4 P. M. EDITION

London Advertiser

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46TH. YEAR. NO. 19549 THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, TUESDAY DECEMBER 29, 1908.—TEN PAGES.

QUAKE AND WAVE DEVASTATE ISLE OF SICILY AND TENS OF THOUSANDS HAVE PERISHED

Great Cities of Messina and Reggio Wiped Out.

ENGULFED BY A TIDAL WAVE

Italy the Scene of Most Awful Catastrophe of Modern Times.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The disaster in the Province of Calabria and the Island of Sicily has today assumed staggering proportions. Each successive report received from the stricken region makes it more apparent that the stories of the widespread destruction were little if any exaggerated. Messina alone reports 12,000 victims, but it is feared that this is only a partial list of the dead, and wounded.

Reports are coming in from other towns, giving estimates of the dead from a few hundred to several thousands.

Reggio still remains in its tragic isoation. It is impossibe to get word from the stricken city, and the silence gives rise to the most fearful apprehensions.

News has come from eight miles north of Messina, but no reliable estimate of the dead has been made.

Robbers Sacking City.

Vandalism of the worst kind has broken out, and the Government has adopted the most energetic and most severe measures for its repression. Robbers and looters are shot on sight.

Pestilence May Follow.

The finest palaces, churches and theatres of Messina are now utter ruins. Countless dead bodies are scattered through the wreckage, and their decomposition will doubtless bring pestilence to add to the situation.

The devastation of the entire district was more or less complete. No part of the province of Reggio de Calabria escaped.

The disturbance was most severe along the shores of the Straits of Messina, where the cities of Messina and Reggio are situated. In more than one town the shocks caused gas metres to explode, and disastrous fires resulted. The flames helped greatly to swell the death list.

A Mighty Wave.

The configuration of the Straits of Messina has been materially altered. The tidal wave that completed the destruction of the earthquake was 32 feet high.

Wireless telegraphic communication has been of the greatest assistance in getting in reports from the devastated regions, and in helping the authorities to realize the extent of the disaster, and to send help to the places where it was most urgently needed.

A flying squadron of the Italian navy, composed of the three best battleships had left for a cruise on the Atlantic before the first news of the disaster came to hand. Through the medium of wireless telegraphy it was possible to reach these vessels, and order them to proceed at full speed for Messina.

A British squadron that was at Syracuse has left for Messina. It is taking a number of doctors and supplies of medicines, etc., for the succor of the wounded.

Many Boats Founder.

There are also several Russian ships at Syracuse. It is reported from Catania that the Bishop of Messina is buried under the ruins of his residence. Signor Fulci, a member of the chamber of deputies from Messina, together with the members of his family, is also reported dead. The Fulci family was one of the most prominent in Italy. The dome of the cathedral at Catania collapsed, and other churches as well as the city hall, threaten to fall at any moment. The tidal wave sank numberless small boats in the harbor of Catania.

At Riposto, the tidal wave was 35 feet high. It swept in with appalling power, and lasted forty-two seconds.

Prison Collapses.

The prison at Messina has collapsed Some of the prisoners were killed, but the survivors made their escape, and joined the hooligans who were sacking the city. Such confusion reigned that the robbers met with no resistance. The local chief of police lies dead in the rooms of his office.

The barracks at Messina were demolished. The commander of the troops was killed outright, and there are many victims among the enlisted

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MESSINA AN ANCIENT CITY

Messina is one of the most ancient cities in Europe. It is said to have been founded on the site of a still more ancient Sicilian town by pirates from Cumae in 732 B. C. Its population was increased in the next few centuries by emigrations of Chalcidians and Samians, and finally in 493 B. C. of Messinians from the Peloponnesus. In 396 B. C. the Carthaginians captured the city and destroyed it, but it was rebuilt by Dionysius, and served in 288 B. C. to bring about the first Punic war. In 831 A. D. the Saracens took the city and it remained with them till the Normans, under Roger d'Hauteville, captured it in 1061. While Richard the Lionhearted was on his way to Palestine in 1190 he passed six months at Messina and ended by quarreling with Tancred, its ruler, and sacking the town. For long Messina was under the dominion of the Austrian and Spanish Emperors, and during that time prospered greatly. About 1678, however, it lost its trading privileges and has never since recovered from the blow.

Like a Scene From the Inferno Says Eye-Witness of the Horrors

Tells of the Midnight Destruction of City of Messina.

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 and terrifying scene. When the first shock came most of the city was fast asleep. I was awakened by the rocking of the house. Windows swayed 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 I knew that the only thing to do was to make my way out of doors.

Terrible Scenes.

The streets were filled. Everybody had rushed out in their nightclothes, heedless of the rain falling in torrents. Terrified shrieks arose from all sides, and we heard heart-rending appeals for help from the unfortunates 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 done before I was struck down and badly injured by a piece of furniture that fell out of the upper story of a house.

Houses Crash to Ground.

"All along the road we were jostled by scores of fleeing people, half clad like ourselves. The houses seemed to be crashing to the ground, in whatever direction we turned.

The Sea Pours In.

"Suddenly the sea began to pour into the town. It seemed to me that this must mean the end of everything. The oncoming waters rolled in a huge wave, accompanied by a terrifying roar.

"The sky was aglow with the reflection of burning palaces and other buildings, and as if this were enough, there suddenly shot up into the sky a huge burst of flame, following by a crash that seemed to shake 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 and woman prayed and groaned and shrieked."

Brainstormers Enter Hains Case Both Sides To Use the Alienists

A Witness Favorable to Hains Wavers Upon Cross-Examination.

Flushing, N. Y., Dec. 29. — The trial for murder of Thornton J. Hains will not be unique in the absence of expert testimony, and this case, like the more prominent homicide cases that have preceded it, will be filled with testimony of alienists, and the interrogatives involving hypothetical premises. The defence opened the doors yesterday by developing from its more important witnesses the actions of Capt. Peter C. Hains, jun., with the design to show his mental condition. Counsel for Hains will place Gen. and Mrs. Hains on the stand to testify to their son's mental processes.

Alienist Flint There.

Seated near the state's lawyers is Dr. Austin Flint, the alienist, who was an important figure and witness in the Thaw case. Under his direction witnesses who were asked about Capt. Hains' actions, were interrogated by the state, if the captain displayed signs of "rudeness," "proneness to resistance," and "obstinacy of control." The defense will call their medical experts to the stand later.

District Attorney Darrin, whose term expires on Dec. 31, said today

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London Merchant Is Now in Sicily Thought To Be Around Messina

Mr. Sansone, of Firm of Catalano & Sansone, on Business Trip to Europe.

The news that Messina, famous in Italian history and literature as the scene of many of the royal rule of Tancred of Hautville and his conquering Normans, has been practically wiped off the map, is the latest report of the devastation that has been sweeping over the coast of lower Italy and Sicily.

The lemon groves of Messina are probably the most famous in the world, and from the beautiful harbor of the ill-fated city there is annually exported the greater part of the world's supply.

Messina lies on the seashore under the brow of the great Mountain of Etna, and climbing up from the city to the surrounding heights, lie the famous lemon groves. The city has about a hundred thousand of population, and the people are unusually thrifty and well to do.

A Beautiful City.

The city looks out to the north to the Algean Sea and southward across the straits that separate Sicily from the mainland, and it is all this fertile land lying along the southwestern coast of Italy and the western coast of Sicily that has been laid waste, costing the loss of tens of thousands of lives. All the countrty has been in the throes of seismic disturbance for some time, and fears of another eruption of Vesuvius were entertained.

Messina lies one hundred miles to the south, and the whole country seems to be in danger.

Will Affect Lemons.

As Messina is the centre of the lemon trade, fruit dealers are anticipating a great scarcity of them and olives and olive oil, to the culture of which the country is almost wholly given up.

Local Man There.

Several of the local fruit merchants are natives of the city or adjoining towns, deal largely with Messina.

Mr. Sansone, of the firm of Catalana & Sansone, is at present in that locality in the interests of the firm. Mr. Catalano, the other member of the firm has wired his partner, but has not been able to get a message through, and the relatives of Mr. Sansone are somewhat anxious concerning his afety.

A. G. McIntosh Dead.

Word has been received in this city of the death of Mr. A. G. McIntosh, formerly of London, and later of Toronto, deceased having passed away at Tongue Creek, Alta. Mr. McIntosh was a son of the late Gilbert McIntosh of Strathroy, and was well known in this city.

CONSERVATIVES NAME SLATE FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

No Candidate for Mayor, But All Other Offices Will Be Contested By the Party---Meeting Held Last Night, at Which Ticket Was Decided Upon.

There will be no contest for the mayoralty so far as the Conservatives are concerned.

The question was discussed at a meeting held last evening, and three names were considered, those of R. F. Matthews, Fred J. Darch and C. M. R. Graham.

Neither Mr. Matthews nor Mr. Darch thought the time propitious and withdrew.

Mr. Graham was then tendered the nomination, and was given until this morning to consider.

However, he informed The Advertiser that he would not be a candidate at this time.

All Withdraw.

"I did think something of running, but I have withdrawn," he said.

"I am not a candidate," said Mr. Matthews. "I have spent a very quiet year, and I think another one will do me no harm. Next year I may offer myself for municipal honors, but not at this time. I sincerely thank my nominees for putting my name forward, but I will not be a candidate at the present time."

Mr. Fred J. Darch will run for the water commission.

Facts Leak Out.

The slate that was worked out at the meeting last evening has become public property.

Men were named for all the offices with the exception of the board of education. There was considerable trouble with that feature. Several were mentioned for the five vacancies, but as there are more than five who are desirous of running, the task of slate-making was not completed.

Trouble Regarding Aldermen.

There was also difficulty with the aldermanic ticket. Ald. Beattie and Ald. Parsons flatly refused to go on the slate. They considered it unwise, as well as useless, and they preferred to take a chance in an open race. However a number of the members present, including the major portion of those anxious to have a slate, voted in favor of making it a party contest, and after much difficulty the following ticket was figured out:

The Slate.

Water Commissioner—F. J. Darch.

Hospital Trust—S. Screaton.

Aldermen—Neil Cooper, W. A. Wilson, T. F. Kingsmill, jun., Jas. Jeffries, Jas. Fitzgerald, Josh. Garratt, T. H. Janes, A. J. Morgan, Ald. Rose.

Of these there is some uncertainty as to whether Jas. Jeffries and James Fitzgerald will run.

It is likely that E. J. MacRobert, Dr. H. A. Kingsmill, Dr. Wyckoff, and Jas. Granger will be four of the number for school trustee.

Who the fifth man will be is not quite certain.

GREAT CROWD AT SIMCOE TRIAL

Police Chief Malone's Trial on Attempted Murder Charge Opened Today.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Dec. 29.—The crowd at the Malone trial this morning evidenced extraordinary interest aroused by the sensational features of the shooting of Constable Wilkins. Shortly after 8 o'clock the crowd started to pack the courtroom, and lawyers had to fight their way in. Ladies were particularly persistent in their efforts to force their way into the courtroom.

Handcuffed to Lewis Barber, Constable Archibald W. Malone, former chief, was led in to answer to an attempted murder charge. A few minutes later Wilkins came in, looking very pale, and with an eye bandaged. Wilkins was at once called to the stand, and narrated the shooting as already given in his previous statement. He said he left home at 14 minutes to 1, and the chief, meeting him in the park, said: "Helio, you rascal." After a few more words Malone pulled his gun and fired, he declared.

The chief told Wilkins that some boys had been keeping him on the trot ever since Wilkins had left. He thought they were over in the park, and asked Wilkins to go over there with him. Together they went down the sidewalk to the park and into an outbuilding, and while looking around Wilkins stated positively he saw Malone fire at him and powder burned his face. He exclaimed, "Goodness gracious, chief, watch what you are shooting at." The chief then shot him in the eye and he fell, whereupon Malone fired three shots in his back and walked away. Wilkins subsequently made his way to the office of Dr. Bowlby, where his wound were dressed and he was afterwards conveyed to the sanatorium.

Mr. Kelly, for the defense, on cross-examination endeavored to show that Wilkins had made several mistakes in identification, recalling two police court cases, in which Wilkins' evidence had been discredited.

—Mr. Wilton C. Vassar, of New York, manager of the Humanovo Stock Company, at Bennett's, leaves on Saturday for New York, having spent six weeks here, getting the talking pictures into shape.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—SNOW OR RAIN.

FORECASTS.

Toronto, Dec. 29—8 a.m.

Today—Fair.

Wednesday—Strong winds; occasional snow or rain in most localities.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	Today. 8 a.m.	Yesterday. Min.	Yesterday. Max.
London	26	18	34
Calgary	12	8	44
Winnipeg	20	4	14
Port Arthur	26	10	30
Parry Sound	14	0	26
Toronto	26	28	36
Ottawa	14	8	12
Montreal	10	12	14
Quebec	6	10	20
Father Point	— 2	..	..
Dawson	..	—38	—28
Victoria	..	42	44
Vancouver	..	39	44
Edmonton	..	10	22
Prince Albert	..	— 2	20
Moosejaw	..	6	37
Qu'Appelle	..	10	28
St. John	..	22	34
Halifax	..	28	38

Minus (—) means below zero.

WEATHER NOTES.

The most severe cold wave of the present winter is now spreading into the Western Provinces, accompanied by gales and light snowfalls.

Light snow has fallen in the Georgian Bay district and the Ottawa valley.

Elsewhere from the lakes to the Maritime Provinces the weather has been fine.

LIBERALS, ATTENTION!

A meeting of the South London Liberals is called for on Wednesday evening, in the club rooms on Wortley road and Craig street.

Business of great importance is to be transacted, and it is imperative that all Liberals should be on hand.

Keep Wednesday night open for the club.

THE OLD LADY OF THE SNOWS

The British Isles Completely Tied Up by Raging Blizzards.

London, Dec. 29.—The British Isles are experiencing a severe snowstorm. In Scotland the train service is tied up, and many factories have closed down. In several English counties roads are blocked with snowdrifts. In London a fine snow is falling.

CATHOLICS MAY EAT MEAT ON FRIDAY

Special Dispensation of the Pope for New Year's Day.

Owing to a special dispensation of his Holiness the Pope, the Roman Catholics of the world will be allowed to eat meat on Friday next, as it is New Year's Day.

Christmas also fell on Friday, but one of the rules of the church governing such cases provides that it is not necessary to abstain from meat on Friday, Dec. 25, of any year.

This law does not govern New Year's, and the special dispensation of the Pope is necessary.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH JOHNSTON

Was for Years Employed by the Gorman-Eckert Company.

Mr. Joseph Johnston, of 497 Horton street, died at his home last night, after an illness extending over several months. Mr. Johnston was 67 years of age and came to this city from Cumberland, England. For a number of years he has been in the employ of the firm of Gorman, Eckert & Co. Besides his wife, he is survived by five sons, Thomas, William and John, of Attleboro; Joseph, of Cleveland, and Braithwaite, of this city. The funeral will be held on Thursday to Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

LADY THROWN FROM A STREET CAR

Accident to Mrs. John McGuire, of Nelson Street.

Mrs. John McGuire, an elderly lady residing at 508 Nelson street, was thrown from Ottaway car, No. 68, while attempting to board it at the west derail on Ottaway avenue about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The car stopped and Conductor Morley ran up to the Pere Marquette tracks to turn the derails and semaphores, when Mrs. McGuire attempted to get on. As she was doing so, the car started, throwing her to the roadway, but, luckily, without any serious result.

The car was stopped, and Mrs. McGuire, who is an elderly lady, was assisted to it by the conductor. She was able to continue her trip.

POLICEMAN BRUTALLY BEATEN BY THUGS ON WELLINGTON ST.

P. C. Robert Robson Lies in a Serious Condition---P. C. MacRae, the Giant of the Force, Fought Like a Tiger and Probably Saved His Comrade From Being Murdered.

One of the most murderous assaults on police officers that has ever taken place in this city occurred last night shortly after 11 o'clock at the corner of York and Wellington streets, and as a result P. C. Robert Robson is in a serious condition at his home, and P. C. McRae has a big cut over his face and many bruises about the body.

A Fight.

About 11 o'clock a telephone message came to the police station, stating that a number of men were acting in a disorderly manner near the freight sheds.

Officers Robson and MacRae went up at once, and found half a dozen young men drunk, and just about to start fighting.

MacRae arrested two of the young men, and Robson had two more.

At first the men came quietly, but when MacRae asked one of the crowd to go in and call the patrol wagon, one of Robson's prisoners suddenly called, "Let them have it, boys."

In an instant, the men who had been arrested, and some in the crowd set upon the officers. MacRae is the biggest man on the force, and had his hands full in defending himself.

Policeman Brutally Beaten.

Robson, who is smaller, fared far worse. His prisoners threw him down, and began kicking him in the most brutal manner about the face.

He managed to get up again, and was soon thrown down.

P. C. MacRae, seeing how matters were going, drew his baton, and hit Chester Herald, one of his prisoners, who was fighting fiercely with him, over the head. Herald was rendered unconscious, and shaking the other man off, MacRae hurried to the assistance of his comrade.

He plied his baton right and left, and by his sheer strength fought his way through the men who were beat-

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Mayoralty Looks Like Acclamation Mayor Stevely May Be Given Plum

Twelve Have Qualified for the Council, Including Many of Alderman of 1908.

Only a few qualified for the different municipal offices this morning, and judging from present indications there may be some acclamations.

Mayor Stevely was the only one who qualified for the mayoralty, and unless Mr. John M. Parsons decides to run, his worship will be given a second term without a struggle.

Hospital Trust.

It looks as though the hospital trusteeship will again go to Mr. S. Screaton. He was the only one to qualify this morning. Mr. Thos. Gillean and Mr. F. G. Rumball have withdrawn. Mr. R. F. Matthews was also nominated for this place, but he will not seek election.

The Water Commission.

There will be a contest for the water commission. Mr. Fred J. Darch will again seek election. Dr. H. A. Stevenson has signified his intention to run, and there is also a possibility that Dr. Hugh A. McCallum will enter the field.

The Council.

An even dozen qualified for the council. They include Ald. Armstrong, Ald. Beattie, Ald. Saunders, Ald. Ferguson, Ald. Rose, Ald. Parsons, Ald. D. A. Stewart, Ald. Moorhead, ex-Ald. Neil Cooper, W. J. Craig, James Donnelly, and A. J. Morgan.

Board of Education.

Mr. W. C. Fitzgerald has withdrawn from both the board of education and the water commission. Mr. C. H. Merrifield has also withdrawn from the board of education.

Mr. J. Kilgour and J. A. Cairncross have withdrawn from the council contest.

Dropped Out.

Ald. Greenlees declared this morning that he would not again be a candidate, and Ald. Booth said the same. These are the onl ytwo of the present council not seeking re-election.

The Quebec By-Elections All Liberal

Montreal, Dec. 29.—Liberal candidates were successful in all four provincial by-elections held yesterday in St. Anne (Mont.), Laval, Chateauguay and Quebec. St. Anne was carried by M. J. Walsh, the former member, who was defeated at the general elections by Frank Tansey, Conservative. Chateauguay, which went Conservative in June last, again is found on the Liberal side, Honore Mercier defeating Mr. Desrosiers. Hon. P. E. Leblanc, former Opposition leader in the Provincial House, was again defeated by Mr. Levesque.

A Civil War Starts in Venezuela

Port-of-Spain, Dec. 29.—There has been fighting at Macuro, on the Venezuelan coast, between adherents of Former President Castro and the crew of a gunboat working in the interests of the new president, Juan Vicente Gomez. About twenty men were killed, and some fifty were wounded. The Gomez party was obliged to withdraw temporarily, but later it returned to resume the engagement.

This news was brought in here by the Miranda, the gunboat in question.

Stole Collections of a Parkhill Church

(Special to The Advertiser.)

Parkhill, Dec. 29.—According to a story going the rounds, some person broke into the residence of Rev. Father Dunn, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church here Saturday, while the rev. gentleman was away, taking the Christmas collections, which amounted to about $400.

The police were put on the case, and it is understood that the money has been returned. There will be nop rosecution.

It is also said that a pickpocket took a valuable gold watch bearing a 32-degree Masonic charm, from the pocket of Mr. John Cameron, while that gentleman was out driving last Thursday night. Cameron fell asleep in his buggy and when he awoke he missed the timepiece.

C. P. R. TO GOWGANDA

Reported in Montreal That Railway Will Enter Silver Country.

Montreal, Dec. 29.—It was learned today on good authority that, although no actual decision had been arrived at there is every probability of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company building a railway to Gowganda, the new silver field. The Canadian Pacific is prepared, it is said, to construct the road without a subsidy from its system at Sudbury. The road would run in a northeasterly direction into the heart of the new silver country.

GEORGE DUNSTAN DEAD

Was Secretary of Standard Mining Exchange at Toronto.

Toronto, Dec. 29.—George Dunstan, aged 50, dropped dead in his boarding-house. 428 Jarvis street, this morning. He was secretary of the Standard Stock and Mining Exchange, and a brother, K. J. Dunstan, is manager of the Bell Telephone Company.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Those Who Will Move and Second the Address in Reply.

Ottawa, Dec. 29. — The honor of moving and seconding the address in the Commons in reply to the speech from the throne has been intrusted by the Government to Mr. W. F. Todd, M. P. for Charlotte, N. B., who defeated Mr. G. W. Ganong, ex-M. P., and Mr. I. Turcotte, M. P., who defeated Mr. Robitaille, ex-M. P. in Quebec County. Both are new members of the House. Mr. Todd, who will move the address in reply, redeemed a constituency held for many years by the Opposition, and Mr. Turcotte carried his riding against a former Labor member.

Police Court.

In the police court this morning Neil Fletcher, for being drunk, was fined $5 or ten days. John Moore, another drunk, was fined $2 or five days. Edward Carroll, a young man en route from Detroit to Ingersoll, got drunk here waiting for the train. He was told to go on his way by Magistrate Love. The case of William Campbell, charged with assault was withdrawn, the affair being settled out of court.