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Fifty thousand Dead and Injured in Quake That Shook Central Part of Italy

in Avezzano and Vicinity Alone the Dead Number More Than 15,000 -- Mountain Towns Suffer Most; Many Destroyed--Eighty Houses in Rome Demolished -- Heavy Snowfall Adds to Suffering

Rome, Jan. 14.—Late reports from the earthquake zone, while still fragmentary, indicate that here has been great loss of life and property. Estimates of the number killed ranged last night as high as 12,000, while the number of persons sustaining injuries was placed at about 20,000. Estimates made this morning, however, in the light of further information placed the number of killed and injured together at fully 50,000.

Pope Benedict is awaiting a report from Monsignor Stagni, Archbishop of Aquila, on the gravity of the situation and the probable loss of life. He has expressed a desire to go to the spot if his presence is necessary to encourage and comfort the distressed.

Rome, Jan. 14.—(1.15 p.m.)—Official reports from Avezzano declare that the dead in that city and in its vicinity number more than 15,000 persons.

HEART-RENDING SCENES TOLD OF Rome, Jan. 14.—The king left last night for Avezzano. Judging from the most recent reports, it appears that comparatively few people escaped from the city of Avezzano. Those who got away and were only lightly wounded insisted upon returning to search for relatives and friends. Many heart-rending scenes were witnessed. Survivors dug hastily into heaps of plaster and stone, often stained with blood. The gruesome search was only too often unsuccessful. In many instances survivors fainted as their dead were brought to light amid the ruins of their home. Then the heart broken searchers had to be cared for by the members of hastily organized relief committees.

At Scurolo, a woman who unearthed the body of her husband, called suddenly became insane. At Popoli a young husband returning from work rushed to his home and found his wife lying dead. He tore away the fallen masonry and entered what remained of his home only to find his wife lying dead with her head in her arms.

At Sora an old grandfather, the sole survivor of his family, insisted on forcing his way through the shattered walls of what once had been his home. Suddenly the walls collapsed and the old man was buried with the other members of his family.

London, Jan. 14.—The Express in a special issue at Avezzano, Italy, as a result of the earthquake at 15,000. The Express correspondent says that the shocks were felt with terrible force throughout the whole territory. He declares it is established that there was no loss of life in Rome although much ancient work was damaged.

Towns and Villages Destroyed The serious loss of life occurred outside of Rome," the correspondent continues, "especially in the mountain towns on the north of Naples. The towns destroyed include Bivona, Scurolo, Capelle, Magliano and Cappadocia. The shock was severe in Naples, and the damage is slight. The heaviest casualties undoubtedly occurred at Avezzano where 15,000 persons are reported buried in the ruins.

"Troops are being rushed to the affected districts. There is need for the quickest assistance. Owing to the fact that snow covers the country and blocks road communication over the entire wrecked section is exceedingly difficult.

"King Victor Emmanuel is to leave Rome at once for the afflicted district." Official Report A Daily News despatch from Rome gives the following official statement: "The district of Sulmona is badly damaged and the victims are numerous. Twenty persons were killed and many injured at Viliatage. Rescue work has been started at Popoli and Pectina, where many houses are damaged. The damage is extensive at Aquila and Isernia. Delli and seven other small towns in the province of Rome. The village of Sora has been razed to the ground. At Sora the barracks, St. Dominique's church, and many houses collapsed, while others threaten to fall. Loss of life is feared at Chieti, Teramo and other towns in Abruzzi."

Heavy Snowfall Adds to Suffering The railways in the stricken districts are well nigh useless, the Daily Mail correspondent says, as the bridges and tunnels were destroyed and the tracks broken and covered with debris. The highways are impassable owing to the heavy snowfall.

The officials in Rome make no effort to estimate the extent of the damage in the provinces. They are bending all their energies to hasten the work of relief. The loss of life in the vicinity of Rome is estimated by the Daily Mail's correspondent, is about 100. The latest tone despatch to the Times reports that eighty houses in Rome were destroyed. The despatch adds that telegrams from the province announce further damage and additions to the death toll, especially at Tivoli, where the populace is camping in the open in fear of further shocks. It is feared that serious damage has been done in the department of the Abruzzi.

The Standard's Rome correspondent asserts in a report that there were 600 victims at Avezzano says that in all probability this report is exaggerated but in any case the loss of life is appalling.

WIDOW OF DR. DILLON OF BOSTON BURNED TO DEATH New York, Jan. 14.—A London cable to the Tribune says that Mrs. Dillon, widow of Dr. Thomas Dillon, of Boston, who was one of the leaders of the Irish Nationalist movement in America, was burned to death yesterday, at her home, a County Kildare.

CITY ASSESSMENT OF \$300,000 NOW

Total Practically Complete And Increase of \$170,000 Indicated GRANTS HELD OVER

Charitable Organizations Not Complying With Council Order Requiring Statement of Expenditures—Mayor Says Time Will Come When City Must Face Larger Vote For Patriotic Fund —Holding Back \$25,000 Grant Just Now

A statement of practically the whole of the city assessment, this year was available at this morning's session of the common council indicating a total increase of about \$170,000 over last year. The total made up was \$861,889.88 and as the salaries in the department of finance and public affairs, some smaller grants and the expenses of assessing and collecting in some of the departments must be added to this it will be seen that the total will be far short of \$900,000. Last year the assessment provided for was \$727,604.62.

The items going to make up the 1915 assessment are: schools, total \$186,532.84; board of works, final total, \$171,181.80; city's share in county assessment, approximately, \$170,000; fire department, \$39,458.84; police, \$78,859.11; interest charges, approximately, \$86,600; light department, \$35,111.77; sewerage maintenance, \$15,000; five hydrants, \$10,000; ferry, \$10,640; fixed grants, \$8,000; total, \$861,889.88.

Some smaller matters were cleared up at this morning's session, including the usual grant of \$5,000 to the Public Library, \$4,000 to the Horticultural Association and \$250 to Riverview Memorial Park.

On motion of Commissioner McLellan the Riversview directors were granted an additional \$100 out of general revenue providing they submitted the statement of expenditures required of them. This statement was in the mayor's morning mail so that the extra grant is legal.

There was an animated discussion regarding the usual grants to charitable organizations. The mayor reported that the usual statements had not been sent in and he opposed making any grants until the conditions were complied with.

When the third contingent went away from the county and this was understood when the city made the small grant that Amberst would be Mayor Frink: "I have the floor now. You cannot talk all the time, Commissioner Potts."

The council rose at 12 o'clock to meet tomorrow at 10:30 o'clock.

WHEN WILL THE THIRD BE MOBILIZED, NOW IS MATTER OF INTEREST Much interest now centers in the mobilization of the third contingent from the maritime provinces but as yet no definite announcement has been made as to the points of muster. It was the opinion today that Amberst would be the selection for the mobilization of the mounted infantry and Woodstock for the battalion of foot-soldiers. As to when the active mobilization would be effected it was thought that this would depend largely on the matter of quarters for the troops, at any rate there has been no announcement as yet other than those contained in yesterday's Times.

NO MORE SEA BREEZES ON GOVERNOR CARLETON The hurricane deck on the Governor Carleton is to disappear. Commissioner Russell was given authority this morning to close the second deck and bring the pilot house down. This was intended to save one's wages and to protect the machinery and equipment now exposed to the weather. The upper deck, the commissioner said, had been on real advantage. The work could be done by men of the department while the boat was laid up so that little extra expense would be involved.

Dr. Mawson, Explorer, in New York With Grim Tale of The Hardships In Antarctic--Temptation to Cannibalism

New York, Jan. 14.—After Dr. Mertz died, I debated with myself for two days, whether to eat him or bury him. I finally buried him. "When I took off my boots the soles of my feet came off with them. There was nothing to do but bandage the pieces back on and proceed in agony toward my base. "For thirty-nine days I lived on the meat of single dog, and during eight of those days, another man had been living on that same dog. For thirty days I was alone in ice. I had no soles on my feet, and my hair all fell out, but finally I got back to my base."

On the trip out, of a narrative told yesterday by Sir Douglas Mawson, Australian, who arrived on the Cuanider Orduna, and purposes to lecture before the American geographical society on his explorations in the Antarctic in 1912-13. The expedition discovered, according to Sir Douglas, "the place where storms are spawned." He says Amieland is the breeding place of the South American hurricanes. The wind there blows fifty miles an hour on an average. While during the trip he and his companions registered it as high as 220 miles an hour on their wind gauges. The mean temperature is about five degrees above zero, but the mercury rarely sinks past forty-seven degrees below zero. They discovered that by wireless they could notify the Australian coast at least forty-eight hours before the arrival of a hurricane there.

HISTORY MADE IN THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE Resolution on the Ontario School Question Passed With Only One Dissenting Quebec, Jan. 14.—History was made in the Quebec legislature yesterday when a motion by W. S. Buller, on the Ontario school question was passed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Finlay, of Montreal, is as follows: "That this house, without derogating from the principals of provincial autonomy, and without any intention of advising or interfering with any of the provinces of the confederation in any manner whatsoever, views with regret the divisions which seem to exist among the people of the Province of Ontario over the bi-lingual school question, and believes that it is the interests of the dominion at large that all such questions should be considered in broad, generous and patriotic lines, always remembering that one of the cardinal principles of British liberty throughout the empire is regard for the rights and privileges of minorities."

There was only one dissenting vote, that of C. E. Gault, Conservative member for St. George's division, Montreal, who, while approving the moderate tone of the motion, thought that it was a mistake to bring it up in the house, and that it might be misconstrued in Ontario.

THE FUNDS C. B. Allan, treasurer of the Patriotic Fund, acknowledged the following: G. A. Harding, Manawagosh Road, \$10; River Louison, N. B., per Miss Margaret Miller, \$17.60; Can. Oils Co. for January, \$24; F. R. Fairweather, \$25; generous contribution of \$200 from the town of St. George, per J. C. O'Brien, clerk, was received this morning by the fund. For the Belgian Relief Committee other donations were—Miss Gertrude Williams, city, \$2; Miss Parker, \$1; Mr. Dolan, \$20; Mr. Gault, \$20; Mr. Steeves, Steeves Settlement, \$5; concert by village choir, Dawson, N. B., per J. F. Dawson, \$29; collect at Harcourt by A. D. Atkinson, \$420; contributors as follows: A. D. Atkinson, George Warren, Jr., Angus Warren, Ralph C. Hutchison, Elsie Warren, Charles E. Warren, William Livingston, Mrs. William Livingston, Silas Smallwood, William Warren.

BURIED TODAY The funeral of Mrs. David Lynch took place this morning from her late residence, 270 Chesley street, to St. Peter's church, where requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. Simon Grogan, C. S. R. Interment took place in the new Catholic cemetery. Relatives acted as pall-bearers. The large number of magnificent floral tributes received gave testimony of the esteem in which Mrs. Lynch was held.

The funeral of Robert Carson took place this afternoon from his son's residence, 607 Main street, Rev. J. J. McCaskill officiated at burial services, after which interment took place in Cedar Hill. Members of the family acted as pall-bearers.

The funeral of Miss Laura C. Peters took place this afternoon from her late residence, City Line, West End. Burial services were conducted by Rev. G. F. Scovill and interment took place in Fernhill.

OFFICERS INSTALLED Victoria True Blue Lodge, No. 98, at their meeting in their hall, Charlotte street, last evening, elected Miss Josephine Woodland, W. M.; Mrs. C. W. Morrell, D. M.; Mrs. E. Stroker, chaplain; Mrs. H. W. Browne, recording secretary; Miss May Ritchie, financial secretary; Eldon Fulton, treasurer; Mrs. D. Cummings, director of ceremonies; R. Stackhouse, conductor; Mrs. John Woodland, Miss Hattie Ritchie, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. D. Hipwell and R. R. Goodrich, first comm.; Mrs. Rohm, inside guard; Mrs. Johnson, outside guard. The officers were installed by district organizer, D. H. Hipwell and R. F. Goodrich. Refreshments were then served.

IMPROVE BUILDING With a re-organization of the police force will come some improvements to the police building. Commissioner McLellan yesterday stated that a new floor would be laid in the guard room and new stairways would be put in this year.

Money for Missions. New York, Jan. 14.—The total income of the American foreign mission board for 1914, was \$17,168,611, according to statistics at the annual meeting of the board today.

CONSIDER BILLS A meeting of the bills and by-law committee of the municipal council is being held in the provincial government rooms this afternoon for consideration of the bills going to the legislature.

HALF MILLION BRITISH ON WAY TO FRANCE TO TAKE PLACES ON FIRING LINE

French and Germans Both Reinforced and Fighting is Very Severe--Kaiser's Forces Said to Have Left Buzza in Poland With Quarter Million Men Lost

Paris, Jan. 14.—Both the French and the Germans have been reinforced on the Noyon-Soissons-Berry-Au-Bac line in front of Laon and the fighting around Crotoy, Coiffes and Hill No. 132 is very severe, with alternate bayonet charges and artillery bombardments.

Five hundred thousand more British troops are reported to be on their way to France from England to strengthen the allies' line at points where other support may be deemed necessary.

President of Salvador. —San Salvador, Jan. 14.—Don Carlos Melendez is the new president of the Republic of Salvador. Alfonso Quiros is vice-president. There was virtually no opposition.

GERMAN LOSS ENORMOUS London, Jan. 14.—The Times' correspondent telegraphs from Petrograd: "It is said the General Staff has attached serious importance to reports of the German withdrawal from Buzza, nor would this be surprising. The Buzza fighting already has cost the Germans more than a quarter of a million men. To take the Russian lines would probably cost as much again, if not more."

"Then there would still remain the famous Blonnie lines, which, according to the unanimous opinion of experts, would involve a sacrifice of at least 400,000 men, without the certainty of their capture."

FEAR ANOTHER BRITISH RAID Amsterdam, Jan. 14.—That Germany fears raids by British aviators similar to that which recently caused severe damage at Cuxhaven, is indicated by a decree issued at Berlin placing Hamburg and other cities under martial law. Lights in all the cities are dimmed at night.

GERMAN EXCUSE FOR BOMBARDING RHEIMS Berlin, Jan. 14.—French batteries have again been placed in Rheims to shell the German positions, and this has compelled the German artillery to bombard the famous French city again.

A was office statement said that Rheims was being shelled with the utmost energy, 180 shells have been thrown into the city on Wednesday, but that efforts were being made to spare the cathedral.

Floods in Alsace. Bern, via Paris, Jan. 14.—From Alsace it is reported that several sections along the front have been inundated, that the rivers have run over their banks in consequence of heavy rains, and that wide fields have been transformed into lakes. There are several feet of water in the German trenches, and the soldiers have constructed, by means of planks, roofs over the whole length for protection. The operations have been considerably hindered by the unfavorable weather in Upper Alsace.

Switzerland's Sacrifices. London, Jan. 14.—Dr. Guiseppe Motta, president of Switzerland, in an interview Wednesday, said that neutrality was costing Switzerland enormous sacrifices in money and trade. That the budget deficit in money and trade for the last current year, was in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000. He hoped the belligerent nations would recognize the sacrifices which Switzerland was making.

He said emphatically that public opinion in Switzerland was absolutely unimpaired, and that despite any racial feeling, the public had awakened to the necessity of national feeling remaining neutral.

LINER AND CRUISER WERE IN COLLISION New York, Jan. 14.—The Atlantic transport liner, Montrose, which arrived here today from London and Plymouth, was in collision off Beachy Head, on December 24 with the British patrol cruiser Cleopatra. One man aboard the cruiser was thrown overboard by the impact and drowned.

HELD THE BRIDGE AS DID HORATIUS

Brave Defence Against Turks by Persians—All But Four Killed Petrograd, Jan. 14.—The Times' correspondent of the Bourne Gazette, sends a statement made to him by Schodja Ed Daouleh, the former governor of the province of Azerbaijan, Persia, one of four survivors of a guard of 400 horsemen, who defended the bridge at the entrance to Miandoob, "The Gateway of Persia."

He fought the Turks for ten hours, enabling refugees to escape to Maragha, fifty miles south of Tabriz. He says that all Christians who remained in Miandoob were massacred. "When I heard that the Turks were advancing," he said, "I posted 1,000 troops in one of the Miandoob forts and 1,500 in another. I myself with 400 relatives and friends, fought a battle at the bridge until all but four were killed by the Turks' quick fire. I then went on horseback from Tabriz to Jalfa. All the members of the consulates and banks escaped from Tabriz."

SUGGESTS THAT EACH PROVINCE OF CANADA GIVE MOTOR AMBULANCE Montreal, Jan. 14.—A Gazette cable from London says that the need of more motor ambulances in Northern France is urged by Leo Scheff of Ottawa, who has just returned from the front. He would like the Canadian provinces to contribute one each, as he deems that these ambulances are needed much more than the articles of clothing and other things supplied by the government. He thinks the demand for ambulances will increase with the heavy fighting now going on in Alsace.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS WANT DEFENCE CONFERENCE Montreal, Jan. 14.—A Gazette cable from London says that, although it is recognized that a defence conference will be impracticable this year, the suggestion is being made from two overseas dominions that a defence conference might be held in London. In this regard, the Hon. G. F. Peaves, minister of defence for the Commonwealth of Australia, favors this, while Samuel Evans, a South African politician, thinks that the dominions are entitled to a voice in determining the settlement following the conclusion of the war. In this regard, supported by the South African press. So far as Canada is concerned, Sir George Bleyer informs the Montreal Gazette that no demand for an imperial conference has been made, although the dominion's desire for representation in the empire's councils of peace and war is being constantly urged.

PROSPECTIVE CHIEF OF POLICE HERE TOMORROW Commissioner McLellan said this morning that he expected the outside man he had in view for the position of chief of police would arrive in the city tomorrow for consultation.

They Scheme to Make Friction Between United States and Great Britain New York, Jan. 14.—A Herald cable from London says: "The charge is made, and evidently believed in diplomatic circles here, that there is a scheme afoot, backed by Germany, to make a test case of the Dacia, in the hope that it will facilitate the sale of more important German steamships, and incidentally cause friction between the United States and Great Britain. The British cabinet is understood to be considering what action will be taken with regard to the vessel recently purchased by Edward N. Breitling, of Michigan, from the Hamburg American line, and transferred to American registry."

The Dacia is to start from Galveston today for Bremen, with a cargo of cotton. The price paid for her is understood to be so small that the sale of the cotton cargo practically will reimburse the purchaser if she reaches port. The charge is openly made in London, that the entire transaction has been simply a "wash sale" to try out the attitude of Great Britain. The German proposal, if it is added, is to see if the Dacia is seized on the high seas and then launch an indignation cry throughout the American press, stating that an American owned ship flying the American flag, has been interfered with. This campaign, according to the report current here, will have behind it hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars of German money. Every effort will be strained to cause the United States government to come to the defence of the ship.

The Herald relates that the United States government is being made acquainted with the details of the alleged scheme. Washington, Jan. 14.—Negotiations were instituted by the United States yesterday in hope to induce the British government not to challenge the recent sale of the Hamburg-American steamer Dacia to an American capitalist. It is now proposed that the Dacia shall sail for Rotterdam, America, instead of to the German port.

WEATHER BULLETIN Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

MARITIME WEATHER BULLETIN Synopsis—The Atlantic coast storm has passed seaward, and the weather is now fair throughout the dominion. The temperature is somewhat lower than it was yesterday in the western provinces and maritime provinces and higher in Ontario.

A Little Milder. Maritime—Decreasing northerly winds fair and cold Friday, moderate variable winds fair and a little milder. New England forecasts—Fair tonight and Friday; slightly warmer tonight, moderate east to southeast winds.