

COUNTRY HAS NOTHING TO EXPECT NOW

Financial Statement Discredits Gov't

Mr. McKEOWN TALKS

Indebtedness of Province Increased Despite Flemming's Pre-Election Promises

The Hon. H. A. McKeown in discussing with the Sun last night the auditor general's statement of the provincial accounts for the past year as published yesterday remarked that "the showing made by the government must be very discouraging to its friends when it is borne in mind that the revenue far exceeds that of any previous year."

DROPPED DEAD WHILE MAKING A SPEECH

AMHERSTBURG, Ont., Dec. 31.—William Henry McEvoy, former mayor of Amherstburg, dropped dead at midnight in the Masonic Hall at the annual banquet of the local lodge. Mr. McEvoy, after speaking about twenty minutes, dropped to the floor and expired almost immediately. Apoplexy was the cause.

RIFLES

WINCHESTER 22, 30, 303, 32, 33, 35, 38-55, 40-72, 405, 44, 45, 70, 45-90, 32, 35, 351, AUTOMATIC, MARLIN, 30, 38-55, 44-40, 45-70, SAVAGE, 303, 38-55

LARGEST VARIETY TO SELECT Call or Write

W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd.

Market Square, St. John, N. B.

STARVING THOUSANDS IN ITALIAN CITIES IN MURDEROUS STRUGGLE FOR FOOD.

Awful Scenes in Messina Where Those Who Found Fragments of Food Were Cut Down by Their Less Lucky Fellows --- Reports From Palmi Increase Enormously the Death List --- Impossible to Secure Supplies Quickly Enough for the Needs of the Sufferers.

Body of a Baby Found on the Dump

A Ghastly Find Made by Edward Marr.

The Infant Had Evidently Been Allowed to Die From Neglect—Police Working on the Case.

A heartless action and a probable spectacle of death caused by Monday's earthquake has now been added to 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.

Coroner D. B. Berryman was notified and after viewing the remains ordered their removal to the morgue. The coroner notified the police and it is very probable that the persons responsible for the abandonment and death of the child may soon be brought to justice.

Of the 100,000 people living in Palmi only a few score are alive today. Yesterday 2,000 corpses were buried there. The survivors reinforced by rescues from other points, under the lead of soldiers and doctors are performing prodigies of valor. Many of them have been overcome by the disease they are witnessing. Archbishop of Morabito and other priests, with teaching 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.

STILL NO WORD FROM REGGIO. The first of the survivors of Reggio to reach Catania were so broken from the shock of their experiences that it was almost impossible for them to give any connected account of the destruction of the city.

REGGIO, Dec. 31.—A proclamationary measure against an outbreak of pestilence has been issued. Every body who enters the city must be disinfected and strong disinfectants are being strewn among the ruins of the city.

REGGIO, Dec. 31.—The imminence of the disaster in Southern Italy and Sicily can only be measured by the fact that it is now estimated that 10,000 people perished in Messina and Reggio alone. A score of other towns have been devastated and thousands of victims in those places are added to the roll. In the face of this awful total all Italy stands appalled.

RELIEF MEASURES. General Marzani has divided the military forces working in Calabria province into two bodies. One is working at Tyrrenian coast and the other on the Ionian shore, and they are converging on Reggio. Other troops are distributing rations to the starving people to the utmost limit of their resources. The waters of the strait of Messina are covered with the floating bodies of men and animals and all kinds of refuse.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—A special despatch received here from Rome says that 98 guests, including Americans, English and French travelers, were staying at the Hotel Trinacria in Messina when the city was destroyed. They all perished. The proprietor of the hotel alone escaped. There are only two survivors of the guests who were quartered in the Hotel de France.

MANY TOURISTS PERISH. 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.

ENTIRE REGIMENT KILLED. REGGIO, Dec. 31.—A wireless despatch received here from Messina says that the bodies of Arthur S. Cheney, American Consul at Messina, and Mrs. S. Cheney have not been recovered from the ruins of the consulate.

THE KING AT REGGIO. REGGIO, Dec. 31.—King Victor Emmanuel, who left Messina last night with Queen Helena, arrived early this morning at Reggio and after staying in the town in company with the Queen, re-embarked on a warship and sent the following wireless telegram to Frank Gifford.

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MONCTON HAS HAD A PROSPEROUS YEAR

Enjoyed an Unequaled Period of Development.

New Buildings Worth \$200,000 Put Up—Great Works Being Carried On—Important Civic Improvements.

MONCTON, N. B., Dec. 31.—The year which today brings to a close, marks in Moncton one of the most remarkable periods in the city's growth. With the new Transcontinental tracks laid within the city's boundaries, the great new I. C. R. shops, one of the finest layouts of the kind in Canada almost completed, two hundred thousand dollars worth of new buildings erected, new streets opened out, almost an entirely new east end district developed, it can be readily seen that Moncton's growth in 1908 has been of an almost phenomenal nature. The building record of the year in Moncton has been a great one, close upon two hundred thousand dollars worth of new structures going up during the year. Chief among these are the handsome new stone bank, erected by the Bank of Montreal, at a cost of about \$40,000, a fine stone residence erected by P. W. Sumner at a cost of \$40,000, a start made upon the erection of two new theatres, each of which will cost in the vicinity of six thousand dollars. The Knights of Columbus have also finished a splendid hall during the year.

Double tracking of the I. C. R. between Moncton and Painesville, another accomplishment of 1908, is being pushed ahead. The new customs returns for the year show imports to the value of \$33,313, and duty collected to the amount of \$29,847. A remarkable decrease in drunkenness in the city is shown by police court records.

The government is finding difficulty in ascertaining the fate of the many foreigners who were in the earthquake zone at the time of the catastrophe. Inquiries concerning whom are coming in from all quarters of the globe. The commander of the battleship Admiral Makheroff, which arrived with fugitives at Naples today, confirms the report of the death of the American Consul at Messina, Arthur S. Cheney, and his wife, who were buried in the ruins of the consulate. The number of Americans in Sicily and southern Italy is believed to be small, and several of them are reported to have been staying at Taromina, which is on the coast, about thirty miles southwest of Messina. According to the latest reports the city suffered no harm from the earthquake.

The minister of war, in dispatching orders to military authorities who have practically taken over the absolute power throughout the zone of the earthquake, explained: "The disaster has resulted in a greater loss of life than any of our wars for independence. Indeed, the situation is much worse, as, while war is preceded by a period of preparation, this has happened without any preparation. While war only affects the young and strong among the people, the present calamity has moved down upon women and children, old men and young boys. In war the armies are followed by the most complete camp hospitals, the numberless wounded in Calabria and Eastern Sicily have been left in many cases forty-eight hours without assistance. Even when rescued, it is impossible to house them, everything available having been filled by the dead. Lack of care and starvation will complete the work that the forces of nature have left undone."

All the sovereigns and the heads of states of the foreign governments have sent expressions of warmest sympathy and deepest condolence. France's message was especially warm and she is dispatching five warships from Toulon to Messina, which is hailed as a token of love from a sister moor.

The Minister of Marine tonight received word that the steamship Taromina and Campania, with 45,000 beds and a large supply of provisions aboard her left Toulon bound for Messina. Other steamers also reportedly stocked, are on their way to the stricken cities from various ports.

The dispatches from the stricken zone say that a large army would be required to cope with even the pressing needs of the unfortunate people who are roaming about half clad and starving, some of them dragging articles of clothing from the smouldering ruins to protect themselves from the piercing wind. Terrible suffering is inevitable before the much needed relief stores can arrive.

The remaining parties, military, naval and civil of different nationalities are performing prodigies, but the task before them is almost hopeless. Added to the difficulty of obtaining food, which followed the deluge of rain. De-

FIERCE FIGHTS TAKE PLACE AT THIS MEETING

ABBURY PARK, N. J., Dec. 30.—"Does any one know any reason why these two should not be made man and wife? If so, speak out; if not forever hold your peace," spoke the Rev. T. C. Scarborough, pastor of St. Thomas' Presbyterian Mission, as John Whittaker and Nettie Higgins, a comely girl, stood before him.

The silence was broken by Mrs. Mary Griffin, a widow with whom Whittaker had boarded, who cried: "I know a good reason; that man is already married and I have proof here," and she produced two letters from Suffolk, Va., sent to Whittaker by a woman who signed her name as Mrs. Whittaker, your loving wife, and she said when he would return to her.

Whittaker declared the letters were forged and the minister wanted to proceed, but the woman's bride refused to take the vow, and says she is glad she didn't.

Mrs. Griffin said she found the letters in a room which Whittaker formerly occupied. He has taken legal action to recover the near-bride's wedding outfit, which he furnishes.

GIVES NEWS ACCOUNT OF MOVEMENTS

Italian Talks to Correspondent

PLEADS HIS INNOCENCE

Preliminary Continued At Andover Yesterday—Several Witnesses Testify

ANDOVER, Dec. 30.—In an exclusive interview given by Tony Avonza, one of the Italians charged with the murder of "Buddy" Green, to The Sun's correspondent, the prisoner gave the first statement of his whereabouts the day of the murder. The interview was obtained through an interpreter. Tony declared that he was in no way connected with the murder. He states that the guns which he possessed were sold by him on Saturday evening. Tony had been previously interviewed along with Leon Spettili, the other Italian under arrest.

In brief he told the following story: "I am positive that Leon Spettili left Johnson's camp on the Sunday morning of the murder before I got up. When I awoke he had departed and I went to Plaster Rock. I was unaware of the murder and did not see Leon Spettili until after I returned again to camp on Monday evening, when I found him there."

The preliminary hearing of the prisoners was resumed here this morning. Searcy Murray, the Italian boss, was recalled and his evidence was secured from Plaster Rock by Constable McCarty. He identified the two guns produced in court as belonging to the prisoners. A pair of mittens were also produced and witness declared that they were taken by the Italians from the place of the murder. Searcy Murray stated that the mittens were his own. They had been found behind the log pile near the scene of the murder.

Trueman Doll was the next called. He testified as to the time bills of the prisoners and stated that they had told him they were going back to Italy.

Gilbert Frazee, the next witness, told of his having cashed the checks at Plaster Rock.

Andrew Hatch, a twelve-year-old boy, testified that the prisoners had left the camp on Friday evening and returned on Saturday. Both had departed again on Sunday before he got up. Witness identified the guns as belonging to the prisoners. When they returned to the camp on Monday they were without the guns.

James Hatch, an old man, rather of the previous witness, was then called, but knew comparatively nothing concerning the affair. However he recognized the guns as belonging to the prisoners.

Frank Nemo also identified the guns as belonging to the prisoners. He had not seen them from Saturday night until they were brought to jail.

Lewis Young, who was the first man to reach the scene of the murder, was then called. He stated that when he reached Plaster he was told the scene looked round and found the jewelry box of the deceased man. He also discovered a pair of mittens behind the log pile, which afterwards were proven to be Murray's.

The court then adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

STOPPED WEDDING AT ALTAR BY LETTER

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