

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 1909
SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 81 QUEEN STREET,
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
JAMES MCISAAC,
Editor & Proprietor.

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Please remember that we esteem a prompt remittance as a great favor.

Captain Joseph Read is out with another epistle to the press which purports to be a reply to Mr. Delaney's letter. It is a reply with a vengeance. It does not meet any of the arguments put forth by Mr. Delaney or deal with the merits of the case. It is simply a tirade of abuse and personalities from beginning to end.

President Roosevelt has invited the authorities at Ottawa to participate in a conference to be held in Washington on February 18th, to consider the question of forest conservation as it affects the North American continent. Representatives from Mexico have also been invited. It is understood that his Excellency, the Governor General of Canada, and the Prime Minister of Canada have accepted the invitation.

The figures in our Ottawa letter, showing the votes polled by the Conservatives and Liberals respectively in the late Dominion election are very interesting. Even in their unrevised state, they show that the Conservatives polled about 48 per cent of the popular vote of the country. A change of about one and a half per cent of the total would have given the Conservatives a majority.

Judge Cassels has closed his inquiry and will likely report to the present session of Parliament. Hampered and restricted as it was, it resulted in many ugly exposures of official crookedness. But this inquiry has only grazed the surface of the wrongdoing. A thorough investigation would unearth a multiplicity of scandals, not only in the Marine department, but in other departments of the Government service.

Henry Palmer a rather hardened criminal of this city, now under arrest, is to be brought up for trial tomorrow. He has lately returned from Dorchester Penitentiary and his arrest now was for vagrancy, ostensibly at least. At the time of the murder of Harriet Warren in this city, in October 1904, Palmer was arrested on suspicion, and afterwards released for lack of evidence. Since then he has served two years in the penitentiary, and it is said that while there he made a confession to another man in the penitentiary at the time, to the effect that he was connected with the murder. All this remains to be proven.

A good deal has, of late, been said in the newspapers, particularly Government organs, about the Intercolonial Railway. Hints and suggestions have been thrown out as to prospective changes in

the management. The latest disclosures indicate a scheme on the part of the Government to place the road under control of a private company composed of its grafter friends. The Intercolonial, the people's road, has been exploited to win electoral support for the men in office, and now it seems liable to pass into the hands of the grafter element of the party in power.

Thursday last was the latest date for filing petitions in connection with the recent Provincial election, and Prince County was the last county to be heard from. On that day the Western County contributed its quota to the petition war. Mr. John Agnew, Liberal member elect for the first district of Prince, was petitioned against, and his election is asked to be set aside on the ground of corrupt practices. On the same day, John M. Clark, defeated Liberal candidate for Councilor for Summerside, filed a petition against the return of Edward Wyatt, his successful opponent. The petition demands a scrutiny of votes and claims the seat; or, failing that, it asks that the election be declared void on the ground of corrupt practices.

The Earthquake Disaster.

Rome, Dec. 30.—The immensity of the disaster in Southern Italy and Sicily can only be measured by the fact that it is now estimated that 110,000 people perished in Messina and Reggio alone. A score of other towns have been devastated and thousands of victims in these places must be added to the roll. In the face of this awful total all Italy stands appalled. Nor has the death list yet been reached. Shiploads of fugitives have arrived at Naples and other ports and the vast majority of these are sorely injured. Other thousands remain near the ruins of their homes or wander half starving, half naked, over the land. The forces that, on Monday overwhelmed cities, also destroyed the means of subsistence. Telegraphic communication has been established with Messina, the apparatus having been installed in a railway van. Messages which have come over the wire, though they have been meager in detail, show that their hope is gone. Nothing remains of the city but a mass of ruins that have been swept by fire.

A mere handful of survivors are being cared for by the rescuing forces but their distress is great and it has been increased by the violent, icy wind which followed the deluge of rain. Destruction is everywhere and appalling. There is little food and less water. Of Messina's 90,000 population it is believed that fully 70,000 perished. Forty thousand people died in Reggio.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Estimates of the death toll of the earthquake now cease to count the victims, rescue vessels to the number of 36 are now centred in the Strait of Messina and 6,400 soldiers are being landed on the two coasts.

Most important of all now is the question of the living. Thousands of those who escaped the falling walls and the sweep of the tide are starving and without clothes or shelter. They can scarcely long survive their sufferings. The first thought has been to carry food and covering to these helpless people and it has been decided by the government to send a fleet of emigrant steamers to transport them to other places. The latest reports received at Rome say that there have been many intermittent shocks after the first, to which the greater part of the destruction is attributed. The British warship, Minerva, reported by wireless to Malta that two severe shocks occurred at Messina last night. Professor Riccio director of the observatory at Mont Aena, states that his instruments have recorded 42 distinct shocks after the first but during the last thirteen hours they have been almost motionless. Astina and Stromboli are now quiet, and he is certain that the earthquake was not of volcanic but geologic origin, similar to that of 1784. Lloyd C. Gricom, the American ambassador, will leave here tomorrow and will proceed to Messina and other places in the south on an Italian warship in search of information concerning missing American travelers. It has been found impossible to obtain tidings of the hundreds of foreigners, supposed to have been in the zone, about whom inquiries have been made by the government and the various embassies. The horror of the situation at Messina and Reggio grows with every fresh dispatch. One of the correspondents places the death toll throughout the entire territory as high as 300,000, but this appears to be extreme. Others make their outside estimate 200,000, but the official estimate as made by the Minister of Marine still holds at 115,000.

Relief expeditions which have been making their way to Reggio have encountered tremendous obstructions all along the route. They report eighteen provincial villages besides those already mentioned in Calabria as having been completely ruined. This would indicate that the earthquake's havoc was not confined to the coast. What has become of the inhabitants of these villages is not known. Those that were left alive after the destruction of their homes doubtless joined the great army of refugees safety or have fallen by the wayside. The Calabrian coast for thirty miles has been torn and twisted. From Baguara to Reggio, a distance of twenty-five miles, is half demolished. Assistances has reached but few of these places and they are practically without supplies of any kind. At Baguara emergency operations are being performed with pruning knives, but at Reggio even that is impossible. Bands of thieves infest the country and the despair of the unaided villages is complete. Hunger supplies the motive force of shocking violence. Robbers, looters and robbers defy the few surviving policemen and soldiers.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The United States supply ship Celtic, which was to have met the returning battle-ship fleet with holiday cheer, sailed out of New York harbor this afternoon on an entirely different mission, but without changing a word of her cargo. She will go to Messina after a brief stop at Gibraltar, with a million and a half of navy rations for the earthquake sufferers.

Monteleone, Dec. 31.—Each tale would seem to surpass the other in horror and misery, but the experience of a band of refugees from Messina and Reggio who made their way on foot into Palmi is distressing beyond words. The Messina refugees succeeded in getting away from the Sicilian coast in sailboats. After a frightful experience in crossing the strait they landed on the Calabria coast. Here they were met by the haggard refugees from Reggio and the various groups of unfortunates joined forces. Together they painfully climbed the hills. At a certain point they all turned to give a last look at the burning cities. They stood on the mountain-side, plunged in despair. A young priest who had escaped from Reggio advanced toward the group, in all some 2,000 persons, and blessed them. Then turning in the direction of Reggio he solemnly called down the blessing of God upon the desolated city. "Peace to the dying," he cried, "peace to the dead." Men, women and children knelt to the ground and raised their hands to heaven, praying for the deliverance of the multitude. The band then took up its broken and toilsome march to Palmi where the refugees arrived ten hours in a torrid of rain. Two thousand had set out in the beginning, but only 500 ragged and unshod wanderers reached their destination. The others had succumbed on the awful journey and had fallen powerless by the wayside.

Rome, Dec. 31.—The commander of the Russian cruiser Admiral Makarov, which arrived at Naples yesterday with refugees from Messina, has given the following account of the disaster: "Hearing at Agosta, Sicily, of the disaster, I hurried to Messina. The city was literally nothing but a heap of ruins. Every building there had collapsed, but in many cases the outward shells remain standing and show the general contour of the city is unchanged though many might be expected. This is particularly true of the sea front. In spite of what has been said, the form of the Strait of Messina shows little if any change. The harbor is filled with refuse of every kind and it is all the wreck of a sunken steamer. It is impossible to give even a faint idea of the desolation of the scene. Every now and then we heard the crash of falling floors and walls. This constitutes the greatest danger to the rescuers. It is not safe to approach any standing masonry. Men from my vessel had many narrow escapes, and I saw several terrible accidents to the brave Italian soldiers who were doing more than their duty."

"We lost no time in setting about the work of rescue. We established an open-air hospital on the shore where we received and treated thousands of people—men, women and children. We also saved the safe of the Bank of Sicily with

its treasure, weighing two tons. "I estimate the deaths at Messina conservatively at 80,000. The minor shrinkage from contemplation of the present condition in the stricken city that there are thousands of persons still alive in the ruins and that countless numbers must die. The tidal waves lasted much longer than the earthquake. During all the time we were in the harbor of Messina, our vessel shivered intermittently as though shaken by some huge marine monster. "I could relate pathetic stories without number. Under some wreckage enclosed in a kind of a little cubbyhole and protected by two heavy beams, I discovered two little babies safe and unharmed. They were comfortable as possible and laughing and playing with the buttons on their clothes. We could find no trace of their parents who undoubtedly lost their lives. It made a terrible impression to see the bereaved children. Many of the little ones lived while their parents are dead with the babies in their arms. It was also indescribably painful to see the many who had gone crazy from grief. They searched and searched aimlessly for their loved ones, even keeping up the quest after they had been brought on board our ship."

Rome, Jan. 1.—Although graphic stories are coming into Rome of the horrors in Southern Italy and Sicily, these are but repetitions of individual tragedies recorded. What chiefly concerns the government and the people is the progress that is being made towards the relief of those who have suffered by the dreadful visitation. Considerable advance in this respect has been made at Messina where according to official reports received here the supply service is beginning to work satisfactorily. The different regions on the coast have been allotted to various warships and other ships as centres from which torpedo

boats and launches convey and distribute rations and water to the different villages.

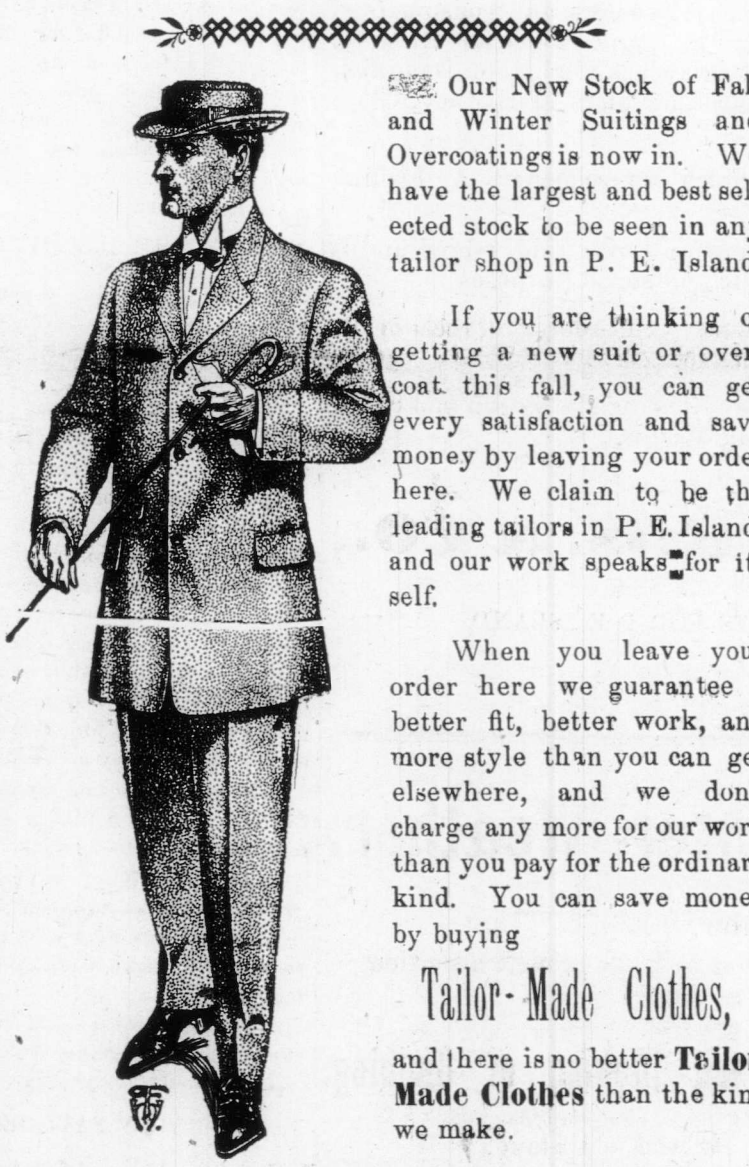
Reggio, Jan. 4.—A detachment of troops which went to the village on the east coast of Calabria found nothing but ruins and the bodies of persons killed in the earthquakes. The survivors had fled. There is every reason to believe dreadful havoc was wrought in the mountains which are not yet explored. A convoy with one thousand rations of bread, going through Baguara, was riddled by the famished people. A number of small boats, all over-loaded put into the channel to request food of the incoming steamers, which the officers of the vessels were compelled to refuse them. Several of the smaller crafts capsized and a number of persons were drowned.

Messina, Jan. 4.—Frank Perret assistant director of the Royal Observatory, Mount Vesuvius, speaking of the disaster says other shocks are inevitable, as there is a flaw in the earth's crust where the slip occurred. He predicts still heavier shocks and declares something, possibly very serious may happen on January 7 and 8, when the relative position of the sun and moon will prove the greatest strain.

Abraham Reuf, former Boss of San Francisco was sentenced on Dec. 28, to fourteen years in prison.

Two earthquake shocks occurred in Philadelphia last Monday night, creating considerable uneasiness, although not causing any damage. Immediately following the earthquake, fifty cases of dynamite exploded at the Keystone Quarry in the company's magazine, tearing a great hole in the ground. Windows ten miles distant were broken and chimneys shattered.

GOOD CLOTHES FOR FALL and WINTER.



Our New Stock of Fall and Winter Suitings and Overcoatings is now in. We have the largest and best selected stock to be seen in any tailor shop in P. E. Island.

If you are thinking of getting a new suit or overcoat this fall, you can get every satisfaction and save money by leaving your order here. We claim to be the leading tailors in P. E. Island, and our work speaks for itself.

When you leave your order here we guarantee a better fit, better work, and more style than you can get elsewhere, and we don't charge any more for our work than you pay for the ordinary kind. You can save money by buying

Tailor-Made Clothes, and there is no better Tailor Made Clothes than the kind we make.

MacLellan Bros., The Expert Tailors.

The Charlottetown Business College and Institute of Shorthand and Typewriting.

PATON'S Clearance Sale

It only takes place every fifth or tenth year; they cannot afford to share their profits every year. No matter who has a sale on, it's Paton's way not to have one oftener than every five years. Everybody remembers Paton's last two BIG CLEARANCE SALES. They were a success, they were unique, they were in a class by themselves. Why? Because their customers knew that PATON & CO. advertised as true; because their prices were not tampered with; because nothing was reserved, everything in the big store was reduced from the regular selling price and was sold at the discounts advertised.

Thus a \$1 article advertised at 25 per cent. off was sold at 75c.; a \$1 article advertised at 33 1-3 off was made 66 2-3c.; a \$1 article offered at 50 per cent. off meant 50c. No Humbug, no making up for sale purposes; everything fair and square.

A Regular Customers' Profit Sharing Sale This sale will be continued for 30 working days—no more, no less. They expect to sell \$25,000.00 worth of DRY GOODS and HOUSE-FURNISHINGS.

Sale Begins THIS Morning at 9 o'clock The Books will be closed. Sale will be for Cash only. Read the following List and note the Discounts offered:

One Quarter, One Third, and One Half Off. BARGAINS IN Boy's Clothing!

- 36 Boys' Reefers, blues, browns, fawns and greys, sizes from 23 to 25, in Beavers, Naps and Meltons, prices from \$2.50 to \$5.50. Your choice for \$1.00 and \$2.00.
8 Boys' Reefers, 25 to 30, sizes 5 years to 12, Friezes only, dark grey, values \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.50 at 1-4 off.
9 Youths' Reefers, 34 and 35 only, sold regularly at \$5.50; your choice for \$3.75.
16 English Reefers, Boys' Ulsters, fit hats from 8 years to 15. Just the coat for school—Cloths, Serges and Naps, sold for \$1.25 to \$2.50, yours at \$1.00.
36 Boys' Vests, 32, 33, 34, worth 75c to \$1.50; sale price 25 cents.
Boys' odd Pants, 400 pairs short Pants, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25; all at 1-4 off.
15 Youths' Serge Suits, blue and black, 33, 34, 35. Prices \$6.75 to \$9.00; selling at half price.
Youths' Tweed Suits, 33, 34, 35, 36. Prices \$7.00 to \$12.00, sale price 1-4 off.
Boys' Overcoats—One lot of 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32; Tweeds, Grey Friezes, etc, all at one third off.
Youths' Overcoats, 33, 34, 35; mixed lot comprising Tweeds, \$8.50, \$10.50, \$12.50 to \$15.50; all during the sale 1-4 off.

25 to 50 per cent. Discount on MEN'S CLOTHING!

- 12 Engineers Coats, suitable for mechanics or farmers, made from best English Serge, sizes 36 and 38, \$15.00 to \$27.75; sale price 75 cents.
50 pairs of heavy Tweed and Homespun Pants, all sizes, ranging from \$2.00 to \$2.75, sale price \$1.25.
300 pairs Hair Cord Pants, greys, drabs, stripes, etc. \$3.00 to \$4.50, all at sale 3-4 off.
30 pairs of Effort Pants, worth \$2.25, sale price \$1.25.
18 pairs grey striped medium weight Pants sold at \$3.25, sale price \$1.65.
A lot of Men's Pants, special at 75c a pair, \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$1.75.
40 Men's Vests, sizes 36, 38, 39 only, sold at \$1.25 to \$2.50, sale price 95 cents.
Duck Reefers, brown only, wind and rain proof, serviceable coat for farmers \$4.25, 1-3 off, \$2.85.
5 Grey Duck Reefers, same as above but not so good, sells at \$2.55, sale price \$1.75.
6 Grey, better grade Reefers, \$3.00 for 2.00.
Duck Ulsters for teamsters and farmers, size 37 only, sold at \$7.50, sale price 5.00.
Sheepskin Reefers, good warm garments, \$5.00 and 7.00, sale price 4.00 and 5.50.
36 Men's Serge Suits, 36 to 44 in blue only, \$6.50, 8.50, 10.00 and 12.00, during sale all go at half price.
Men's Ulsters, 7 only, brown frieze, all small sizes, \$6.40 to 10.00. The colors are not very saleable, but they are good wearers. Sale price 2.50.
6 only grey Frieze Ulsters, all sizes, sold at \$6.00 for 4.00.
Job line of Cravenettes, 15 coats in all, suitable for wearing under fur coats, all sizes, \$11.00, 12.00 and 14.00, sale price half price; \$11.00 for 5.50, 12.00 for 6.00, 14.00 for 7.00. This line is extra good value.
Cravenette Coats, shower proof—all other stock 1-4 off—all sizes, 35 to 44.
All Men's Tweed Suits—over 100 pairs—all good patterns and all goods, \$8.00, 10.00, 12.00, 14.00 to 16.00. Your choice 1-4 off.
Tupper Overcoats in Cravenette, short spring style, at 1-3 off, sizes from 36 to 42.
Old Jackets for men, all sizes in Tweeds, Worsteds and Serge; many large sizes, worth from \$4.00 to \$8.00, sale price 2.50 to 3.95.
All blue and black Worsteds Suits for Men, \$15.00 kind for 10.00. This is the best offer we have ever made in Men's Suits.
Men's Tweed Overcoats, all sizes, 36 to 44. Prices run from \$8.00 to 20.00. About 100 Coats to choose from, made by the very best makers in the Dominion. This is a chance you ought not to miss. \$8.00 Coats for 6.00, 10.00 Coats for 7.50, 12.00 for 9.00, and so on.
All Men's Coats, Worsteds, Serges and Scotch Tweeds; also Hewson's and Oxford Tweeds at 25 per cent off.
Men's Black Beaver Overcoats, \$6.00, 8.00, 10.00, 12.00, 14.00, 16.00, 18.00 and 20.00. Your choice at 25 cents off every dollar. All sizes from 36 to 44.

PATON'S CLEARANCE SALE will attract the people of P. E. Island from the three Counties.

JAMES PATON & CO.