

MOST APPALLING DISASTER IN HISTORY OF MODERN TIMES

The Dead in the Italian Earthquake Calamity Will Exceed One Hundred Thousand.

THE CITIES OF MESSINA AND REGGIO GREATEST SUFFERERS

Scenes Following Earthquake and Overwhelming Tidal Wave Are Beyond Power of Description

Though Details Are Still Lacking the Destruction of Cities in Southern Italy and Sicily is Apparently Complete—Eye Witnesses Tell of the Heart-Rending Scenes Succeeding the Rending of the Earth, the Rush of the 90 Foot Tidal Wave and the Breaking Out of Destructive Fires in Every Part of the City of Messina—The World Will Send Relief to Sufferers.

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE CASUALTIES. Table with columns: Cities, Population, Loss of Life.

Messina came in the form of a despatch which a torpedo boat, flying at full speed along the coast of the peninsula, carried from point to point always finding the wires down until it reached Nicotera, where the telegraph wires were intact. From that point the despatch was sent. It briefly stated that the situation was desperate and after summarizing the immense damage to the coast, ended with the announcement that Captain Pasquino, commander of the local station of torpedo boats, was buried under the debris, after having, with other officers, performed heroic work in trying to save others.

Messina suffered probably more than any other place. The full extent of the damage is not yet known. It is estimated that two-thirds of the town was destroyed and several thousand persons killed.

At Catania, the panic-stricken people, fearing a shock, refused to re-enter their houses and are camping out in squares which are free from water and in the surrounding country. The tidal wave sank 500 boats. Not only did Catania suffer from a tidal wave, but she was hit by a big body of water, flooding the harbor, Messina, which sank the harbor, covering them with a thick layer of mud, which rendered difficult the removal of the wounded, many of which could be seen lying under the wreckage.

Two Villages Disappear. Catania, Sicily, Dec. 28.—Mount Atna is showing increased activity. The detonations being plainly heard in Sicily. The effects of the earthquake were aggravated by fire through an explosion, the flames, which swept along the tops of the streets, adding terror upon terror.

In Calabria, the region around Montecorice, the earthquake was the worst. The village of St. Giovanni, the inhabitants of which number 2,300, was practically destroyed. Only five persons were killed but many were injured. Monsignor Morano, the Bishop of Mileto, who distinguished himself in the earthquake of 1905, did valiant work again today.

The quake was heaviest in the same region as the disaster of 1905. The shocks of September, 1905, in the province of Catanzaro, Cosenza and Reggio di Calabria. The most serious damage is in Catanzaro. Heavy damage is reported from San Ivo, Licotera, Cerada, Centrache, Olivadi, Pomerano and Trope, but no casualties have been reported from these points. Several persons were injured at San Nofrio, and heavy casualties are reported from Mileto and Gomadi. San Giorgio and Majorata also suffered. The latest report said that the dead and sixty wounded persons have been removed from the ruins of Stefanon. Sixty persons are said to have been injured at San Nofrio, and the population is camping out in the open air.

The telegraphic communication is completely shut off with Pizzo, on the Gulf of Santa Eufemia, a town of nearly 10,000, which was wrecked by the earthquake of 1905, and it is feared that the damage there is very large. Reports from villages not far from Pizzo are to the effect that there was considerable loss of life there and that the old Pizzo castle, a spot of great historical interest as the scene of the execution of Marat, was destroyed. The castle has for a long time been little more than a ruin, however.

At Agosta, two churches and several houses were demolished but no lives were lost. The prisoners in the jail made their escape and dashed for liberty through the praying crowds in the streets. The troops were called out and quiet was restored.

Sicilian Towns Suffer. Several Sicilian towns suffered severely from the earthquake. The walls of the public building at Callanissetta and Mineo were cracked and many buildings tumbled down. The inhabitants fled into the open country directly after the shock.

THE CATASTROPHE IN ITALY.

The catastrophe which has befallen the southern portion of Italy and the neighboring Island of Sicily is by no means that of a new type. It is the only one that has visited that region though details may prove it to be the most awful in consequences. Both the island and adjoining mainland are mountainous, Mount Etna, one of the oldest and most famous volcanoes in the world, standing near the eastern shore of the island.

In all some seventy-eight eruptions of this volcano are recorded, several of extreme violence, but many of harmless character. According to an authority upon its great similarity between the eruptions and the accompanying circumstances, the earthquakes quakes press the outburst; loud explosions are heard; rifts open in the side of the mountain; smoke, sand, ashes and scoriae are discharged; the action localizes itself in one or more places; cinders are thrown out, and accounts are given of the eruption in a general form; ultimately lava rises through the new cone, frequently breaking down one side of it where there is least resistance, and flows over the surrounding country. Then the eruption is at an end.

While details are not available, owing to the disruption of telegraphic and cable service, the earlier despatches which reported the earthquake also stated that the volcano was in violent eruption. When the details are at hand, therefore, it may be advanced that the eruption was a large share, if not the larger share, of the consequences.

The volcano is a conical mountain something over 10,000 feet in height, the crater being of tremendous proportions. On the lower reaches of the mountain, the soil being of decomposed lava is extremely fertile and vineyards flourish over a large portion of it. Two cities and sixty-three towns and villages are scattered over the slopes and around the base, it being estimated that not less than 1,000,000 people have in their possession. From this "tremendous possibility of destruction" the destruction of life are apparent.

JAPAN IS AT PEACE WITH WHOLE WORLD

The Year Closes With the Happiest Circumstances Possible for Nations. The Extension of Entente Cordiale Principle.

Tokio, Dec. 31.—Under the heading "Looking Backwards," the Kokumin Shimbun editorially remarks that the year 1908 was a year of peace and prosperity for Japan, the country enjoying the most cordial relations with the other states, the sale of liquor being prohibited, the extension of the principle of the entente cordiale principle as a result of the salary reforms of the Japanese government.

In the international chapter of the foreign affairs, says the paper, "America occupies a conspicuous position in the desire of America to adhere to the policy of peace, while the partial rivalry of its consular jurisdiction in Korea taken in connection with the trade-marks treaty, furnished additional proof that the United States recognized the principle of the entente cordiale principle.

In conclusion, the editorial asserts that the work of internationalization will be more effective than years of effort on the part of the statesmen and diplomats in dispelling popular mistrust and apprehension and that the agreement between the two countries coming on the heels of the visit will further consolidate Japan's position.

- \*\*\*\*\* MAY REACH 100,000. \*\*\*\*\* MESSINA, Dec. 31, Noon.—Telegraphic and cable communication was established from this city today. The appalling details are now held that one hundred and fifteen thousand persons perished in Reggio and Messina alone, without attempting to estimate the dead in the numberless villages and small towns destroyed, and those who perished by ships. Hundreds are dying of thirst and hunger and exposure. M. Bertolini, minister of lead the work of rescue. \*\*\*\*\* Rome, Dec. 31.—In many of the larger sized Sicilian and Calabrian towns, the earthquake to flow through the broken mains and explosions are frequent. These deaths have been added to the authentic government list. \*\*\*\*\* Santa Eufemia ..... 15,000 \*\*\*\*\* Sminara ..... 4,000 \*\*\*\*\* Palmi ..... 4,025 \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

THE LEGISLATURE CONVENES JAN. 14

Fourth and Final Session of First Legislature is Called by the Lieut.-Governor.

The fourth session of the first legislature of the Province of Alberta will be convened by His Honor Lieut. Gov. Bulyea, on Thursday, January 14. This will be the final session of the present legislature. The date of the general elections next year has not been announced.

The members of the present legislature are as follows:—Ministerialists—Hon. A. C. Rutherford, Strathcona; Hon. C. W. Gross, Edmonton City; Hon. W. T. Finlay, Medicine Hat; Charles W. Fisher, Banff; J. R. Boyle, Sturgeon; F. A. Walker, Fort Saskatchewan; John T. Moore, Red Deer; J. P. Marcellus, Pincher Creek; Eustachius Bedin, Athabasca; John W. Wolf, Cardston; M. McKenzie, Macleod; E. H. Riley, Gleichen; T. A. Brick, Peace River; H. W. McKinney, St. Albert; A. S. Rosenroff, Wetaskiwin; W. P. Puffer, Lacombe; J. R. McLeod, Ponoka; J. A. McPherson, Stony Plain; B. Holden, Vermilion; John A. Simpson, Innisfail; R. T. Telford, Leduc.

Two of the important questions to be discussed before the next session of the legislative assembly will be the government's railway policy and the distribution of the province. The railway policy will have the effect of materially increasing the number of members. The Saskatchewan redistribution is the representation from 25 to 41 members.

Last Session's Legislation. The forthcoming opening legislature will have a number of bills of general legislation which was enacted at the last session of the House. In the first place, the act in relation to the workmen's compensation set has met with general commendation. It is a step in the right direction in Great Britain and provides that working men undergoing injuries in their work shall be compensated by employers. On the first of January, when the act comes into force, the act will be in force in the province.

The Industrial School act provides a reformatory for juvenile law breakers instead of a prison with contaminating influences. The farming interests of the province were considered in the government guaranteeing the large expenditure necessary for the procuring of good grain. The bill will place at the disposal of the government the proceeds of the sale of the land.

PROHIBITION IN ARKANSAS. Three-Fourths of Country Now Described as Being Dry.

Washington, D.C., Dec. 23.—A wave of prohibition swept with such remarkable effect over the south, and sentiments so crystallized against the saloon and its kindred evils, that the dawn of prohibition, the voters will soon be called upon to vote upon a constitutional amendment for state prohibition. In Arkansas, two-thirds of its area, or 75 counties, are "dry" through local option, and like some of the other states, the sale of liquor is principally confined to the cities. The results of prohibition are generally gleaned from reports indicating a great decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness, an increase in the bank deposits of laborers, fewer cases of wife abandonment and a decrease in criminality generally. The difficulty of enforcing the prohibition laws, however, is considered to be one of the chief obstacles to its success in many states, and this phase of the question together with a falling off in revenues, is to some extent baffling to the authorities.

SILVER CAUSES BAD BUSINESS.

Washington, Dec. 23.—That business conditions in the Orient have been in the price of silver and that the fluctuations rather than the mere depression of the market has caused this commercial difficulty, is shown by a large number of special consular reports received by the national monetary commission. These reports indicate that in Japan, where the gold standard is the basis of exchange, there has been no unsettling condition from that cause, but in China, where the preliminary standard, dealings with gold standard countries have been injured by changes in the price of silver, which make the profit of a transaction largely dependent upon the trend exchange. The prevailing statement of the reports and prices are largely regulated by rates of exchange. These special consular reports were collected by the state department at the request of Senator Lodge.

CHILDREN CONTRACT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

Rochester, N.Y., Dec. 28.—Ten cases of what is supposed to be the foot and mouth disease have developed in the children of five families in the town of Clarkson, Monroe county, has died. The child that died had symptoms that resembled cerebral meningitis. The town health officer has sent a report of the suspected spread of the disease among the children to Commissioner Porter, of the state department of health.

INTERNAL ELEVATOR CONFERENCE.

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—Premier Scott and Hon P. A. Calder, of Saskatchewan, are conferring this morning with Premier Roblin, here, regarding another convention on provincial creation of internal elevators.

SUFFERED FIRST DEATH.

Manila, Dec. 28.—The All-American baseball team which is making a tour of the Orient, and which was defeated yesterday by Lieut. Johnson's picked army team by a score of 4 to 3. This is the only defeat of the All-Americans during the entire tour.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

Preliminary Report of Committee Appointed to Consider Subject.

New York, Dec. 28.—The preliminary report of the committee of ten prominent business men and educators appointed by the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education, to consider the relation of industrial education to the general system of education of the country, has been made public.

The report, which was presented at the annual convention recently held at Atlanta, Ga., recommends the establishment of an industrial improvement school and a national department with a secretary of education in the cabinet. On the question of the desirability of trade schools, the report says: "All who are acquainted with education in European nations, know that in the matter of industrial training we are far behind such countries as Germany; that our present system, even if materially extended, can offer industrial education to only a comparatively few; that there are practically no facilities for that training of youth between the ages of fourteen and eighteen for industrial purposes and the opportunities for those who are in the trades to improve their skill by theoretical training is confined to occasional schools."

The vast majority of children leave school with the end of the grammar school period. Any vocation at school which has to serve this great group of citizens must articulate at some point with the public school system of the country, preferably with the grammar schools.

Such schools as may articulate with the grammar school for the training of youth will most likely assume the form of the training schools and will seek to serve the needs of a local industry. The boy or girl trained in industry will not be a skilled journeyman in any trade, but will have received a fundamental training in those things which will make him a skilled journeyman in a short time, and will at the same time prompt him to a higher form of vocational efficiency than he is likely to have had otherwise. In this respect the industrial training school for youth is likely to have much the same relation to the preparation of a skilled journeyman as the high grade engineering school has to the preparation of a practical engineer.

It is estimated in various parts of the United States, classes of students are to be welcomed as experiments in the general problem which we are seeking to solve.

WAS REFORM WAVE.

Lid Shut Down on Gambling and Drinking on Sunday at the Falls. Niagara Falls, N.Y., Dec. 28.—This city, which had become famous for the liberality of its enforcement of the excise and anti-gambling laws, is experiencing a reform wave. Acting under orders issued by Mayor Douglas, the police yesterday rigidly enforced the Sunday closing law against saloons, theatres and other places of amusement, and this was probably the duldest and driest day in the history of the Falls. Only one saloon was found open, and it was promptly raided, fourteen arrests being made.

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ENDORSES THE RAILWAY POLICY

Leader of Opposition Favors Guaranteeing of Bonds to Secure Railway Extension.

A. J. Robertson, M.P.P., for High River, leader of the Opposition in the Alberta legislature, came up from the south Monday to attend a meeting of the executive of the Conservative Association of the Province of Alberta, and is staying at the Hotel Cecil. D. Herbert, of Didsbury, the other member of the provincial opposition, arrived in the city in afternoon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss matters relative to the Conservative party in the province. Mr. Robertson remained in the city a couple of days conferring with the leaders of the Conservative party in Edmonton regarding the stand to be taken by the opposition on various questions to be brought before the legislature at the forthcoming session.

When seen by a Bulletin representative, Mr. Robertson was very reticent regarding the stand he will take on the various questions at issue in the province at present, stating that he had not given these matters his careful consideration as yet. He said he had no important legislation in mind that he would introduce at the next session of the legislature.

ENDORSES RAILWAY POLICY.

Mr. Robertson emphatically endorsed this announcement made by Premier Rutherford recently, regarding the policy of railway extension in Alberta, remarking that any man in Alberta who was opposed to railway extension would be thrown into the sea. He thought more railways were badly needed and expressed the opinion that no company would undertake



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During stock-taking we are clearing out all short-ends and remnants from our Dry Goods department. Hundreds of remnants are piled on our bargain counters marked at very greatly reduced prices. This remnant sale offers you a splendid money saving opportunity. Do not miss. For ten days only.

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