

EARTHQUAKE CATASTROPHE OF APPALLING DESCRIPTION

Whole Towns and Villages In Calabria and Sicily Shaken Into Ruins.

CASUALTIES ARE ALREADY ESTIMATED AT 75,000

Death Roll In Messina May Reach Tens of Thousands--Inhabitants Buried Alive In Shattered City--Tragic Isolation of Reggio--Mount Etna, Belching Forth Volumes of Smoke, Adds Terror to Scene--Aid is Hurried to Devastated Districts.

The earthquake in Calabria (Southern Italy) and Sicily yesterday was responsible for an appalling list of casualties and widespread destruction.

A dispatch to the Tribune, of Rome, estimates the number of casualties at 75,000. It is said the dead at Messina alone will total tens of thousands, while numbers are buried alive beneath the ruins of the city. A conflagration followed the earthquake at Messina.

The present catastrophe covers a wider area than the terrible earthquake of 1905. Isolated districts yet to be heard from will swell the death roll. The Prefect of Reggio and the Bishop of Messina are said to lie buried beneath their respective cities.

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Warships, troops, provisions and aid of every description are being hurried to the devastated districts.

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dreds of persons who had fled from their houses and were drowned or injured.

A train load of doctors, nurses and hospital equipment has been sent out from here for Messina, and the steamer Marguerita, loaded to the guards with people who had relapsed in the doomed city, and others who will join in the work of relief, also has left.

The refugees declared that the entire country around Messina has been devastated, and that several villages have disappeared. Reggio is described by telegraphic reports as nothing but a vast sepulchre.

The captain of the steamer Washington, which was in the straits of Messina at the time of the earthquake, says his vessel shuddered as if she had run aground. A thick fog prevailed at the time. The Washington was surrounded with boats appealing for aid. The sea was littered with wreckage in every direction. The Russian warships that were at Syracuse have left for Messina to aid in the work of rescue.

Dead In Calabrian Towns.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Reports have just been received from two other towns in Calabria—Cassano and Cosenza. Cassano is said to have suffered 1,000 deaths while the wounded number 500. At Cosenza 500 dead people already have been taken from the ruins. Large numbers of the population of Cosenza is the centre of a commune with a population of 21,000.

"Total" Casualty List.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The Tribune to-day publishes an estimate of the total casualty list in Calabria and Sicily which places the number at between 60,000 and 70,000.

Towns Practically Destroyed.

Montelone, Calabria, Dec. 29.—The towns of Palmi and Bagnara have been practically destroyed. The dead at Palmi number 1,000 and it is impossible to estimate the injured. Large numbers were killed also at Bagnara and the list of wounded there also will be heavy. Details are lacking. Palmi has 10,000 inhabitants and Bagnara 7,500.

Religious Communities Wiped Out.

London, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Rome says the Pope has been notified that the entire religious communities

world over to assist the survivors of the catastrophe. The Pope heads the subscription list with 1,000,000 lire (\$200,000). It is understood that the King, Victor Emmanuel, gives 5,000,000 lire for the relief of the victims.

America's Sympathy.

Washington, D.C., Dec. 29.—President Roosevelt, through the state department, to-day sent to King Victor Emmanuel of Italy a dispatch expressing his horror and that of the American people over the earthquake disaster and tendering sincere sympathy. The President also notes that the American National Red Cross has issued an appeal for contributions to aid the sufferers.

The state department and the Italian embassy were without any advice during the morning from its diplomatic or consular officers in Italy. At Messina the state department has both a consul and a deputy consul, the former being Arthur Schoen, of Connecticut, and the latter Jos. H. Pierce, an Italian. Ambassador Mayer Des Planches is hastening to Washington from New York, leaving the city for a brief rest during the holidays.

Appeal in New York.

New York, Dec. 29.—Count Massigli, the Italian consul-general here, has issued the following statement: "Subscriptions for the relief of the victims of the earthquake in Sicily and Calabria are officially open at the consulate general of Italy, 228 Lafayette street, New York, at the Italian chamber of commerce, 203 Broadway, and at the office of the delegate of the Italian Red Cross, 69 Wall street.

Relief From Boston.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 29.—A public appeal for the relief of the Italian earthquake victims has been issued by Governor Guild to-day.

Taft Sends Message.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—The American National Red Cross to-day sent a telegram over the signature of its president, Wm. H. Taft, to the Italian Red Cross at Rome in the following language: "The American Red Cross desires to tender to the Italian Red Cross its profound sympathy because of the terrible earthquake in Sicily and Calabria. An appeal has been issued to the American Red Cross

sula, carried from point to point, always finding the wires down, until it reached Nicotera, where the telegraph wires were found to be intact. From this point the dispatch was sent. It briefly stated that the situation was desperate, and added that Capt. 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 has proceeded energetically to concentrate 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 transportation.

A steamer reached Catania, loaded with insured who were so situated 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 houses, and are camping on the squares. The village of Etna and Giarretto, 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, added terror upon terror.

In Calabria the region around Montelone was most devastated. The village of Stefano, the inhabitants of which number 2,000, was practically destroyed. Only five persons were killed, but many were injured.

Monsignor Morabito, the Bishop of Mileto, who distinguished himself in the earthquake of 1905, did valiant work yesterday. He rushed into places where the ruin was the greatest, and brought aid and encouragement to the thousands of people abandoned their homes, although a terrific rainstorm prevailed, and filled the air with lamentations and prayers. In some places, such as Brizzio, Santa Severina and Policastro, the people had the courage to enter their 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, the population has taken refuge in caves, where peasants and priests, soldiers and persons of gentle birth, are living in common. Their bed is on the ground, and fires burn to keep off wild animals.

Extraordinary scenes are reported at Catania following a violent earthquake at 5:30 a. m. yesterday, the sea having risen in a tremendous wave which wrecked many houses. A secondary tidal wave caused further great damage and wrecks.

Awakened by the shock, the inhabitants fled panic-stricken from their homes into the streets and squares. Processions were organized and 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.

While the number of deaths at that place is not believed to be large, there were several

Tragic Occurrences.

Among the children swept away by the tidal wave was a boy 15 months old, who was torn from the arms of his mother. The mother, too, was there, borne by the force of the water and lost consciousness. Her body was caught by a railing and remained there until she was rescued.

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

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

The Pope Greatly Distressed

at hearing of the catastrophe which had afflicted the loyal population in the south. He could hardly credit the truth of the dispatches declaring 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 amongst his suffering children. It was his firm intention to order that instructions be given for the beginning of the journey, but his physicians and those in attendance upon him insisted that it would be impossible for him to undertake such a fatiguing expedition in the present condition of his health.

A flying squadron composed of the battleships Victoria Emmanuel, Regina Elena and Napoli, has been ordered to Messina. They will arrive Tuesday morning, together with steamers carrying supplies and troops.

Superior Bertolini, the minister of public works, left here to-night for the south. Altogether 3,000 troops have been sent southward from this city in the past 48 hours, while from other military posts about 15,000 men are now on their way to Calabria and Sicily.

Removing Wreckage.

Canitania, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Hundreds of workmen were set to the task of removing wreckage and repairing the railway between here and Messina. The distance is nearly sixty miles, but late last night, communication by rail between the two towns was established.

The first small train over the line brought a number of injured, but the story that they told of the disaster was very much confused.

Churches Razed.

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Reports from all the towns and villages around Messina state that serious damage has been done by the earthquake, and that the number of victims is large. The greatest damage was done to buildings and churches at Florida, Terra Nova, Marlanopoli and Faro. At Mineo, there were a number of shocks.

At Augusta, which once before was destroyed by an earthquake, the tidal wave yesterday wrecked the government salt works. The prisoners employed there mutilated, but the mutiny was eventually suppressed.

The Santa Maria college at All, a little place between Messina and Catania, was overthrown. Several girls students were buried in the ruins.

The steamer Piedmont, according to word received here, has arrived at Milazzo with 300 women and children and 50 men who were injured at Messina. After transferring the wounded, the Piedmont started for the stricken city. There is no doubt that a large portion of Messina has been destroyed.

INCREASED RATES RAISE STORM OF PROTEST

California is to Demonstrate Against New Transcontinental Tariff.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 29.—One hundred mass meetings will be held throughout the state to protest against the proposed increase in transcontinental freight rates, which are scheduled to go into effect on January 1st. Every important city in the state will have a meeting and the speakers will voice the protest of the shippers of California to what is termed the imposition of a \$10,000,000 annual tax on California consumers. The rate being estimated difference between the rates now in force and that which the companies seek to collect after the first of the year.

SOLVE LABOR PROBLEM ON PANAMA CANAL WORK

U. S. Closes Agencies in Europe —Maximum Force Now Employed.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—With the early arrival in Washington from Paris of Leroy Parks, of the Isthmian canal commission, there will be signalled an epoch in the construction of the canal. Officers of the commission are now certain that they have solved the labor problem that once was so vexing, and have instructed Mr. Parks, their labor agent in Europe, to close his office in Paris and return to the United States. The withdrawal of the labor agent is not designed to stop immigration from Europe to the canal zone, but is in harmony with the closing of labor agencies in various parts of the world. Instead of three agencies in the United States, the number has been reduced to one, with Henry Smith in charge in New York, and instead of two in the West Indies, henceforth there will be only one, and that in the Bermudas. The one in the Bermudas and the one located in New York will be the only agencies maintained by the government.

It is explained at the office of the commission that the maximum force now has been employed. Henceforth the work in to be confined to actual canal building. Municipal work, erecting houses, installing water and sewer systems and road-making are said to have reached the stage where most of the expenditure for them will be for maintenance. Men previously employed in these lines of work are being transferred to other departments, and thus the demand for new men has been materially reduced. It is found helpful to keep one or two agencies open in order to supply laborers for emergencies and to guard against any contingency.

U. S. FLEET IN RED SEA.

Warships Due at Suez Two Days Ahead of Schedule Time.

Perin, Arabia, Dec. 29.—The American scout cruiser Yankton arrived here this morning from Colombo. She reports that the U. S. battleship fleet under Rear-Admiral Sperry will pass here and enter the Red sea at noon to-day, and that the vessels are due at Suez on January 3rd, two days ahead of their schedule.

All on board the Yankton are well. The cruiser is taking on coal. The fleet experienced perfect weather on its run from Colombo.

MURDERS HIS WIFE.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 29.—J. Foy, of Morse street, shot and killed his wife yesterday afternoon and then tried to commit suicide by jumping into Ashbridge Bay. He was pulled out and arrested.

TO AID VESSELS IN DISTRESS.

United States Revenue Cutter Manning Will Be Stationed at Entrance of Straits.

A letter has been received from W. H. Cushing, senior captain of the United States revenue cutter service, stating that the Manning has been stationed at the entrance to the Straits of Messina with headquarters at Neph Bay, for the purpose of aiding distressed vessels. He asks that information of any vessels in distress be sent to him immediately at whatever point she may be. Capt. Cushing can be reached at Fort Townsend by wire or by telephone, independent of 43, Sunset 2, and in the evening by Sunset 1822.



of Messina and Reggio, including bishops, priests, monks, and nuns, have been killed by the earthquake and fire.

Terrible Tidal Wave.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The government is sending troops with the utmost dispatch by land and sea to the scene of the disaster. No authentic news has yet been received from Reggio.

The Tribune publishes an interview with a refugee who made his way into Montelone, in Calabria. This man says many hundreds of living persons are still beneath the ruins in Calabrian towns, but it is impossible to relieve them.

At Riposto, the tidal wave was terrible. At first the sea receded for a great distance from the shore. Then it swept forward with tremendous violence. The waves advanced in a huge wave and swept before it every house and building for a thousand feet from the shore line. The waters rushed through the streets of Riposto to a depth of from 15 to 20 feet.

Queen Helena Shares Danger.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Queen Helena has refused to allow her husband, the King, to go alone to the scene of the disaster. She said she would not give up her privilege of sharing her husband's danger and consequently both of them left Rome this afternoon for the south. The royal couple arrived earlier in the day from Naples.

The Queen explained to a member of her entourage that she considered it her duty to do all in her power to comfort and help her afflicted subjects. Their Majesties left the railroad station here at half past one. Just before the train pulled out they embraced their four children who are in no sense aware of the gravity of the catastrophe. A number of ministers, senators and deputies, together with the mayor of Rome, met the station to bid farewell to the King and Queen.

Pope Heads Subscription List.

Rome, Dec. 29.—It was announced this afternoon that the Pope will inaugurate the establishment of an international committee of Catholics the

here is this morning showing considerable activity and the detonations which can be plainly heard in this city, together with the volume of smoke rolling from the crater, have added to the panic of the people.

According to the director of the local observatory this activity is directly connected with the earthquakes of yesterday which wrought such havoc in Calabria and Sicily but a great eruption is not expected. Such phenomena seldom accompany violent seismic disturbances.

English Among Victims.

Rome, Dec. 29.—France, England and Germany have been informed that the scene. Seventy English travelers and thirty Germans are buried under the ruins of the hotels Trinacria, Victoria, and Bellevue at Messina.

Survivor's Story.

Catania, Dec. 29.—The following graphic story is told by a woman who arrived here from Messina this morning. She was herself badly injured. She describes the horrors that accompanied the disaster at Messina in these words:

"Infernal is the only word that will adequately describe the fearful terrifying scene. When the first shock came most of the city was fast asleep. I was awakened by the rocking of the windows. Windows away and rattled and crockery and glass crashed to the floor. The next moment I was violently thrown out of my bed to the floor. I was half stunned, but knew that the only thing to do was to make my way out doors.

"The streets were filled. Everybody had rushed out in their night clothes, heedless of the rain falling in torrents. Terrified shrieks arose from all sides, and we heard heart-rending appeals for help from the unfortunate pinned beneath the ruins.

Walls Were Tottering

all around us and not one of my party expected to escape alive. My brothers and sisters were with me and in a frenzy of terror we groped our way through the streets holding our own against the panic-stricken people, clambering over piles of ruins, until we finally reached a place of comparative safety. But this was not long. I was struck down and badly injured by a piece of furniture that fell out of the upper story of a house.

"All along the road we were jostled by scores of people half-died like ourselves. The houses seemed to be crashing to the ground in whatever direction we turned. Suddenly the sea began to pour into the town. It seemed to me that this must mean the end of everything. The on-coming water rolled in a huge wave, accompanied by a terrible roar. It was as if this was not enough there suddenly shot up into the sky a

Huge Burst of Flame,

followed by a crash that seemed to shatter the whole town. This probably was the gas works blowing up.

"Eventually we reached the principal square of Messina. Here we found two or three thousand utterly terrified people assembled. None of us knew what to do. We waited in an agony of fear. Men prayed, groaned and shrieked. I saw one of the big buildings fronting on the square collapse. It seemed to me that scores of persons were buried beneath the ruins, and then I lost consciousness, and I remembered no more."

Maddened With Terror.

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Railroad communication with Messina has been restored. A train load of refugees came in here this morning, but they all are maddened with terror, and no one is capable of giving a correct account of the catastrophe. All agree that Messina has been destroyed and that the victims will be counted by the tens of thousands. The Trinacria hotel with 90 guests was demolished. A tidal wave swept three streets of the city. Hun-

VINS
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