



THOUSANDS KILLED BY EARTHQUAKES

Towns of Sicily and Calabria Devastated.

MESSINA LAID IN RUINS

Tidal Waves Swamp Cities and Cover Dead With Mud.

HUNDREDS OF BOATS LOST

People Flee to Churches and Pray to Saints for Mercy.

LIVE IN MOUNTAIN CAVES

Pope Pius Wishes to Visit Scene and Relieve People, but Physicians Forbid—Southern Italy May Be Totally Destroyed.

ROME, Dec. 28.—The three provinces of Cosenza, Catanzaro and Reggio di Calabria, comprising the Department of Calabria, which forms the southwestern extremity of Italy, or the "toe of the boot," were devastated today by an earthquake, the far-reaching effects of which were felt almost throughout the entire country.

May Destroy Southern Italy.

Owing, however, to the fact that telegraphic and telephonic communication was almost completely destroyed, it is impossible to obtain even an approximate estimate of the damage, but reports received here up to a late hour tonight indicate that the havoc has been great and the destruction to life and property more terrible than Italy has experienced in many years.

It is known that a number of persons were killed at that place, but the rushing waters carried everything before them and caused such an indescribable confusion that it will be impossible for some time to estimate the damage and the lives lost.

Immense Disaster at Messina.

For a period the town of Messina and the whole province of Reggio were completely isolated through interruption of the telegraph and telephone and by landslides that obstructed the railroads. Absolutely nothing was heard from Reggio throughout the day, while the first news from Messina came in the form of a dispatch which a torpedo-boat flying at full speed along the peninsula carried from point to point, always finding the wires down, until it reached Nivitera, where the telegraph lines were found to be intact.

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MOTHER SHOT DEAD BY 9-YEAR-OLD SON

LAD PICKS UP GUN FATHER LEAVES ON TABLE.

Mrs. J. G. Morris Victim of Tragedy in Farmhouse Near Corvallis.

CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 28.—(Special.)—Mrs. J. G. Morris was accidentally shot and killed at her home one and a half miles north of this city Sunday afternoon.

This fatality is the direct result of the forgetfulness of Mr. Morris, the victim's husband, who, on returning from a hunting trip, laid his loaded gun on the table.

It is said that Mr. Morris is all but insane over the tragedy. Mrs. Morris was about 48 years of age and the mother of a family, the majority of the children being grown.

HILL GETS TEXAS LAND

Report is Current That Big Merger of Ranches Has Been Formed.

DENVER, Dec. 28.—The Post today says: "According to private dispatches received in this city this morning, a merger of Texas ranches in the territory penetrated by the Colorado & Southern Railroad is being formed and will comprise 7,000,000 acres of land worth \$7,000,000.

C. W. Holdridge, general manager of the Burlington road, accompanied by Mr. Madera, an Eastern attorney, arrived in Denver today to inspect the terminals of the Colorado & Southern and investigate the operating conditions of the road.

RIOT LEADER ENCAMPED

Berry Simpson and Guard Entrenched in Mountains.

DANVILLE, Ky., Dec. 28.—Berry Simpson, the leader in the troubles at Stearns, is stationed at Point Rock, in the mountains. He dispatched two of his sympathizers to Captain Henri Waddell today and agreed to surrender provided one Warren, one of the soldiers, be sent for him.

Reuben West, wounded in the Christmas day battle, is with Simpson, and 75 desperate men are also in Simpson's camp; and the officers fear to send young Warren. The messengers were told to tell Simpson to come to Stearns. It was later stated that he would be there, but he failed to appear.

RENO GETS ITS OWN RATE

Sugar Shippers Deliver Ultimatum and Railroads Give In.

RENO, Nev., Dec. 28.—Reno merchants have come out victorious in their demand of the railroad company for better rates on sugar from San Francisco to Reno.

FOUR MUSIC HALLS SHUT

Sunday Performances Bring Grief to New York Theaters.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—As the result of the recent investigation under the direction of Mayor McClellan of alleged violations of the law covering Sunday performances in the theaters, Corporation Counsel Pendleton ordered the drawing up of papers for the revocation of the licenses of the Victoria, the Alhambra, the American and Hurlig and Seaman, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth-street theaters.

SUSPECTS UNDER ARREST

Two Men Believed to Know Why Roy Vestal Disappeared.

KLAMATH FALLS, Dec. 28.—(Special.)—Arrested on a charge of larceny, but believed to know something of the disappearance of Roy Vestal, of Eagle Point, Charles Lisbey and Alfred Wallace are held in jail in this city.

THOUSANDS KILLED.

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NEW EVIDENCE IN FAVOR OF HAINS

Two Witnesses Give Aid to Defense.

CRIME NOT PREMEDITATED

Trip to Long Island Made to Look at Property.

ANNIS NOT SOUGHT THERE

Accidental Meeting Resulted in Shooting, and Second Witness Declares Thornton Hains Took No Part in Fatal Gunplay.

FLUSHING, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The defense scored two material points in the evidence developed in the trial today of Thornton J. Hains, which the defendant's counsel assert disprove the charge that the author was a principal with his brother, Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr., in the killing of William E. Annis at the Bay-side Yacht Club, in Little Neck Bay.

Today he saw her on a streetcar here and promptly clambered aboard the car. In one minute he had introduced himself, had proposed a minute later and had been turned down, but immediately possessed himself of the girl's hand and again proposed, this time being accepted.

HASTY COURTSHIP IN CAR

Soldier Wins Hand of Choice of His Heart on Sheer Nerve.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—(Special.)—George Newman, a young soldier stationed at South Chicago when on his way to the Philippines four years ago, saw the face of an unusually pretty girl, Miss Florence Jacob, in San Francisco.

RACING TIPS NOT LEGAL

California Judge Says That "Form Sheets" May Be Stopped.

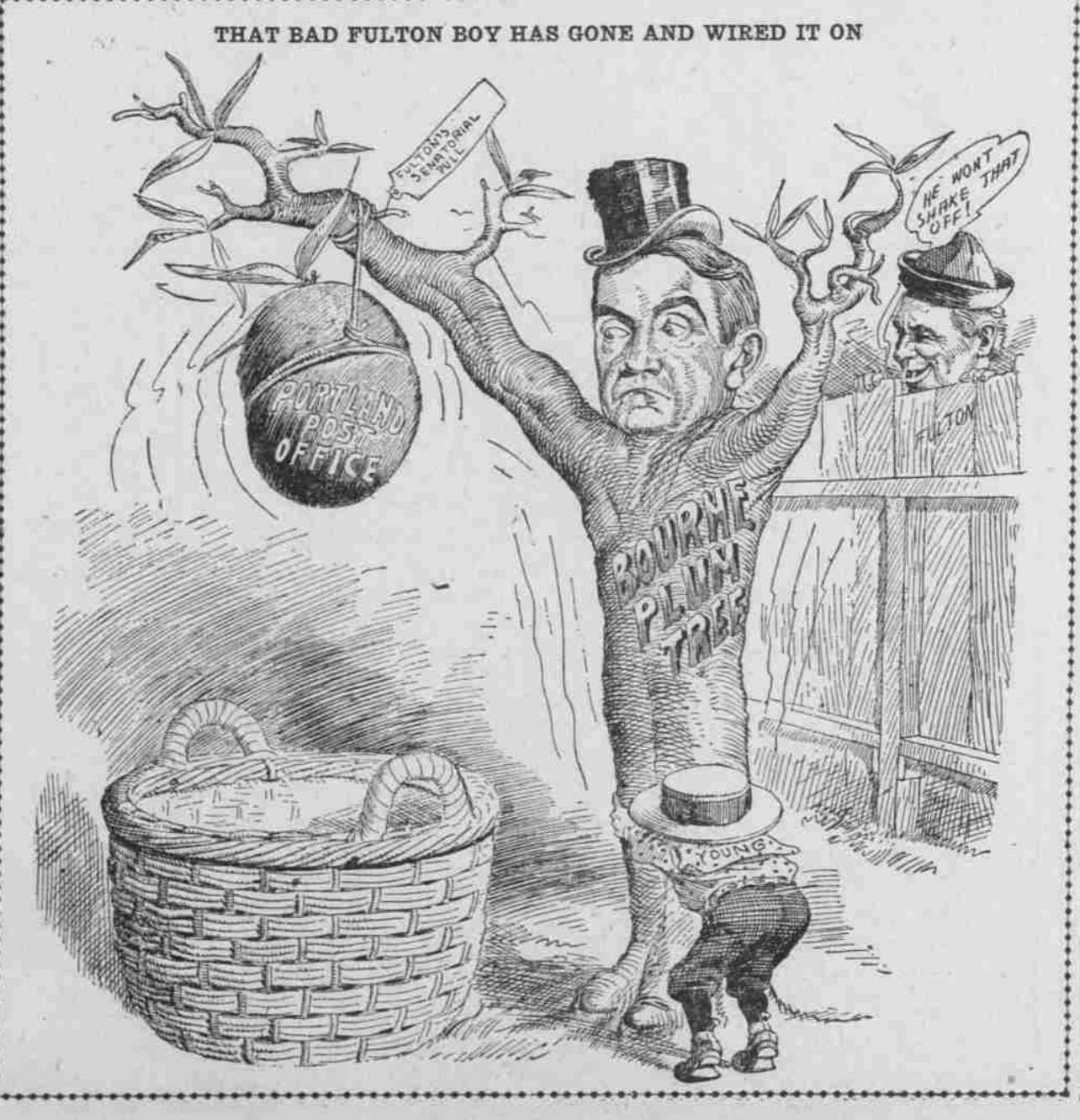
LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 28.—That the dissemination of tips on horse-racing may be prevented by municipal legislation is the gist of an opinion handed down by Judge Jamison, of the Superior Court today, in the case of Sylvester Saal, who was prosecuted in Police Court charged with circulating a San Francisco newspaper in which a racing "form chart" was printed.

CHINA CAPTURES STEAMER

British Boat, Seized by Cruisers for Running Down Junk.

HONGKONG, Dec. 28.—The British steamer Tai On was captured yesterday by two Chinese cruisers near Kum Chuk, west of the river. The reason for the capture is believed to be the fact that the steamer several months ago ran down a junk and drowned a theatrical company which was on board.

THAT BAD FULTON BOY HAS GONE AND WIRED IT ON



GERMANY SEEKS MINIMUM TARIFF

Will Be First to Ask for Concessions.

BERNSTORFF'S FIRST DUTY

Try to Get Benefit of Reduced Rates on Imports.

OTHER NATIONS ARE SLY

Foretell American Action by Advancing Rates With View to Subsequent Reduction Under Reciprocal Trade Agreement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—There are indications that Germany will be among the first European countries to seek advantage of an arrangement with America to secure minimum tariff rates under the terms of the new tariff act which is expected to be passed at the special session of Congress, to follow close upon the adjournment of the present regular session March 4.

Count von Bernstorff, who arranged today with Secretary Root for his presentation next Wednesday to President Roosevelt as Ambassador from Germany, succeeding the late Baron Speck von Sternberg, is believed to have been thoroughly equipped by consultation with the German Foreign Office before his departure from Germany to undertake the task.

HILL WANTS LOW GRADE TO GULF

WILL COMBAT HARRIMAN LINES IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD.

Purchase of Colorado & Southern Said to Be Part of General Development Plan.

ONE YEAR FOR EACH CENT

Petty Larcenist Gets Heavy Sentence From Oakland Judge.

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 28.—(Special.)—One year in prison for each copper penny he had stolen was the punishment meted out to George Gross this morning by Superior Judge Brown. He pleaded guilty to the burglary of the store of G. W. Weimor, at Thirty-fourth street and San Pablo avenue, about a month ago.

FIVE INJURED IN WRECK

Work Train on Snake River Branch Goes Over Embankment.

PASCO, Wash., Dec. 28.—(Special.)—About seven miles east of Snake River Junction last night, engine No. 1288, a work train on the Snake River line, went down a high fill, injuring the crew, as follows:

W. F. Simms, engineer; A. Wicklen, fireman, both being badly bruised and Wicklen sustaining a broken leg. O. Ostermeyer and W. F. Eagan, conductor and brakeman, both were somewhat bruised, and S. D. Monnell, S. P. & S. civil engineer, was bruised.

THESPIAN SHOT IN HOTEL

Wronged Husband Takes Law Into Own Hands in Denver.

DENVER, Dec. 28.—Bert Edward Dury, known on the stage as Byron Allenton, who has been playing this week at the Crystal Theater, was shot through the head and instantly killed last afternoon at a rooming-house on Curtis street, near Fifteenth, by Bert Bell, who escaped, but later was captured.

OREGON PROFESSOR WEDS

Samuel Eliot Marries Miss Madder-scheid in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—(Special.)—The wedding of Miss Eliza von Madder-scheid, a society girl of the college town of Berkeley, and Samuel Eliot, professor of psychology at the University of Oregon, took place here today at the Sederbergian Church.

GIRL ELOPES WITH PRIEST

Nebraska Man's Daughter Missing After Winnipeg Wedding.

WINNIPEG, Man., Dec. 28.—Miss Seraphina Ispender, daughter of I. T. Ispender, of South Omaha, Neb., disappeared suddenly Sunday night after acting as bridesmaid at the marriage of her sister here. It is believed that she has eloped or was kidnaped by a Polish priest of Winnipeg.

COSGROVE MUST TAKE OATH NORTH

Can't Assume Office Out of State.

ATKINSON GIVES OPINION

Washington's Attorney-General Talks of Situation.

MEAD WOULD HOLD OVER

Must Give Up Office When Cosgrove Returns—If Governor-Elect Dies, New Election is Necessary.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 28.—(Special.)

That Governor-elect Cosgrove cannot qualify as Governor without returning to the state, is the opinion of Attorney-General John D. Atkinson, expressed here tonight. Mr. Atkinson had been informed that Mrs. Cosgrove had made the statement that Mr. Cosgrove was preparing to take the oath of office at Paso Robles, and the Attorney-General's opinion was in reply to the question whether or not such action would be legal.

CONING NORTH, SAYS ROBINSON.

"Governor-elect Cosgrove continues to improve. He is gaining strength every day. He now walks about his room and rests in the sunparlor and seems perfectly confident of ultimate recovery, in

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