

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."

"A different story would have resulted from this fact," he went on, "were it not for the increased subsidies received by the province this year for the first time."

"One of the strongest criticisms ever made against the old government was that of an increased public debt. Economists will observe, however, that even apart from the increases reported by the provincial secretary for the ending of the debt of \$215,000 a further increase of over \$250,000 is reported for the same class of items as those which were so severely criticised by the gentlemen responsible for this latest increase."

"The present provincial secretary told the people of the province that the absolute limit of provincial indebtedness had been reached a year ago and he undertook and promised with all the obligations a public man can impose upon himself that such increases should cease. His first financial statement shows how lightly he regards the assurance he gave the public at that time, and on account of which he is taking him at his word, public and his colleagues in power."

"During the first nine months," continued Mr. McKeown, "the province had an opportunity of judgment of the present administration with their pre-election pledges as a back-ground. Their failure to pass a suitable road act and to give the people economical government has already led to their overwhelming defeat in two constituencies. Their failure in other matters, however," said Mr. McKeown in conclusion, "is absolutely evidenced by their financial record which conclusively proves that the country has nothing to expect in the way of economy from the gentlemen now at the head of public affairs. They have enjoyed, roughly speaking, \$100,000 more revenue than any government which ever preceded them and in spite of that they have added over \$400,000 to the public debt. The record needs little comment, but it furnishes the strongest possible example of the incompetency of the present administration."

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

AUTOMATIC, 32, 35, 351

MARLIN, 30, 38-55, 44-40, 45-70

SAVAGE, 303, 38-55

LARGEST VARIETY TO SELECT

Call or Write

W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd.

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. 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, verdant country into deserts. Messina exists no longer, and at least thirty years will be necessary to repair the ruin that nature's violence have wrought there.

MANY VILLAGES ENTIRELY WIPED OUT.

"As yet it has been found impossible to obtain any news whatsoever of the fate of the little villages along the coast, many of which it is believed have been entirely wiped out. In many cases entire buildings have been swept out to sea and no trace of them remains. It is no exaggeration to say that hundreds of villages have been wiped off the map. In some of the towns such as Palmi, Monteleone, the suddenness and the completeness of the catastrophe was overwhelming."

AN AWFUL DEATH LIST.

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 scenes they are witnessing. Archbishop 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.

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. They speak disconnectedly of whole districts swept away in a moment and entire families of well known people annihilated. Reggio remains isolated in a ghastly silence of desolation. The railroad and the footpaths through the surrounding country have been utterly destroyed, while the survivors lack food, water and medical supplies.

KING'S PRESENCE BRINGS COMFORT.

The visit of the King and Queen of Italy to Messina has aroused widespread enthusiasm. In spite of the universal mourning and distress the sovereigns were saluted when they disembarked by the firing of guns from the Italian and foreign warships at Messina. As soon as the King and his party set foot on shore they were greeted with a deafening salvo of cannon. His Majesty spoke highly in praise of the Italian soldiers and the sailors from the foreign warships for their brave and heroic work of rescue. He shook hands with several officers. Accompanied by Ministers Orlando and Bertolini he visited both Messina and Reggio, spending several hours at each place. He visited personally every quarter of these cities, giving words of encouragement, praise, and consolation.

RELIEF MEASURES.

General Marassi 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 concentrating 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.

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 Columbia have also finished a splendid hall during the year.

DOUBLE TRACKING OF THE I. C. R.

Double tracking of the I. C. R. between Moncton and Painesville, N. B., was another accomplishment of 1908. The new bridge over the P. W. Sumner river, the value of \$23,313, and duty collected to the amount of \$29,847. A remarkable decrease in drunkenness in the city is shown by police court records.

JAPAN DEMANDS ALL RIGHTS FOR SUBJECTS

Tokio Newspaper Declares Nation Objects to Discrimination

TOKIO, Dec. 30.—Despite official denials, rumors of a separate emigration agreement are persistent. The Jiji tomorrow will publish an article accepting the official denials and censuring the government, which, it says, is responsible for public scepticism owing to its previous denial of the existence of the paper argues a settlement of the question fundamentally by an amendment to the agreement so as to include labor immigration within the most favored nation clause. Japan objects to discrimination and is willing to impose a discrimination and is willing to impose a voluntary restriction. Similarly, the paper argues, she has a right to demand naturalization rights for her subjects.

FIERCE FIGHTS TAKE PLACE AT THIS MEETING

TORONTO, Dec. 30.—A meeting held in Missy's hall tonight to oppose the by-law to cut off forty tavern licenses in Toronto broke up in a row of the most violent character. Controller Spence was present to represent those favorable to a reduction, in accordance with the invitation of the promoters of the meeting, but he was not allowed to speak.

STOPS WEDDING AT ALTAR BY LETTER

ABBURY PARK, N. J., Dec. 29.—"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.

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.

The shores of the straits have been completely transformed in appearance. The lighthouses on the headlands have disappeared.

MANY TOURISTS PERISH.

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 Trianon 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.

ENTIRE REGIMENT KILLED.

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.

THE KING AT REGGIO.

REGGIO, Dec. 30.—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.

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 visiting Johnstone, along with Leon Spettli, the other Italian under arrest.

In brief he told the following story: "I am positive that Leon Spettli 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 Spettli 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 by Frank Allay, who was arrested 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 by James Hatch that he had 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.

"Throughout the trial Tony appeared in fairly good spirits and at times laughed quite heartily. Leon, however, was a sullen creature throughout."

When the guns were produced in court the prisoners appeared excited. Word from Plaster Rock states that there is still no trace of the money which was thrown away in the woods.

Whittaker declared the letters were forged and the minister wanted to proceed by the way he had refused to take the vow and says she is glad she didn't.

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