WOE IS IMMENSE IN SUNNY ITALY

Dead Number 110,000 in Two Cities.

THOUSANDS IN OTHER PLAGES

Shiploads of Fugitives Swamp Nearest Places.

FIRE ENDS DEVASTATION

King and Queen Visit Messina and Weep as They Succor Injured. Starving People Seek Food. Nations Hasten to Help.

**************** RESULTS OF EARTHQUAKE.

Killed, 100,000 to 200,000. Injured, 300,000 to 500,000. Homeless, estimated at 1,000,000 Cities over 10,000 population de-stroyed, 15.

Smaller towns destroyed, estimat-Warships sunk (torpedo-bouts), 12. Many American tourists among the

Fermation of Straits of Messina

Historic Scylla and Charybdis de-Etna and Stromboll, volcanoes, in

ruption. Second and third shocks felt in

Cable to Acolian Isles cut; disaster

ROME, Dec. 30,-The immensity of the disaster in Southern Italy and Sicily can be measured only by the fact that it is now estimated that 119,000 persons 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 these awful totals all Italy stands appalled. Nor has the full death list yet been reported.

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 starved. half naked over the land. The forces that on Monday overwhelmed the cities also destroyed the means of sustenance.

Mere Handful Survives.

Telegraphic communication has been es tablished with Messina, the apparatus having been set up in a rallway station. Messages that have come over the line though they have been meagre in detail, show that hope is gone. Nothing remains of the city but a mass of ruins that have been swept by fire. A mere handful of survivors is being cared for by the rescuing forces, but their distress is great and it has been increased by the recent ley wind that followed the deluge of rain. Destitution is appalling. There is little food and less water.

Loss 10,000 in Two Cities.

Of Messina's 90,000 population, it is be lieved that fully 70,000 perished. Forty thousand people died in Reggio. King Victor Emmanuel and Queer Helena were in Messina today. The King explored the ruins regardless of the danger to which he exposed himself. He was often moved to tears at the heartrendng scenes he came upon at every turn. The King was loud in his praise of splendid work accomplished by the Italtan, Russian and English blue ackets, who saved many persons who otherwise would have perished. The Queen spent the day in the wards of the improvised hospitals visiting the wounded, many of whom have lost all that was dear to them. Her majesty did her best to cheer them with words of consolation, often breaking into sobs as she listened to their dreadful tales of suffering. The King left for Reggio tonight.

Catania People Unnerved.

Catania, the largest city nearest the refugees, and the continuous stream of fugitives coming in, the sight of the wounded and the repetition of real or maginary earthquakes have so alarmed the population that they are becoming uncontrollable. There is no longer any place where the refugees may find shelter. Cardinal Francisca Nava di Bontife Archbishop of Catania, has employed all the money in his possession to provide bread for the refugees, but the people of Catania also are in great need, as the or dinary business pursuits have been en

tirely interrupted. Fate of Foreigners in Doubt.

The government is finding difficulty in ascertaining the fate of the many foreigners who were in the earthquake zone at the time of the catastrophe, inquiries concerning whom are coming from all quarters of the globec. Admiral Makharoff, Russian commander of the battleship which arrived with fugitives at Naples today confirms the report of the death of the American Consul at Messina, Arthur S. Cheney, and his wife, who were buried in the ruins of the consulate.

The number of Americans in Sicily and Southern Italy is believed to be small, and several of them have been reported

(Concluded on Page 7.)

AUTO GOES UP IN **BURST OF FLAMES**

CRUSHED BETWEEN TWO TROL-LEY CARS ON BRIDGE.

Short Circuit Starts Blaze, Department Called Out, Traffic Blocked and Women in Hysterics.

Streetcar traffic from Grand avenue on the East Side to Second atreet on the West Side was blocked for half an your just at the "busy season" last night, by one of the most spectacular automobile accidents that ever has happened in Portland. Though no one was injured, a dozen or more women passengers on Montavilla cars Nos 343 and 344, both of which figured in the collision, nearly went into hysterics when the motor car, firmly pinioned between the two streetcars, caught fire and went up in smoke through the ex-plosion of the gasoline tank, superinduced by a short-circuiting of the respective trolley wires, which ignited the inflammable motive power of the

H. G. Terry, owner and driver of the otor car, and regarded as one of the best drivers in the city, was on his way home to dinner. With him as guests were Louis Bruce and Dr. F. Perkins. It was about 6:30 o'clock and Terry was running eastward on Morrison street at a moderate clip. He passed eastbound Montavilla car 343 at the west approach of the Morrisonstreet bridge, and after mounting the incline met westbound car 344 just af-ter crossing the anchor span of the He turned to the right to avoid the inbound car, when the outbound car rammed the auto from the rear and keeled it over directly onto the track in front of car No. 344. The result was that Terry's auto was hopelessly fammed between the two street-The motor car took fire and was soon in a roaring blaze. This terrified the women in the streetcars and they to rush for safety. Cooler heads told them there was no danger and they subsided.

It took fully half an hour to disentungle the mix-up, and in the meantime a fire alarm had been turned in A chemical engine responded, but its services were not required, for Terry's motor car was a wreck before the apparatus arrived.

NAVAL OFFICERS TO HIKE

Physical Test to Be Arranged for Men Who "Pace the Deck."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 39.—Regulations washing the physical tests to be given officers of the navy will very soon be promulgated by Socretary. Newberry. These regulations provide for a physical test which is believed to be equivalent to that which has been applied to the army and marine corps. A walking test, it is said, will be the basis of the naval regulation but officers so desiring may have the option of substituting horseback or bicycle-riding endurance tests. Various details of the physical tests

today at a conference at the White the fingers of the dead and wounded to House. It is expected that regulations get the rings. Some of them were singproviding for a test will be announced within a day or two.

Immediately after the conference the

President went to the Navy Department with Secretary Newberry and visited the draughting room, where there are modeis of many vessels. His purpose was to familiarize himself with the various types of warships.

VANDALS LOOT TEMPLE

Second Peculiar Crime in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20 .- The Temple Emanu-El on Sutter street was entered sometime last night by vandals who placed a ladder against one of the handsome stained glass windows, which was completely shattered. After effecting an entrance, they tore the altar cloth from the altar, stripped it into shreds and scattered the remnants on the floor. Several pews were overturned and an attempt made to get at the silver servces, but these were locked beyond reach, The men are believed to have been frightened away before completing their work of sacrilege. A similar outrage was recently perpetrated at the Church

KILLED BY HIS AFFINITY

Youth Bids Woman Good-bye Forever and Is Instantly Slain.

WASHINGTON, N. C., Dec. 30 .- John Emerson Stone, aged 22, well connected in Boston and New York, a graduate of Holy scene of the disaster, is crowded with | Cross College, Worcester, Mass., was shot and killed here early to-day by May Woolard, who then shot herself twice and may die. The tragedy followed Stone's call on the woman to say he was leaving her forever and going home. Stone had two brothers, Gilbert Stone, of New York, and Captain Edgar Stone, U. S. A., stationed in Luzon, P. I. The former is on his way here to take charge

ESSICK WAS MURDERED

Heavy Hunting-Knife Found in Son's Room Next Door.

of the body.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Dec. 30 .- Late developments in the investigation of the death of C. P. Essick, the aged clerk of the Woodmen of the World, who was found dead in bed yesterday morning with stabs in his breast and a bullet hole in his head, indicate that the dead man was the victim of murder at the

hands of some unknown person. A hunting knife with a one-edged blade has been found on a shelf in the room of the son, Paul S. Essick, whose room adjoined that of the father. It is also learned that Mr. Essick carried insurance on his life aggregating \$8,000,

TALES OF HORROR

Pour Into Naples, Famished and Sore.

CONVICTS LOOT AND ROB DEAD

Prison Destroyed, but Most of Occupants Escape.

RUSSIAN VESSEL ASHORE

Thrown Into Messina Street by Tidal Wave-Huge Fissures Swallow Buildings - Fugitives Meet Death at Reggio.

NAPLES, Dec. 30.-The steamer Thera ple is lying off Naples, crowded with refu gees from Messina, bereaved men, stary ng women and weeping children, all with the stamp of great suffering on their a German cotton firm in the lost city,

"Messina is utterly destroyed, Nothing remained when I left but a part of the citadel. A few soldlers are the lone sur-

vivors of the whole garrison. Slides Down Rope to Safety.

"I was asleep when the first shock came. I, lit my lamp, but all was quiet and I turned to sleep again. Suddenly fresh shocks occurred, violent and terrifying. I arose quickly, but the hous was swaying and my door was immed tore the sheets from the bed and made a rope and lowered myself from the win dow to the street. An Italian family of five persons escaped from the house by the aid of my rope.

"No sooner were we in the street than the house collapsed. I tried to assist in the work of rescue, but it was uncless The horror and confusion were indescrib able. I wandered in the wrecked streets No food could be secured. I had only a few nuts to eat. The head of my firm was lost, and his brother had to go to the streets, begging for bread for his wife and children. There was no organi nation in the work of rescue.

Convicts Loot and Kill.

"The prison was destroyed and th wardens killed, but most of the convicts escaped. They prowled about the ruins, rdering. They cut of conference at the White the fingers of the dead and wounded to ing songs of liberty as they plied the knife

"A Russian vessel lying in the harbon was thrown into the street by the tidal wave. Other vessels foundered. Railway lines were swallowed up. The square known as the Campo Santo collasped and sank. Only the summits of a few ruined buildings still emerged from the street What remained of the population when I left was camping near the harbor." According to other refugees, not a sin-

gle hotel remained standing. A fissure (Concluded on Page 6.)

WATCH FOR THE ANNUAL TOMORROW.

Every person who is interested in Oregon should read the New Year's Oregonian, which will be issued tomorrow. Even though a resident of this state, you will learn many facts about its progress during the past year which have not come under your personal observation. The resources of the state are so vast and their development so rapid that no individual can keep in touch with all of them. But a large corps of writers will tell of them in the Annual, and their articles will be a record of remarkable progress. It will make

are an Oregonian. Not only read the Annual yourself, but send it to your friends in the East and elsewhere. Thousands of people are thinking of becoming residents of the Pacific Coast. A copy of the Annual will give them more information about Oregon than could be conveyed in scores of letters. will make them want to call Ore-

you prouder than ever that you

The Annual will be instructive, readable and altogether one of the best advertisements the state could have. Pictorially it will be especially fine. The price will be 5 cents a copy. Postage in the United States, Canada, Mex-ico or the Insular Possessions, 4 cents a copy additional; foreign countries, 7 cents.

faces. One of the refugees, a man with STARTS FOR NEW YEAR

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Government Will Indicate 1909 for Each Time Division

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.-The Naval Observatory here will send out four series of New Year's eve telegraph time signals, at intervals of exactly one hour. to mark the instant of the beginning of the new year in each of the four great standard time belts Into which the United States is divided.

The signals will be transmitted voluntary by the various telegraph com-The first series will begin at 11:55 P. M., Dec. 31, Eastern time, and at midnight will end. The second sending will be at I A. M., January 1, Eastern time and is the middle sign midnight signal for central time, the third at I A. M. for ountain time, and the fourth at 3 A. M. for Pacific time.

ROBBERS' FENCE IN BANK

Barbed Wire and Armed Guard Keep Back Citizens Two Hours.

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Dec. 39,-Three robbers heavily armed rode into Wellston after midnight last night. They erected a barbed wire barricade around the bank, and while some of the gang went to work on the bank safe, others stood guard. The citizens were soon up in arms, and a lively exchange of shots with the robbers followed. The robbers, however were well armed and protected, and for two hours they stood off the citizens while their comrades worked on the bank vault.

When they finally succeeded in gaining the money it contained, five men rode off, covering their departure with a constant and heavy fire. It is believed that 200 shots were exchanged. No one is believed to have been hurt.

ENCELADUS.

THE SMOKE OF THE VOLCANO IS THE BREATH OF ENCELADUS; AND WHEN HE SHIFTS HIS SIDE IT IS AN EARTHQUAKE.

FINCH IS GUILTY IN FIRST DEGREE

Murderer of Ralph B Fisher Convicted.

JURY OUT JUST 30 MINUTES

Judge Bronaugh to Pronounce Sentence Next Saturday.

DEFENDANT STILL DEFIANT

Tries to Appear Unmoved and Declares He Will Fight Case to United States Supreme Court. Verdict Is Popular One.

COMMENT ON VERDICT.

Circuit Judge E. C. Bronaugh-I think the man had a fair and impartial trial. The jury was excep-tionally good, composed throughout of conscientious men, and I know they gave the whole matter their careful attention and consideration and did their full duty as they saw it and with a full realization that

the duty was a serious one.

District Attorney Cameron—The jury did its duty and did it fully, and I believe this conviction will tend to make life more secure in the comnunity than it has seemed to be in the past year or so. I feel that Finch should speedliy pay the full penalty of his crime.

C. F. Lord, Chief Counsel for Finch I believe Finch shot in the defense of his own life and that he will

never go to the gallows.

James A. Finch, the convicted murderer-Fil fight this case right on Court. They'll not railroad my soul

I'll die like a man, anyway.' Puffing furiously at a big nickel clgar James A. Finch fought desperately with himself for self control and strained to affect an air of bravado and unconcern as he was led down to the death cell late vesterday afternoon with the fury's ver dict of guilty still ringing in his ears

"Well, if they are going to hang me,

a verdict that meant he must die at the end of a hangman's rope for the devillat murder of Ralph B. Fisher, late prosecu tor of the Multnomah Bar Association. But I'll fight this case right on u to the United States Supreme Court," he said. "Why, the records are chuck full of reversible error and I'll get an appeal. They are trying to railroad my soul to hell. But I'm going to fight, They may hang me, but they'll not railroad me. You can count on it that I've got a couple

of years to live." It took the Circuit Court jury just thirty minutes to go from the courtro the juryroom, prepare the verdict and return with it. It took them only a few seconds to decide Finch must die. There was no dissenting voice, no discuss hesitation. The twelve men proceeded in (Concluded on Page 10.)

*GONE NINETY DAYS

KENTUCKY "U" BOY TELLS RAMBLING TALE

Willis Smith Says He Was Confined in Cave, but Parents Think Mind Is Deranged.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 30.-(Special.)-Dazed and quite unable to give a coherent ecount of his experiences, Willis Smith student in the University of Kentucky, who mysteriously disappeared three months ago, turned up unexpectedly at his home in Owensboro, Ky., today. He talked ramblingly of being forcibly taken from the university, carried off to Wisconsin and held prisoner in a cave in that state by four men. His brothers and sisters did not press him today for a de tailed account of his life since he disap peared. Smith's mind seems clouded, and it is suspected the story of forcible re straint in Wisconsin may be a figment of magination.

a rensation here in the middle of Sep tember. Large rewards were offered by the family and students for his recovery Detectives came from far and wide to foin in the search. Newspapers made a feature of the quest. All sorts of sense tional stories emanated from the uni versity and town. Smith had been the victim of a hazing shortly before, and it was feared his mind was unbalanced by his experience.

BATTURS SUCCEEDS SHOUP

James O. Parsons Goes to Louislana in Harriman Service.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- (Special.) -- Several changes in the traffic department of the Harriman lines have been announced for the first of the year.

Frank E. Batturs, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific's Louisiana lines, has decided to return to his native state, California, and has been given the place of assistant general passenger agent of the same road, with headquarters at San Francisco. Mr. Batturs will be succeeded by James S O. Parsons, for a number of years chief assistant to E. O. McCormick, assistant tariff director of the Harriman lines Paul Shoup, for years assistant general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific at San Francisco, has resigned to accept a position with the chief counsel of that road in the same city.

\$12,000 RANCH SURPRISE

Wife of Poor Miner Given Deed to Valuable Property.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Dec. 20.-Special.)-Mrs. Lucy J. Chrisholm, the wife of a poor miner at Roslyn, has just been awarded land in the Yakima Valley valued at over \$12,000. The land was left to her by her mother, but her father mar-ried again and there has been litigation. When the deed to 80 acres was given her she was overjoyed. The land is located at Belma, this county. It has a fine bearing orchard and also produces hay and grain crops. The family will at once move to their ranch.

FARWELL MAY GET PLACE Chicago Man Mentioned to Take

CHICAGO, Dec. 50.-The Record-Herald today prints the following news article

Garfield's Place Under Taft.

under an Augusta, Ga., date: The newest name suggested for a mem ber of Mr. Taft's official family is that of John V. Farwell, of Chicago, a former Yale man and one of the best-known business men of the western metropolls. It is likely that Farwell will be asked to take the portfolio of Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Ballinger, of Washington, has been mentioned for the place and it was considered possible for a time that James R. Garfield would continue at his post. It is certain now, however, that Mr. Gar field will be made an Ambassador, prob-

STILLMAN MAY QUIT BANK

Mr. Ballinger has been eliminated.

ably at Rome. It is believed now that

Frank Vanderlip Slated for Presidency of Richest Institution,

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 .- At the annua meeting of the stockholders of the National City Bank of this city on January 12, it is expected that James Stillman will retire from the office of president and will be elected chairman of the board of directors. It is expected that Frank A. Vanderlip, now vice-president, will be elected president. The National City Bank has deposits of more than \$300,-000,000.

NEAR-BEER IS UNDER BAN

Heavy Penalties Provided in Albany for Selling Stuff.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 30 .- (Special.) --The City Council last night passed an rdinance prohibiting the sale of nearbeer in Albany. Fines of from \$50 to \$100, or imprisonment of from 25 to 50 days are provided for violations, each sale to constitute a separate offense.

Italian Must Be Hanged.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30.-Fabriano Machucha, convicted of the murder of Mrs. Refugia Yorba at her home in Wilmington, on the night of August 18, was sentenced to death by hanging by Judge Jamison today. The execution was set for March 19. A motion for a new trial was heard and overruled.

BESIDE DEAD MAN

Sensational Testimony in Erb Case.

MURDER FOLLOWED QUARREL

Evidence Indicates Mrs. Beisel Fired Fatal Shot.

ASSERTS SELF-DEFENSE

Immediately After Tragedy She Asked, "What Will They Do to Me for This?"-Servants Tell of Frequent Rows.

MEDIA, Pa., Dec. 30 .- The trial of Mrs. M. Florence Erb and her sister, Mrs Catherine Belsel, for the murder of Captain J. Clayton Erb, progressed rapidly here today. Nearly the entire morning of the trial was taken up with the servant in the Erb home at the time of the

tragedy. She said Mrs. Erb, Mrs. Beisel and herself had spent the evening of the tragedy at the Village Green Hotel, nearby, where they had several drinks. Returning to the house with Mrs. Erb, Miss Matsui heard quarreling and later a crash of glass. Then there was an interval of a few minutes during which Mrs. Erb telephoned for her sister to come to the house from the hotel. Shortly after she arrived the shooting occurred.

Found in Faint.

Yesterday's contention of the District Attorney that Mrs. Erb may have done the shooting was not sustained by the testimony of the witnesses. Describing neldents subsequent to the shooting, the witness said Mrs. Beisel was found in a faint on the floor near the dead man, and when revived asked: "What will they do with me for this?"

Later she asked the same question of her sister, and Mrs. Erb replied: "I don't know what they'll do with you. Leave it to God and trust in him."

Ten witnesses were examined, among them the servants in the employ of the Erb household and some of those who investigated the crime. Lawyers for the defense said the testimony tended to sustain the contention that Mrs. Beisel, as she has maintained from the Brst, fired the fatal shot.

Direct Testimony.

There was no direct testimony, however, to uphold her contention that she acted in self-defense.

The testimony in no manner associated Mrs. Erb with having done the shooting. Quarrels and fights at Red Gables long before the tragedy were described by the servants, and one witness testified that Mrs. Erb had said that her husband once threw her down stairs. That she feared her husband and always sient with a revolver under her pillow, was

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 42 degrees; minimum, 36.4.
TODAY'S — Occasional rain, northerly Earthquake in Italy. Loss of life 130,000 in Messina and Reggio alone; thousands die in other places.

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Foreign. Count Boni loses control of children, but they may visit him. Page 2 Venezuelans burn Castro in effigy. Page 3.

Captain Hains' brother tells, with tears, of his mental ruln. Page 5.

Kentucky student returns half crazed after severe hazing. Page 1. Night Riders' families all testify to althis.

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Politics. Fight on Burton in Ohio carried forward with increased vigor. Page 7. Sports.

Whitworth College will meet Multnomah to-morrow afternoon. Page 7. Pacific Const. Boy plays with matches and is burned to death. Page 5-

Commercial and Marine, No domestic demand for Oregon hops, Page 15. Weather wheat market at Chicago. Page 15 Stock market affected by Italian disaster.

Sall tonnage offering for 17s 6d—exporters willing to give 15s. Page 14. Portland and Vicinity.

James A. Finch convicted of murder in first degree. Page 1. Auto burns up in spectacular fire on Morrison-street bridge. Page 1. Council completes sale of improvement bonds. Page 19.

Taxes for Multnomah County will be in-crossed more than \$1,000,000 next year. Page 14. Discussion of city tax lavy arouses bitter controversy at Council meeting. Page 14. Railroads supposed to be picking up valu-able terminat sites in this city. Page 14. Anti-statement forces still hope to defeat Chamberlain for Senate. Page