a people, Miss Daen feels safe.

She hopes that the future may bring rest from the memory of days of slaughter and desolation.

The courageous refugee has a sister in Vancouver and three brothers in the city, one at Revelstoke and two in Calgary.

Miss Daen's mother, formerly of Hermonde, Belgium, was a passenger on the Missanabie. He went to Europe for the outbreak of the war in an effort to reach his mother, but was unable to do so, and she subsequently had to make a long and arduous journey of travel in England and Holland.

Mr. Seyn has prospered in the west and his considerable real estate there. He is at one time a soldier in the Belgian army, and later in the Canadian army, stationed at Antwerp. Mr. Seyn did not believe that Belgium had yet led married men to the colors, but it was when the call came that he went to the front.

While in Europe he gave away his money and other articles he had with him, and which he could possibly get back without.

Also on the steamer were Captain and Mrs. Hicks, Halifax, and Lieut. Soper, the Canadian Army. They were accompanied by a number of soldiers. The steamer was bound for the Misssanabie. A number of the men have rheumatism or other complaints and say that their condition is the result of the rigorous hardships to which the troops are subjected. They maintain that spinal meningitis has become unpleasantly common at Salisbury Plain.

INDS THAT PINK'S STEPS ENCROACH

Judge Forbes Decides Against Fairville Man—The Matter Argued Before Him Yesterday.

Before Judge Forbes yesterday morning the final argument in the case of the highway commissionaries of Lancaster and W. C. Pink was heard.

Judge Forbes decided that Pink's steps were an encroachment in Main street, Fairville, and that the charge preferred against Pink before W. H. Allington, stipendiary magistrate of Lancaster, was confirmed and consequently the fine and imprisonment of Pink for hindering the highway commissionery, was properly imposed. During the morning session R. Smith, a deputy crown land surveyor, produced a plan from his own drawings which showed that the houses belonging to the McKinnon estate, owned by James and Patrick McMurray and Collins produced on the line of the highway as laid down by him, while Pink's two feet and eight inches to the road.

Judge Forbes decided that he would have to uphold the street line as laid down by Gray Murdoch and accepted by the highway board, while cut off the Pink steps.

L. T. COLONEL McLEOD.

No word has been received in St. John since Saturday afternoon of L. T. Col. H. F. McLeod who is reported ill on Salisbury Plain. This is interpreted to mean that he is not worse for Mrs. McLeod is at his side and would, it is thought, at once communicate with friends here if a graver turn had come.

A second inquiry for information regarding New Brunswick farm lands reached the board of trade yesterday afternoon from Vancouver. The morning mail brought an inquiry from a Calgary man.