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PROBS — FAIR AND COLD

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RUSSIA IS READY FOR ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO INVADE EAST PRUSSIA; HEAVY FIGHTING IN WEST

THOUSANDS KILLED AND INJURED BY EARTHQUAKE IN HEART OF ITALY

Whole Villages Destroyed—Population Panic Stricken—Capital Feels Shock and Dome of Celebrated Church Damaged—Noted Statue Shattered—Avezzona in Province of Aguilas Feels Shock Most Severely—Believed Total Casualties Will Be 12,000 With Thousands of Injured.

Rome, Jan. 13.—Italy has again been visited by an earthquake of great extent, which, according to the latest advices has destroyed towns and villages and resulted in the death of 12,000 persons and injury to possibly 20,000 more. The shock was the strongest that Rome has felt in more than a hundred years. The town of Avezzona, in the Abruzzi Department, sixty-three miles east of Rome, has been levelled to the ground; here 8,000 persons are reported to have been killed. In many small towns surrounding Rome, buildings were partially wrecked, while at Naples a panic occurred and houses fell at Caserta, a short distance to the east.

From below Naples in the south, to Ferrara in the north, a distance of more than 300 miles, and across almost the width of the country the undulatory movement continued for a considerable period. In Rome it was thought at first that two shocks had occurred, but the seismographic instruments in the observatories showed that there was only one, which, beginning at 7.55 o'clock in the morning, lasted from twenty-two to thirty seconds.

In the Capital itself, so far as is known there was no loss of life, but a great deal of damage was done, churches and statues suffering most.

Naples, (via Rome), Jan. 13.—A violent earthquake shock occurred here today, and caused a panic.

It is reported that many houses fell in Caserta, in the observatory on Mount Vesuvius was broken.

In the church of the Divine Providence, sisters were praying around the bier of a dead man, when the first tremor of the earthquake caused one of her arms to move. The sisters at first cried out that a miracle of resurrection had taken place, but simultaneously the candlesticks and crucifixes in the chapel began falling. Then they realized what was happening, and rushed terror-stricken to the street.

Great crowds of the populace also fled into the thoroughfares when the earthquake came. They formed into processions, reciting the Litany of Saints. Many of the people in the excitement declared that the earthquake was a punishment for the sins of men who are fighting against their brothers in the European war.

Several Killed and Wounded

Rome, Italy, Jan. 13.—So violent was the shock that the dome of the Church of St. Peter was cracked. A large piece of the cornice of the Jesuit Church of St. Ignazio broke and fell with great crash, which greatly added to the fright of the people in the neighborhood. Ceilings in many of the houses fell, a number of persons being injured. The dome of St. John Lateran, which occupied a position visible from many parts of Rome, fell and was shattered on the steps of the edifice.

Several street car lines suspended operations because of the damages caused by the earthquake.

As the day wore on, and details began to arrive in the capital, it was apparent that the disturbance in the Province of Rome and the Abruzzi had been greater than at first believed, and that it also had been felt severely in the region around Naples.

At Monte Rotondo three persons were killed and two wounded; at Zagarolo, the dome of a church fell; at Paliano part of the cathedral was wrecked; at Veroli two persons were killed and two injured; at Tivoli, one person was killed; at Pereto five houses collapsed, and at Poggio Nativo one person was killed and several wounded.

Number of Villages Wiped Out

Thus far it has been impossible to communicate with the ancient fortified city of Aquila in Abruzzi, owing to the interruption of the telegraph service. It is reported, however, that several villages were destroyed in that vicinity.

At Torre Cajetani, about 37 miles east of Rome, the entire village was almost destroyed, while at Arnara the municipal building collapsed.

From numerous places in the affected regions calls for doctors and medicine are reaching Rome.

Pope Benedict was reciting the thanksgiving after the morning mass

when the shock occurred. The Pontiff retained his composure, and gave orders immediately that the damages both inside and outside the Vatican be ascertained, and requested a report whether assistance was required.

King Victor Emmanuel also ordered the Minister of the Interior to furnish him with all details of the earthquake. The king expressed a desire to visit the damaged cities.

At the capital two magnificent candlesticks fell and were broken.

At the Palazzo Del Drago, where the American ambassador lives, several cracks in the building which already had existed, opened wider and plaster fell in several of the rooms. The glass was broken in the embassy office.

In addition to the statue of St. Paul the column of Marcus Aurelius, the facade of the church of St. John Lateran was damaged, and the statue of the Saviour, which is 50 feet high, was twisted out of plumb.

In the Lateran Palace, especially that part occupied by the profane museum, the earthquake caused cracks of sufficient size to permit of the light from the outside penetrating the building. The hall of the chamber of deputies, likewise was cracked.

Among other edifices damaged were the churches of Saint Andria Fratte and Saint Agatha of the Theogotha, the latter being the oldest church of Teogothic origin in Rome.

When the shock was felt the frightened populace rushed into the churches but the police ordered them out of those which were in danger of collapsing. In all the churches in the city, after the shock had subsided, special prayers were offered for deliverance from disaster.

It is officially announced that the centre of the earthquake was between Campobasso and Sarno, and that it was felt strongly at Perugia and slightly as far north as Ferrara.

In the country places the people are camping in the open.

The town of Pofi is reported to have been destroyed. At Guiliano two persons were killed.

In the meteorological institute it is said that buildings continued to rock or tremble for about thirty seconds after the shock had ceased, and that the duration of the phenomenon altogether was about one minute. It was stated that it was not believed that the disturbance extended to Sicily.

Avenzano, the town from which the greatest number of casualties due to the earthquake have been reported, lies in the province of Aguilas, in the Abruzzi Department, about 63 miles east of Rome, and a short distance from the base of Mount Velino. It is an ancient town, and had a population of some 10,000. One of the well preserved buildings there was the towered castle built by Gentile Vidignio Orsino in 1490.

Most of the towns in which damage has been done are situated virtually in the heart of Italy, in a line running northeast and southeast from Rome eastward toward the Adriatic Sea. The country in the Province of Rome and the Department of Abruzzi is mostly mountainous, but thickly populated. Numerous villages and towns dot the territory. Monte Rotondo has a population of about 5,000. It was here in 1867 that Garibaldi defeated the Papal forces. At Tivoli, where one person is said to have been killed, there is a population of some 14,000. It lies eighteen miles northwest of Rome, and retains many of the antiquities of the old Roman days. Pofi is a village of some 4,000 inhabitants.

Zagarolo, Paliano, Veroli, Pereto, Poggio Nativo and the other places where damage or fatalities are reported, are all small towns.

Italy in past years has had numerous visitations from earthquakes in which thousands of persons have perished, and millions of dollars worth of property damage has resulted.

It fell to the lot of Italy to suffer what probably was the greatest disaster from an earthquake that the world ever saw. The earthquake of December, 1865, when in Sicily and Calabria, 76,483 persons were killed, 96,470 injured and 1,100,000 made homeless. In this disturbance Messina, Santa Teresa, Scallata and Faro in Sicily and Reggio, San Giovanni, San Uffemia, Gallico, Palmi, Pellarò and Sannitalo, in Calabria, were destroyed. The

TRIED TO HOLD BR. SUBJECTS AT JERUSALEM

Intervention of American Consul and Arrival of Cruiser Rescued Last of British Subjects from Hands of the Turks.

London, Jan. 13, 9 p. m.—How the vigorous intervention of the American consul at Jerusalem, coupled with the dramatic appearance of the United States cruiser Tennessee, enabled the last five British subjects remaining in the Holy City to escape is related by one of them, a clergyman, who arrived in London today.

Only by the untiring efforts of the consul, said the clergyman, were they able to obtain permission to leave Jerusalem on Christmas Eve.

In order that they might continue to receive the benefit of his protection, the consul accompanied them to Jaffa. While waiting on the quay for a steamer they were seized and removed, but the consul, after an interview with the Turkish commander, obtained their release and accompanied them back to the quay. He announced that he would not leave until they were permitted to depart.

A great crowd surrounded the fugitives and threatened violence, but the Tennessee came steaming into port, and the Turkish authorities immediately decided that no further opposition should be offered to their departure.

FAVOR AN IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

Australian Minister of Defence and South Africa Papers Suggest Conference this Year.

London, Jan. 13.—Although it is recognized that an Imperial Conference will be impracticable this year, the suggestion is being made from overseas dominions that a defence conference might be held. Hon. G. F. Pearce, 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 he is supported by the South African press.

So far as Canada is concerned, Sir Geo. Perley 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 are being constantly urged.

Financial loss was never accurately computed, but it ran into many millions of dollars.

Up to the time of this catastrophe the earthquake in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1755, caused the greatest number of casualties. Then the earth swallowed up sixty thousand persons.

London, Jan. 14.—One thousand persons have been killed and 500 injured by the earthquake, which completely destroyed the small town of Atell, to the east of Rome, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Magliano was also destroyed. In the Province of Aguilas forty persons were killed.

Rome, Jan. 13.—A despatch from Aguilas says the village of Atelli, near Calano, was destroyed, and that severe damage was done along the Sulmona-Avezzano line.

Several persons were killed or injured at Travi, Province of Perugia. Two persons were killed in the electric station at Anterella.

Mazurian Lakes Frozen Over Czar's Army Again on Offensive—Claim Ground Gained Southwest of Rawka—Fierce Battle Raging Near Soissons in Aisne Valley—Report Says Turks Will Attempt Invasion of Egypt.

London, Jan. 13.—Battles large and small, all having an important bearing on the situation, are in progress at widely separated points in the war areas in Europe and Asia.

The Turks have occupied the Persian town of Tabriz, which is a Russian sphere of influence, are battling with the Russians in the Caucasus and are reported to be making preparations for an invasion of Egypt.

The Russians have resumed the offensive in East Prussia, while the Germans continue to attack them in Poland, and they are again trying to cross the Nida river in Southern Poland, which is held by the Austrians.

The battle, however, which is creating the greatest interest is that in the Aisne Valley, to the northeast of Soissons where the French have been attacking the German entrenchments for a week. They succeeded in taking some important positions on Friday last, and again on Sunday, but the Germans, bringing up reinforcements, succeeded in recovering some of the lost ground. Otherwise, the unfavorable weather has compelled the Germans and Allies to confine themselves to artillery engagements.

The renewed activity of the Russians in East Prussia indicates that the freezing over of the Mazurian Lakes, for which they have been waiting, has at last occurred, for otherwise it would be impossible for troops to advance through the narrow defiles defended by the Germans.

The Russians also claim to have made a further advance to the southwest of Rawka—another indication that they contemplate a repetition of their attempt at an invasion of East Prussia from the east and south, despite the fact that repeated German attacks south of the Lower Vistula in Poland are keeping them fairly busy. These attacks are being made at different points and, according to the Russian official statements, are easily repelled.

TURKS TO ATTEMPT INVASION OF EGYPT.

There is no recent account of the fighting in Southern Poland, and Gallicia, but a Bucharest despatch says that the Russians have begun an attack on the Austrian fortifications in the mountains that divide Bukowina, now in their possession, and Transylvania, an attack on which is considered likely to bring Rumania into the war, on the side with the allies.

The Turks, according to a Cairo despatch, have at last decided to attempt an invasion of Egypt. In London little credence is given to this report. It is not believed possible that troops can cross the desert which stretches eastward from the Suez Canal, and even if they conquered the waterless waste they would be so exhausted by the effort that the British forces in Egypt, it is confidently thought, could easily repel them.

Lewis Harcourt, secretary of state for the colonies, addressing a gathering of Australians today, said it was not likely that the Australians were guarding Egypt, with New Zealanders, Indians and English Territorials and regulars, would have much fighting to do there, and that they would soon be in France.

EVERY MAN ON LONDON POST PERISHED

Berlin Learns that Only 11 Officers and 193 Men were Saved in Fight With British off Falkland Islands.

EVERY MAN ON LONDON POST PERISHED

London, Jan. 13.—The need of more motor ambulances in Northern France is urged by Leo Scheff, of Ottawa, who has just returned from a trip to the front in charge of sixty-five ambulances which were taken over for the use of the British Ambulance Committee. Mr. Scheff would like the Canadian provinces to contribute one each, as he declares that these ambulances are needed much more than the articles of clothing and other things supplied by the government. He found many rich men helping personally to drive cars. He thinks the demand for ambulances will increase with the heavy fighting now going on in Alsace.

IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITION OF STEWART TUPPER

London, Jan. 13.—Stewart Tupper, of Winnipeg, eldest son of Sir Charles Tupper, Bart. is reported to be progressing toward recovery. He has been under treatment at an Oxford Nursing Home.

COUNT VON BERCHTOLD RESIGNS AS AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Diplomatic Circles in Europe Given a Surprise—Hungarian Named as His Successor—Hungary Likely to Have Greater Influence Now in the Dual Monarchy—Von Berchtold the Man Who Sent Note to Serbia Which Started War.

Vienna, Jan. 13 (via London, 8.15 p. m.)—Count Leopold Von Berchtold, Austrian foreign minister, has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted, according to the Vienna Fremdenblatt. Count Von Berchtold will be succeeded by Baron Stephan Burian von Rajecz, minister of the Royal Court in the Hungarian cabinet.

Count Von Berchtold was one of the main factors in the situation which led to the Austrian declaration of war on Serbia, which in turn precipitated the European war.

Count Von Berchtold for a long while desired to retire and had previously asked the Emperor to relieve him of his office. The appointment of a Hungarian to succeed him in control of Austrian foreign affairs is believed to indicate that henceforth Hungary will assume a more prominent place in shaping the policy of the dual monarchy during the war.

Came Unexpectedly, Berlin Claims

Berlin, Jan. 13 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—A statement issued by the official press bureau today said: "The Austrian Emperor has agreed to the renewed demand that he accept the resignation of Count Von Berchtold, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which was tendered for important personal reasons."

Count Von Berchtold's successor has been appointed. He is the Hungarian Minister to the Royal Court, Baron Stephan Burian, a son-in-law of General Baron Fejervary, ex-premier of Hungary. Baron Burian was formerly minister of finance and chief of the administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The change in the Austrian premiership came unexpectedly.

(Continued on page 3)

No Agreement Between Turkey and Italy Yet, Late Reports Say

Rome, Jan. 13.—So far as is known here no definite agreement has been reached whereby Turkey assents to the demands of Italy in connection with the forcible removal of British Vice Consul Richardson from the Italian consulate at Hodeida, in Arabia. On December 16 last Baron Sonnino, the Italian foreign minister, announced in the Senate that Turkey had acceded to Italy's demand and had sent, through the medium of Italy, instructions to the Governor of Yemen to give immediate satisfaction.

It is learned that these instructions have reached the governor, but that officials have merely promised to investigate the case.

Special despatches from Rome yesterday reported that Turkey had ordered the release of Consul Richardson, and had promised to punish those responsible for the removal of the consul from the Italian consulate, and to salute the Italian flag when it was hoisted over the building.

URGENT NEED FOR MOTOR AMBULANCES

Needed More Than Clothing, Says Ottawa Man Who Has Just Returned to London From Northern France.

London, Jan. 13.—The need of more motor ambulances in Northern France is urged by Leo Scheff, of Ottawa, who has just returned from a trip to the front in charge of sixty-five ambulances which were taken over for the use of the British Ambulance Committee. Mr. Scheff would like the Canadian provinces to contribute one each, as he declares that these ambulances are needed much more than the articles of clothing and other things supplied by the government. He found many rich men helping personally to drive cars. He thinks the demand for ambulances will increase with the heavy fighting now going on in Alsace.

WILL MEET AT CRISTOBAL.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The rendezvous of the international fleets at Hampton Roads, preliminary to the cruise to Panama in connection with the opening of the canal, will be abandoned.

The ships will gather at Cristobal, at the eastern end of the canal, in the disaster? Why has no court of inquiry been held? And what guarantee is there that a similar disaster will not occur in the future?"

RUSSIAN GOV'T FLOATS LOAN IN NEW YORK

12 Millions Subject to Draft at 4 1/2 Per Cent—Forerunner of Further Credits, Petrograd Bankers Say.

Petrograd, Jan. 13.—A group of New York bankers, including J. P. Morgan and Company, have agreed to loan the Russian government \$12,000,000 according to an official announcement today.

This amount is subject to draft by Russia at one, two or three months, at four and a half per cent with a half of one per cent additional for acceptance.

Prominent Petrograd bankers say that this is a forerunner of further credits to be extended Russia by American financiers.

The president of an important Petrograd bank has left for New York where he expects to confer with financiers and government officials with the idea of perfecting Russian exchange facilities.

New York, Jan. 13.—J. P. Morgan and Company confirmed today the despatches from Petrograd in respect to a loan to the Russian government by stating that a group of New York banks and bankers had made a "purely banking" arrangement with Russia by undertaking to accept short term drafts of the Russian government, the proceeds of which were to be used in payment for supplies exported from this country.