

'QUAKE ENGULFS PERSIAN VILLAGES; OVER 5,000 PERISH

Ten Thousand Head of Cattle Killed--Location and Appalling Results of "Unknown" Disturbance at Last Come to Light.

Tehran, Persia, Feb. 17.—News was received here to-day showing that the violent earthquake recorded on January 13th on almost every scientific observatory in the world were seismographs are installed, had its location in the province of Luristan, Western Persia. Sixty villages in that district were wholly or partially destroyed, and the resultant loss of life is placed at between 5,000 and 6,000 people.

This information was conveyed in hurried reports just received by the government, in the districts of Burukurd and Selghoria, Luristan province, the shocks were of the greatest violence, and here the heaviest casualties occurred.

Several villages are reported to have been completely engulfed. The losses would have been very much greater were it not for the fact that this district is sparsely populated. The destitute survivors are flocking into the town of Burukurd, whence appeals for assistance are now reaching the government.

The peasantry lost all their herds, and it is estimated that from 10,000 to 12,000 head of cattle perished. This is the first accurate location of the violent earthquake shock of January 13th, it having been supposed up to to-day that the disturbance had centered in Western Asia, in Asiatic Russia, or even in the waters of the Indian ocean.

The records showed that the tremors were practically of the same force as those of December 23rd, which converted the coast regions of Sicily and Calabria into a scene of desolation and ruin. The shocks in question were recorded in London, Berlin, Hamburg, Goettingen, Vienna, Stuttgart, Washington, etc., and even in far off Cape Colony.

The province of Luristan is very mountainous and sparsely settled. It is about 300 miles southwest of Tehran, and the only communication with the Persian capital is by courier. The inhabitants are chiefly Baktyaris, an offshoot of the Iranian people.

PIT DISASTER IN ENGLAND

EXPLOSIONS ENTOMB NEARLY 150 MINERS

Only 37 Men Are Recovered Alive From Blazing Property.

Newcastle-on-Tyne this morning. Stanley, a small village from here, in which it is feared over a hundred lives have been lost.

There were two explosions at 4 o'clock in the afternoon in the West Stanley colliery, which employs four hundred men. Nearly two hundred men were in the pit at the time.

Almost immediately after the explosion, flames burst through the shaft, scorching the workers at the pit head and blowing out the fencing and apparatus at the entrance.

The flames spread rapidly, and it was impossible for the rescuing party to descend to the workings. Thousands of anxious persons gathered at the mouth of the pit, but for hours the fire burned furiously.

After rescue work had progressed all night the mine was cleared as far as the second level, where 32 men were found alive this morning. Most of them, however, were severely injured.

The force of the explosion was so terrific, that although the upper level where it occurred is 840 feet deep, flames leaped fifty feet above the pit mouth on the surface.

The rescuers reached bottom level of the mine this afternoon without finding any further signs of life, but they did discover the bodies of a score of men who apparently had succumbed to asphyxiation, only 27 men having been brought up alive out of a total of 147.

An explosion involving the loss of twelve lives occurred at the same colliery in 1882.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION. Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 17.—A workmen's compensation act, drafted in accordance with the wishes of the trades and labor council, is to be introduced in the legislature this session by J. F. Mitchell, M. P. for North Winnipeg. A measure of this character was submitted last year, but it was one of the slighted innocents at the close of the session.

Advertisement for Steedman's Sooting Powder, featuring a picture of a child and text: 'To make children healthy & healthy. STEEDMAN'S SOOTING POWDER contain no poison. They prevent the cold, convulsions, and relieve the throat. STEEDMAN'S YOUR GUARANTEE.'

48 MILLIONS SO FAR SPENT ON G. T. P.

(Special to the Times). Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The total expenditure by the government on the construction of the National Transcontinental railway to the 15th inst., has been \$48,265,129. During the past twelve months the expenditures were \$26,010,547.

HOLOCAUST IN MEXICAN CITY

FEARFUL STRUGGLE FOR LIFE AT BURNING THEATRE

Further Details of Acapulco Horror—Death List Over 200.

Mexico City, Feb. 17.—Late dispatches from Acapulco, where the Flores theatre was burned on Sunday night, when the structure was crowded at a gala performance given in honor of Governor Damian, bring varying estimates of the loss of life from the holocaust. They agree in declaring, however, that the dead will exceed 200, while some place the figures at 350.

Most of the dead were charred and buried beyond recognition, so that it will take probably several days to secure an accurate list of the victims.

Acapulco is in mourning over the catastrophe. All business in the city has ceased, the shops having closed, and the people are crowding the churches, where masses are being celebrated throughout the state of Guerrero and at Mexico City for the sufferers.

The fire, which spread with incredible rapidity through the immense wooden and adobe structure, was due to the carelessness and inexperience of the operator of the moving picture machine. There was an explosion, a burst of flames, which communicated to the building used for decorative purposes, and in a few minutes the entire structure was a mass of fire.

The flames started practically over the main entrance. The exits were all in the front part of the building, which was almost immediately turned into a wall of fire, so that the people were unable to escape.

In a frenzied panic tried to scurry out of the flames, but were crushed, scores of others perished. As nearly always in catastrophes of this kind, the women and children suffered the most, making up the majority of the dead.

The search of the ruins which has now been going on for some days has thus far revealed no recognizable human forms. Charred bodies from which legs and arms have been burned, together with many dismembered limbs, have been taken from the ruins, and as there was no chance of identification the remains have all been buried in a common trench by the municipal authorities.

The greatest loss of life was occasioned, according to survivors, by the fall of the roof, which crashed down on the entrapped people in what seemed an incredibly short time after the blaze was discovered. Previous to this the entrapped people had fought like demons, striking down women and children in their efforts to escape, the falling of the roof, however, stilled the screams of the panic-stricken audience.

The firemen and the crowds on the outside who had been attracted to the scene could do nothing to help the people in the burning building, and were compelled to stand helpless and watch the theatre, with its human contents, burn. After the first five or ten minutes there were no cries heard, and there was no noise save that made by the spurting and crackling flames.

Latest reports indicate that no American lives were lost, although several earlier dispatches had said that several were killed. The American consul, Mr. Moorehead, had been invited from his performance, but pressing business made it impossible for him to attend, and this probably saved his life. Many of those who escaped were injured in the panic or severely burned, and many of the houses near the scene were transformed into hospitals to take care of these people.

The Merry sailed from Boston on the 11th inst. for Newport News. Captain Farrow was in charge temporarily owing to the illness of Capt. Fleckett, the regular master. The Merry was built at Bath, Maine, in 1901, and is valued at \$38,000.

PORTLAND, MAINE, FEB. 17.—A dispatch from Capt. Farrow, of the schooner Miles M. Merry, ashore at Moriches, L. I., to the owners J. S. Winslow & Company, received to-day, states that the vessel had blown high up on the beach, and will probably prove a total loss.

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EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS. Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—The extra session of congress will be convened on March 15th. This date was definitely settled to-day, and President-Elect Taft authorized the announcement.

CHILD'S FATAL SWALLOW. Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 17.—Myrtle Olive Merritt, aged two years and seven months, swallowed an iron washer last Thursday. The obstacle stuck in her throat, causing her death yesterday.

LETHBRIDGE PUBLICITY SCHEME. Lethbridge, Alta., Feb. 17.—At the annual meeting of the board of trade it was decided to hold monthly meetings in the future at one o'clock. The board will have a luncheon at these meetings, and so far as practicable, the president already has the authority to divide the fleet, but the amendment was made to give expression to the opinion of congress in favor of such action.

CALL TO WINNIPEG CHURCH. Barrie, Ont., Feb. 17.—Rev. W. E. Bertel, vicar of Trinity church here, has been called to St. Luke's church, Winnipeg. He will likely accept.

RUSSIAN GRAND DUKE DEAD. St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandevitch died here at 8 o'clock this evening.

ORANGE LODGE STARTS BUSINESS

OFFICERS FOR BLACK CHAPTER ARE ELECTED

O. of T. R. B. Officials Chosen Yesterday Afternoon.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of British Columbia commenced its nineteenth annual session this morning in the A. O. U. W. hall, when addresses were read by R. W. G. M., D. C. McLaren; R. W. G. S., W. H. Brett; R. W. G. T., E. J. Clark, and R. W. G. O., W. J. Whiteley. The election of committees was proceeded with, after which the convention adjourned for lunch.

A formal welcome by the Mayor will be given the visiting delegates this afternoon. With the Grand Master and other officers on the platform this morning were R. W. P. G. M. S., J. Wallace, Victoria; T. Cunningham, Vancouver; and H. T. Thrift, Hazelton.

Grand Black Chapter. The Grand Black Chapter of B. C. Royal Black Knights of Ireland concluded the fifth annual session yesterday afternoon in the A. O. U. W. hall, with the election of officers, which resulted as follows:

P. G. Master, Sir Kt. W. S. Jago, Vancouver. D. G. Master, Sir Kt. W. H. Dunmore, Vancouver. A. D. G. Master, Sir Kt. G. S. Grimason, Victoria. G. Chap., Rev. W. H. Brett, Vancouver.

G. Registrar, J. J. Tulk, Vancouver. G. Treasurer, R. Fawcett, Vancouver. G. Lecturer, A. Armstrong, Cumberland. D. G. Lecturer, J. H. Armstrong, Revelstoke.

First Censor, R. C. Patterson, New Westminster. Second Censor, F. E. Packingham, Mission City. First St. Bearer, John Walsh, Victoria. Second St. Bearer, N. S. McDonald, New Westminster.

Surintendent, L. T. Smith, Vancouver. D. G. Registrar, C. Elliott, Vancouver. D. G. Treasurer, H. Wilkinson, Kamloops. G. Registrar, John Wallace, Victoria. Committee—Sir Knights Jas. Sopley, Victoria; R. J. Surgeon, Saanich; E. Langille, Vancouver; G. A. Boothroyd, Surrey Center; D. E. Stevens, Rossland; J. Braden, Victoria; G. McDonald, Victoria.

O. of T. R. B. Officers. The largest attended annual meeting of the O. of T. R. B. was held yesterday afternoon in the A. O. U. W. hall, when the annual election of officers took place. The election, resulted as follows, the names being known only to members of the order.

G. P. Y. Lovvatney, Vancouver, B.C. N. G. P. E. Husbinel, Miner City, B.C. B. R. S. Kullhorn, Vancouver, B.C. C. B. P. Makledry, Miner City, B.C. C. M. T. Selschick, Vancouver, B.C. K. J. Crown, A. Reston, New Westminster. R. W. S. Kordeirovsk, New Westminster, B.C.

P. T. G. O. Gaultmias, Vancouver, B.C. E. N. Haywasta, Victoria, B.C. R. A. for Ontario, A. Settmase, Toronto, Ont. R. A. for Winnipeg, B. Dexterton, Winnipeg, Man.

R. A. for Montreal, D. Dogley, Montreal, Que. R. A. for Hamilton, Ont., J. Farberp, Hamilton, Ont.

The Royal Brown Minstrels gave an entertainment last night at the hall, which was largely attended and greatly appreciated, this being their first appearance in Victoria. The next annual meeting it was decided will be held at Kamloops.

LADYSMITH HAS BRANCH OF DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

Public Meeting Will Be Held to Discuss Plans for Future.

Half U. S. Fleet FOR CAUCASUS

Amendment to Naval Bill Affects Disposition of Warships.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—One half of the United States fleet should be kept on the Pacific coast at all times, is the opinion of the senate. An amendment to the naval bill was agreed on last night, providing that, in the discretion of the President, one half of the vessels may be kept in Pacific waters, so far as practicable. The President already has the authority to divide the fleet, but the amendment was made to give expression to the opinion of congress in favor of such action.

Called to Winnipeg Church. Barrie, Ont., Feb. 17.—Rev. W. E. Bertel, vicar of Trinity church here, has been called to St. Luke's church, Winnipeg. He will likely accept.

Russian Grand Duke Dead. St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandevitch died here at 8 o'clock this evening.

FLOOR COLLAPSES; 83 CASUALTIES

Valencia, Spain, Feb. 17.—Five persons were killed to-day, and 78 were injured, 28 seriously, by the collapse of a floor in a hall where lots were being drawn for conscription.

WEIRD LEAGUE OF SELF DESTRUCTION

NEURASTHENIA CLAIMS VICTIMS IN RUSSIA

Suicide Clubs Where Death is Found in Many Strange Ways.

London, Feb. 17.—The Daily Mail's St. Petersburg correspondent declares that neurasthenia is claiming an ever-increasing number of people in all sections of St. Petersburg society.

A number of people, tired of life, seek death by various methods. Persons of fashionable society journey to Finland and fling themselves into the romantic Imatra Rapids.

Strange clubs and societies are in existence. One of these is styled the "Tiger and Hunter." Two members draw lots and decide who will be the "tiger" and who the "hunter." A silver bell is hung around the "tiger's" neck and the "hunter" is given a loaded revolver. Both enter large rooms and the spectators take refuge in safe corners. The hunt begins. The "hunter's" eyes are bound. He is allowed six shots, guided by the sound of the bell. If he fails to hit the "tiger" the rules are reversed, and the "hunter" becomes the "tiger." This continues until blood flows.

Another society has "champagne evenings" where one among 20 bottles is drugged with morphine. Sometimes in a single night there are numerous secret suicides for which there is no plausible explanation, giving rise, says the Mail's correspondent, to the suspicion that the victims belong to the same league of self destruction.

DOCTOR'S FORTITUDE DURING OPERATION Refuses Ethical Objections

Appendix Removed—Wonderfully Rapid Recovery.

New York, Feb. 17.—Dr. Edward K. Robbins, a veterinary surgeon of Bayshore, Long Island, refused to take either when he had his appendix removed last week. He remained quiet throughout the operation and just four days after he drove five miles to his home. The following day he was attending to his practice. The case is believed to be without a parallel.

Dr. Robbins drove over to the sanatorium of Dr. Wm. H. Ross, at Brentwood, five miles from his own home. Dr. Ross and Dr. Haven prepared to operate and as the nurse approached the patient with the ether cone, he calmly waved her aside.

"There's nothing the matter with your heart, old man," Dr. Ross, who is an old friend, assured him. "I know it, but I'm going to cut the ether because I want to see the operation," said Dr. Robbins. "You may palp on a little cocaine if you wish."

This was done and the operation proceeded steadily without interruption from the patient, whose head was propped up so that he could see every move of the surgeons.

MURDER AND SUICIDE IN A TAXICAB

Telephone Inspector Kills Young Girl and Ends His Own Life.

Reading, Pa., Feb. 17.—While speeding along in a taxicab here early to-day Stella Rock Tassel, aged 18, was shot and killed, and her companion, Geo. E. Kraut, 20 years old, after directing the chauffeur to hurry to a hospital, turned the revolver that killed the girl, upon himself and sent a bullet into his own heart, dying almost instantly.

The couple engaged the taxicab in the business section of the town shortly before 2 o'clock this morning, and when the vicinity of the young woman's home was reached, the chauffeur, Levin Becker, was startled by the report of a shot inside the cab. A moment later, Becker declares, the man in the cab yelled to him excitedly to drive to the hospital, and just as he entered the Reading hospital grounds he said he heard a second shot inside the cab. Halting at the hospital door, the young woman was found dead in a heap on the seat of the cab with a bullet wound in her head. The hurried examination of the man showed that he, too, was dead, having shot himself through the heart.

Kraut was a phone inspector. The authorities believe it is a case of murder and suicide.

COCKFIGHTING AT BUFFALO. Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 17.—William Pembroke, whose place was raided recently on the occasion of a big cockfight yesterday pleaded guilty in the Supreme court to an indictment charging him with witnessing a cockfight and was fined \$500, which he paid.

ABORTIVE NATAL ACT IS FINALLY BURIED

Order in Council of Federal Government Disallowing Measure Prevents Attorney-General Bowser From Carrying Appeal Before Privy Council.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—A special issue of the Canada Gazette announces the passing of an order-in-council on Monday disallowing the Natal Act passed by the British Columbia legislature on February 11th, last. The disallowance of the act within a year of its receipt at Ottawa on the 18th of last February prevents the possibility of the British Columbia government taking an appeal to the Privy Council from the decision of the provincial courts, declaring the act ultra vires.

The federal government thought the surest way to prevent any chance of complications arising should the appeal be taken, although there was only the remotest possibility of its being sustained, would be to disallow

the act as in the two previous cases when the act was passed. Disallowance was permissible only within a year of the notification of its being passed, hence action had to be taken by the government before the 18th inst.

The government is satisfied that the question of Asiatic immigration as evidenced by the very small arrivals in the number of Japanese and Hindus during the past year is now settled, and is anxious to prevent any possibility of further action by the McBride government which is seeking to re-open the question for political purposes, regardless of all considerations of treaty or imperial obligations and the future welfare of the province in the matter of developing trade with the Orient.

OHIO CITY ISOLATED BY BIG SLEET STORM

Business at Standstill in Sandusky—Devastation in Season's Crop.

Sandusky, Ohio, Feb. 17.—This city has been beyond the reach of the outside world by wire since 6 o'clock on Sunday night, when the last telegraph line between here and Cleveland went down as a result of the heavy sleet storm. The systems of both telephone companies, local and long distance, are out of commission. There is no light at night except from lamps, candles, or gas jets. The gas supply is low. Miles of wires are lying in the streets and alleys throughout the city, and hundreds of poles are lying on the ground. If communication is re-established within a week those who have full knowledge of the situation say they will be satisfied. Business is at a standstill.

The storm was the worst in the history of the city. No estimate of the damage done can be made. Thousands of fruit trees have been ruined, and the effects of the devastation will be apparent in the coming season's crop. There is said to be absolutely no hope for peaches throughout the entire famous Lake Erie peach belt.

CHEMAINUS HOSPITAL IN GRATIFYING CONDITION

Reports for Past Year Were Very Satisfactory.

The tenth annual meeting of the Chemainus General Hospital Association was held in the Chemainus hall recently.

The report of Dr. H. B. Rogers, resident physician, showed that the total number of hospital days during 1908 amounted to 2,854, as compared to 3,758 in 1907, this very considerable decrease being accounted for by the fact that the logging camps of the Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co. and the Crofton smelter were closed down during the entire year, and that the hospital did the amount of work set forth by Dr. Rogers' report is a matter for surprise and is ample evidence of its growing popularity in the district.

Dr. Rogers reminded the board of the urgent need of a maternity ward and nurses' home, and it is the intention to make these additions just as soon as finances will permit.

In view of the decrease in hospital work during the past year, the report of the secretary was most gratifying, accounts in 1908 having been met and the large balance due on heating plant installed in 1907 having been wiped out.

On motion a vote of thanks was passed to his honor the lieutenant-governor for the supply of coal during the year; to the Women's Auxiliary, Mr. Lewis G. Hill and Dr. Frost, for their kind assistance in many ways; to the employees of the Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co. and the stevedores of Chemainus, who, after a period of six months, doubled their monthly subscriptions to the hospital. Had it not been for this timely assistance mentioned, there is little doubt but that the statement for 1908 would have shown a serious deficit.

LEGATION MURDER CASE. Herr Beckert to Be Tried Under the Laws of Chili.

Santiago, Chili, Feb. 17.—Herr Beckert, the former chancellor of the German legation here, who is charged with having killed an employee of the legation office, is to be tried under the laws of Chili. This announcement was made to the Chilean authorities to-day by Baron Von Vodman, the German minister who acted on orders received from his government. The fact that Beckert once belonged to the German legation is to be entirely ignored.

PRAIRIE TRAGEDY. Homesteader's Wife Frozen to Death While Bringing Home Provisions.

Lockwood, Sask., Feb. 17.—Mrs. Andrew Evandson, aged about 34, wife of a Swedish homesteader living about two and a half miles east of here, was frozen to death on Saturday night three miles east of the village.

The family, consisting of the deceased, her husband and five small children, the oldest of whom is only 8 years of age, in straitened circumstances. The husband had been working at the hotel here. Mrs. Evandson had purchased about fifty pounds of provisions for the house, left with them about six o'clock Saturday evening to walk against a cold wind, and evidently wandered from the road.

Following close by, attracted by the sound of the gun, the police, made the discovery of the body. It was much since the discovery.

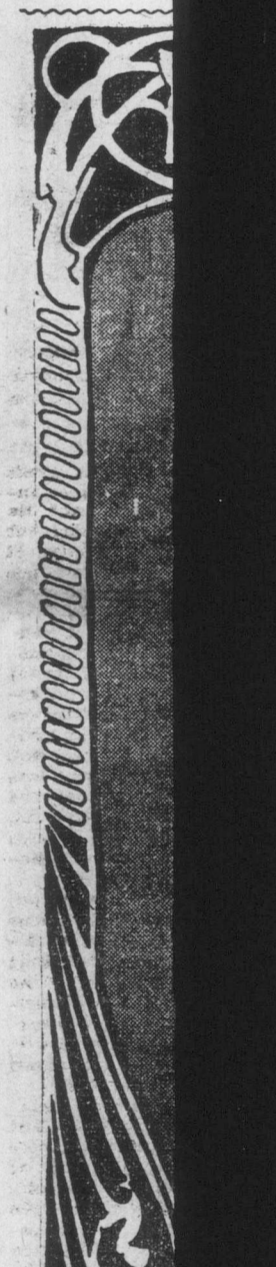
The House of Commons, at the suggestion of King Edward, has been authorized to introduce legislation for the purpose of King opened up to his recent visit to the Queen or the commutation of the sentence of the President, which the welcome with the emicable relations that mutual respect or peace."

Immediately upon the receipt of the character of Great Britain of the water-works with the "Satisfactory made," he said outstanding of States. A treat

Advertisement for DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS, featuring a picture of the product box and text: 'DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. RHEUMATISM. BRUISED BACK. GOUT. GRAVEL. NEURALGIA. MIGRAINE. HEADACHE. DIZZINESS. DEAFNESS. Tinnitus. The pills are in powder form. Sold only in packets.'

STATE AT W. KING EDWA. BRIT. Amicable A. Sons Allu. From

London, Feb. 17.—The usual day to-day for the ment by King accompanied to the Wales and other family. A day the fact that the appearance of their return from went last week William, was the the outpouring of the route to B gave the sovereign ceremony was out with an escort houses of parlia Another and assembled in the St. Stephens. You to see what the of the threats m and the women in democratic point were out deal with any of Within the ch the two houses had been invite ceremony exp reading of the whips had been of both houses



town a great m particularly of among whom a absence. Som as early as in secure seats, an midday with sh of members of way into the b Following clos ly attired yoon under the esco police, made th tion of the vaul a formality wh since the disco plot. The House of festies appeared and peccies; of Commons, d representatives of life of Lodon. King Edward throne cont life legislation fore is largely soo King opened u to his recent v it was much at the warmth to the Queen or the commu forded me gre of Great B ident that the welcome with the emicable relations that mutual respect or peace."