

PESTILENCE MAY FOLLOW DEPOPULATION AND RUIN

Shocking Conditions in Corpse-Strewn Towns and Villages in Calabria and Sicily.

HORRORS UNSURPASSED FOR MANY CENTURIES

Over 100,000 Now Believed to Have Perished in Messina Alone--Death Roll May Reach 200,000--Entire Infantry Regiment Drowns in Tidal Wave--Heart-Rending Stories of Survivors Ghouls at Work on Devastated Area.

Rome, Dec. 31.--To the terrifying spectacle of death caused by Monday's earthquake has now been added the horror of starvation and the fear of a spread of pestilence. In the ruins of Messina, Reggio, and various towns in Sicily and Calabria, lie the bodies of the dead, which it has been impossible to extricate, while everywhere thousands of hungry and homeless persons throng the littered thoroughfares.

Words are inadequate to express the horror of the ruin and desolation that has overwhelmed Calabria and Sicily, where the earth's tremblings, and fire and water have combined to change the smiling and verdant country into deserts. Messina exists no longer, and at least thirty years will be necessary to repair what nature's violence has wrought there.

As yet it has been found impossible to obtain any news whatever of the fate of little villages along the coast, many of which it is believed have been swept off the map. In many cases the buildings have been swept out to sea, and no trace of them remains. It is no exaggeration to say that flourishing and industrious villages have been wiped off the map.

In some of the smaller towns such as Palmi, near Monteleone, the suddenness and completeness of the catastrophe was overwhelming. Of the 14,000 people living in Palmi, some 2,000 corpses were buried in the cemetery there. The survivors, reinforced by rescuers from other points, and under the lead of soldiers and doctors, are performing prodigies of valor.

Many of them have overcome by the awful conditions under which they are working. The Bishop of Morabito and other priests, with touching devotion and courage have done much to preserve order by the example of calmness and self denial they have given the people. They are busy carrying comfort and consolation to the dying and the bereaved.

The first of the survivors of Reggio to reach Catanzaro were so broken down by the shock of their experiences that it was almost impossible for them to give any connected account of the destruction of the city. They speak disconnectedly of whole districts swept away in a moment, and of families of well-known people annihilated. Reggio remains isolated in a ghastly silence.

The light houses on the headlands have disappeared. Numbers of rectangles from eye witnesses are becoming available. A survivor of Messina says: "The first thing I knew I was thrown out of bed, then the floor of my room collapsed, and I fell into the apartment with the dead bodies of my father and son. Here I found a distracted woman searching for her sister and son, whom she found dead. We remained in the ruins for twenty-four hours entirely alone, without food or drink."

"We made a rough shelter of boards to keep off the rain. Our ears were filled with the cries and moans of the injured. These sounds ceased somewhat during the day. Still no one came to our assistance. We were as in a tomb with the dead bodies of our children beside us. We could see no one, but every time sounds were heard from the street there would come an outburst of piercing cries for mercy and help from the injured, hidden and buried down in the wreckage."

"On Tuesday morning we finally ventured forth and were taken aboard a vessel in the harbor, which we came to Naples. Messina is entirely destroyed. This refugee lost his two children. He arrived in Rome half clad and covered with dust. His wife was clothed in little else than an old counterpane. Other refugees estimate that not more than 600 persons of the entire population of Messina, 160,000 people, escaped with their lives. The suffering was intensified by the lack of drinking water. The water system was entirely demolished. These survivors assuaged their thirst by rinsing their mouths with sea water."

Just as the British cruiser Ebro was preparing to leave, Messina with refugees, an outbreak of fire broke out. Of frightful cries was heard from the shore. The refugees on board said crowds of maddened persons of every age break into the customs house. Some were naked, others half clothed, and they all were mud splattered and demented. Many were injured and bleeding. They sacked everything that came to their hands, seeking food, drink and clothing. Revolver shots rang out over the horrible din and confusion. Finally tongues of flame shot up in the darkness, showing that fire was completing the work of destruction.

Messina Was Burning and masses of flame in the darkness showed where the fire was completing the destructive beginnings of the earthquake. Ghoul-like figures flitted in the semi-darkness risking their lives among the tottering ruins, not to beseech the agonized sufferers, but in fendish strivings to profit by the appalling disaster which had overwhelmed the city. They were vandals robbing the dead and dying, and acquiring possessions which they had no means of protecting or carrying away.

As the Ebro steamed through the straits it was seen that many once smiling villages on the neighboring shores had been completely obliterated from sight, or were nothing more than heaps of shapeless ruins with occasional flames springing up here and there to show where they once had stood. King Victor Emmanuel, who left Messina last night with Queen Helena, arrived early this morning at Reggio, and after visiting the ruins of the town in company with the Queen, embarked on a warship, and sent the following wireless telegram to Premier Giolitti: "Return from Reggio, which I found in a condition No Less Disastrous than that at Messina. A Russian warship, with five hundred wounded on board, will arrive at Naples this morning, and everything must be prepared for their landing and housing. Another Russian ship will carry the wounded to Syracuse. It is desirable to have at Naples a Russian ship with an abundance of medical supplies."

standing, but behind was emptiness and ruin. The principal square presented an awe-inspiring spectacle. Everywhere were enormous cracks, into which the sea poured, whence clouds of steam and sulphurous vapors arose. To the right, before a big trembling building was heaped many corpses, whose desperate attitudes and contorted faces showed the horrors of the death struggle.

The crew landed, but the work of rescue was most difficult. The ruins formed hillocks thirty feet high, under which thousands were buried. The steamer was soon loaded down to its utmost capacity with survivors, and then steamed to Naples. Along the way it was seen that the smiling villages on the Calabrian coast had disappeared. The commander of the Russian battleship Makharoff, described the fearful scenes at Messina. He declared that many of the residents at that place had been buried alive as groans had come from far down in the fissures of the earth, which could only be approached with the greatest precaution. At points the tottering walls threatened further collapse.

The anguish cries of the victims caused a fearful frenzy among the sailors who in several cases ventured in dangerous places and rescued many people. In other cases they reached dead bodies that separated their efforts were made to drag them from the wreckage. Amidst the ruins of the Bank of Sicily, Russian sailors found the safe containing many millions, and delivered it aboard the warship. Chevalier Zenolo, a treasury official at Messina, who was among the fugitives arriving here, said that out of 60 treasury clerks, only four escaped. At the prison of Rocci Guelfino, 400 convicts were killed together with many millions and soldiers. Only forty convicts succeeded in making their escape.

Refugees to the number of 50,000 to 75,000 are expected here within a few days. Inhuman Fight For Food. Messina, Dec. 31.--A frightful scene occurred here to-day amid the ruins of the customs house. Bands of famished individuals were grouping among the debris in the hope of discovering food. The first of the searchers were successful and others, attracted by their cries of joy, fell upon them with revolvers and knives. The lucky ones defended each morsel literally with their lives.

The struggle was the most inhuman description. The famished men threw themselves upon each other like wolves and several fell disembowled in defending their morsels of dry bread. One of the unfortunates was pinned to a plank by a knife while clinging to his hand was a little child, for whom he had fought for food. Survivors Driven Mad. Naples, Dec. 31.--The wounded refugees from Messina, who have reported here present a sickening sight. Some appear hardly human; others among the fugitives have no apparent injuries, but are in a deplorable mental condition. The horror of that tragic minute is ineradicably fixed on their faces. On the relief ships they were heaped everywhere. Some of them appeared to be stricken with a kind of idiocy, looking aimlessly before them; others, completely mad, howl wildly.

Reggio, Dec. 31.--There is reason to believe that an entire regiment of infantry was drowned by the tidal wave at Palmi. Three hundred of the soldiers' bodies already have been recovered. As a precautionary measure against an outbreak of pestilence the bodies of persons killed in the earthquake are being burned and disinfected and being strewn among the ruins of the city. The troops have set up field kitchens and are baking bread in the streets. English Tourists Perish. Paris, Dec. 31.--A special dispatch received here from Rome says that 96 guests, including English, Americans and French travelers, were staying at the Hotel Trinacria, at Messina, when the city was destroyed. They all perished. The proprietor of the Trinacria signed escaped. There are only two survivors of the

C. P. R. EXPRESS IS DITCHED; 2 INJURED

(Special to the Times.) Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--The continental express of the Canadian Pacific westbound from here went into a ditch near Gull Lake, Medicine Hat, Sask., district at 2 o'clock this morning. The baggage and locomotive was ditched but the locomotive stayed on the rails. Two people were injured, one of whom is likely to die. No names were obtainable.

Guests who were quartered in the Hotel de France.

Depopulated and in Ruin. Naples, Dec. 31.--Time only confirms the unspeakable horrors of the overpowering catastrophe in Southern Italy, for earth and sea ruthlessly have done their worst to human beings, and the flames mercilessly consumed the remains of the devastation.

Naples, vibrant with the memory of Vesuvius, is prostrated anew by the misery and woe from Messina, confided to her care. The hospitals, hotels and homes are crowded with refugees, and the people are vying with one another in aiding the stricken. Those who have expert knowledge of the subject agree that the centre of the cataclysm was the strait of Messina, which also is the centre of the volcanic zone; the highest peak of which, Mt. Etna, is now silent. From this base, the disturbance extended, abating little by little, northerly as far as the Bay of Catania, ravaging the western region of Calabria and the eastern coast of Sicily for a distance of nearly 100 miles.

STAMPING OUT CATTLE DISEASE IN U. S. A.

Fight Against Foot and Mouth Outbreak Will Cost Half a Million. Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.--"I believe we've gotten the 'foot and mouth' disease corralled," declared Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to-day. "I want to emphasize, however, that we are letting up in our investigations very slowly, because if we did not foreign countries might quarantine against the whole United States, as they are very suspicious of getting the infection."

STARVING AND FROZEN IN WILDS OF ALBERTA

Friendless Woman and Her Child Endure Terrible Hardships. Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--Wandering about in the wilds of the north, among the haunts of innumerable timber wolves, Margaret Romano, a Mexican woman, old and frail, and her daughter, a child of 15 years, have been found by Indians in a starving condition, almost frozen and desperate from hunger.

The place where the two were found was at Calling Lake, seventy-five miles west of Athabasca Landing. The pitiful story came to the immigration office of Bruce Walker yesterday. The place is uninhabited, and only wolves and big game abound in the bush and swamps, which in winter time are buried in mountains of snow.

EFFORTS TO PROVE MURDERER INSANE

Hains' Trial Following Along Similar Lines to Notorious Thaw Case. Flushing, N. Y., Dec. 31.--With the conclusion to-day of the testimony of Major Hains in behalf of his brother, Thornton J. Hains, now on trial as a principal with his brother, Capt. P. C. Hains, for the killing of William Annis, counsel for the defence will call the parents of the defendant, Gen. P. C. Hains and his wife, to tell of the mental condition of Captain Hains following certain disclosures of alleged happenings at his home that caused a separation from his wife. The spectacle of the aged parents opening further the doors upon family skeletons and telling of mental weakness observed in Captain Hains counsel for the defendant assert, will prove positively to the jury that the army officer was insane from grief when he shot Annis down.

T. J. Hains will follow his parents on the stand in the present phase of his counsel are carried out. This has been necessary to bring out further facts regarding his brother, which will be incorporated into a hypothetical question put to the alienist regarding Captain Hains' sanity. The defendant will probably not take the stand until Saturday or Monday. Lawyer McIntyre, whose illness caused an adjournment of the trial yesterday afternoon, seemed much improved this morning and counsel said he believed himself strong enough to proceed with the case without further delay.

FIFTY VICTIMS AFTER EXPLOSION IN WEST VIRGINIA

Mining Disaster Entombed Men Have Little Chance for Life--12 Bodies Recovered. Farris, W. Va., Dec. 31.--The fatalities in the Lick Branch mine, as the result of an explosion on Tuesday afternoon will probably reach fifty. Twelve bodies have already been taken out.

According to a mine foreman, there are 38 men in the mine, with little chance of their recovery alive. The cause of the explosion is unknown. Lick Branch is the name of a coal mine in operation on the Pocahontas division of the Norfolk & Western railway. It is without commercial telegraph facilities.

It is practically settled that fifty miners were at work in the mine when the explosion occurred and that there yet remain thirty-eight in the death pit. The rescue work is very slow. The damage to the mine is reported to be great.

SCHEME UNDER DISCUSSION BY WESTERN PROVINCES IS TOO COSTLY.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--The proposal to purchase the terminal elevators which was endorsed by the Grain Growers' Association of Western Canada, and which was before the members of the western provinces here at a conference yesterday, has been "turned down" owing to the immense financial obligations involved. The Grain Growers' executive have been notified of this conclusion. Premier Roblin, of Manitoba, flatly refused to go into the scheme.

FENCE BANK WITH BARBED WIRE, THEN LOOT IT

Robbers Stand Guard While Comrades Dynamite Vault and Secure \$5,000. Muskogee, O. T., Dec. 31.--Five robbers dynamited the bank at Elliston, Okla., yesterday, and escaped with \$5,000. The robbers erected a barbed wire barricade around the bank, and while some members of the gang went to work on the bank safe, others stood guard. The picket for two hours kept the townspeople at bay, while the confederates worked on the vault, and when finally the robbers succeeded in getting the money it contained the five men rode off, covering their departure with a heavy fire.

PRECIOUS FREIGHT

Gold Valued at 225 Millions Removed From Washington, D. C., to Denver Vault. Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.--Moving \$225,000,000 in gold coin a distance of more than one thousand miles without accident or without the loss of a dollar, is the feat just successfully accomplished by the treasury department of the United States under the supervision of the discreditable mint.

CANADA'S CUSTOMS REVENUE

Ottawa, Dec. 31.--The customs revenue of Canada for the month just closing is \$3,870,000, a decrease of \$17,975 as compared with December, last year. For nine months of the fiscal year the total has been \$38,844,334, a decrease of \$10,549,504.

TORONTO'S 4-TRACK VIADUCT

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 31.--The railway commission has ordered a four-track viaduct for Toronto, the city to pay one-third of the cost.

TRAFFIC TIED UP

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--A severe snowfall in the Rocky Mountains, west of Laggan, on the Canadian Pacific railway, has carried away a section of track and tied up traffic.

BIG COAL DOCK FIRE IS UNDER CONTROL

(Special to the Times.) Fort William, Ont., Dec. 31.--The fire at the C. P. R. coal docks here is at last under control, after several thousand tons have been burned. Two weeks hence will see the end of the fire which has been burning for several weeks. A large army of men have been engaged for sometime, isolating a mountainous pile of coal on fire from the other fuel.

CAMPAIGN SONG AROUSES PASSENGER'S IRE

St. John Street Car Put Out of Business as Result of Mix-up. St. John, N. B., Dec. 31.--An incident that carries back to the federal elections of October occurred in a street car. One passenger was the son of G. S. Mayes, the dredging contractor, on his way home. Three other men in the car, who had been drinking, started a campaign song in which the names of Pugsley, Pender and Mayes were used and made remarks which Mayes considered objectionable.

Trouble followed and the car fixtures were so badly smashed that the car had to be laid off.

GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT PURCHASE ELEVATORS

Scheme Under Discussion by Western Provinces is Too Costly. (Special to the Times.) Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 31.--The proposal to purchase the terminal elevators which was endorsed by the Grain Growers' Association of Western Canada, and which was before the members of the western provinces here at a conference yesterday, has been "turned down" owing to the immense financial obligations involved. The Grain Growers' executive have been notified of this conclusion. Premier Roblin, of Manitoba, flatly refused to go into the scheme.

DEATH BRINGS RELEASE TO CAPITOL CONSPIRATOR

W. L. Mathews, Former State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, Was Sentenced Man. Media, Pa., Dec. 31.--William L. Mathews, former state treasurer of Pennsylvania, died suddenly at his home here, aged 46 years. The cause of death was given by his physicians as pneumonia, but it is generally believed that his illness was superinduced by the Harrisburg capitol graft case and his recent sentence of two years in penitentiary for his part in the alleged conspiracy against the state.

BANK DISCOUNT RATE

London, Dec. 31.--The rate of discount of the Bank of England remained unchanged to-day at 2 1/2 per cent.

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LABOR-CAPITAL CO-PARTNERSHIP

A. J. BALFOUR CARRIES ON VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN Would Reconcile Antagonistic Elements and End Industrial Strife. London, Dec. 31.--Former Premier Arthur J. Balfour has started a vigorous campaign throughout Great Britain for "capital and labor" combinations in many industries, taking as his text Sir Christopher Furness' monster co-operative shipbuilding scheme. Mr. Balfour is conducting his movement as president of the Labor Co-operative Association, an organization of several years standing into which, however, new life has been injected by the big ship-building experiment.

The audience, which the former premier has been addressing in the leading English cities, are perhaps the most curiously mixed of any ever gathered in the United Kingdom. Peers and working men, Socialists, Liberals and Conservatives, captains of industry and Unionists, all seem equally enthusiastic over the plan, which, it is hoped, will revolutionize the relations between capital and labor and put an end to industrial strife by placing the two interests on an equal footing and making their work toward a common end.

The ex-prime minister makes it clear, however, that it is not Socialism which he is advocating. He urges individual rather than committee control of both commercial and industrial enterprises, declaring his belief that the higher the degree of individual efficiency among members of any form of managing board, the less likely would they be to work harmoniously together.

"Our association's ideal, however," he explained in his last speech, "is a complete co-partnership. I mean that those who carry on any work should be associated in all that the work brings in."

"Everything that softens or obliterates the division between employer and employed is a step in the right direction. The more we encourage mutual knowledge of each other's affairs, the more we bring the two classes together, the more we can get the workmen to understand the difficulties of the employer, the more we are likely to produce a class of workmen fit to deal with all questions industrial, political or social. This result we shall get by co-partnership and I doubt if we shall get it in any other way."

"I think that the plans we advocate can be more efficiently carried out in the first instance at all events, in those well established industries which have little about them of the speculative element."

NEW YEAR DISPENSATION

New York, Dec. 31.--A dispensation permitting Roman Catholics to eat meat tomorrow, New Year's Day, although it is Friday, has been granted by the Pope. Formal announcement of the fact was made yesterday by Archbishop Farley, of the diocese of New York.

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