



WOE IS IMMENSE IN SUNDY ITALY

Dead Number 110,000 in Two Cities.

THOUSANDS IN OTHER PLACES

Shiploads of Fugitives Swamp Nearest Places.

FIRE ENDS DEVASTATION

King and Queen Visit Messina and Weep as They Succor Injured.

RESULTS OF EARTHQUAKE. Killed, 100,000 to 200,000. Injured, 300,000 to 500,000. Homeless, estimated at 1,000,000.

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 110,000 persons perished in Messina and Reggio alone.

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.

Mere Handful Survives. Telegraphic communication has been established with Messina, the apparatus having been set up in a railway station.

Loss 10,000 in Two Cities.

Of Messina's 90,000 population, it is believed that fully 70,000 perished. Forty thousand people died in Reggio.

King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena were in Messina today. The King explored the ruins regardless of the danger to which he exposed himself.

Catania People Unnerved.

Catania, the largest city nearest the scene of the disaster, is crowded with refugees, and the continuous stream of fugitives coming in, the sight of the wounded and the repetition of real or imaginary earthquakes have so alarmed the population that they are becoming uncontrollable.

ESSICK WAS MURDERED

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

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 a bullet hole in his head, indicate that the dead man was the victim of murder at the hands of some unknown person.

AUTO GOES UP IN BURST OF FLAMES

CRUSHED BETWEEN TWO TROLLEY 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 street on the West Side was blocked for half an hour last night by the most spectacular automobile accident that ever has happened in Portland.

H. G. Terry, owner and driver of the motor car, and regarded as one of the best drivers in the city, was on his way home to dinner.

It took fully half an hour to disentangle 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 'Face the Deck.'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Regulations governing the physical tests to be given officers of the navy will very soon be promulgated by Secretary Newberry.

Immediately after the conference the President went to the Navy Department with Secretary Newberry and visited the drawing room, where there are models 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. 30.—The Temple Emanuel on Butler street was entered sometime last night by vandals who placed a ladder against one of the handsome stained glass windows, which was completely shattered.

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 Cross College, Worcester, Mass., was shot and killed here early to-day by May Woolard, who then shot herself twice and may die.

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SURVIVORS TELL TALES OF HORROR

Pour Into Naples, Famed 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 Therapia is lying off Naples, crowded with refugees from Messina, bereaved men, starving women and weeping children, all with the stamp of great suffering on their faces.

"Messina is utterly destroyed. Nothing remained when I left but a part of the citadel. A few soldiers are the lone survivors of the whole garrison.

"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 house was swaying and my door was jammed.

"No sooner were we in the street than the house collapsed. I tried to assist in the work of rescue, but it was useless. The horror and confusion were indescribable. 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 organization in the work of rescue.

ROBBERS' FENCE IN BANK

Barbed Wire and Armed Guard Keep Back Citizens Two Hours.

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Dec. 30.—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 in work on the bank safe, others stood guard.

ENCELADUS.



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

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 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, Mexico or the Insular Possessions, 4 cents a copy additional; foreign countries, 7 cents.

STARTS FOR NEW YEAR

Government Will Indicate 1909 for Each Time Division.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—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.

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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.

COMMENT ON VERDICT.

Circuit Judge E. C. Bronaugh—I think the man had a fair and impartial trial. The jury was exceptionally 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.

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HAZED BOY BACK: 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 account of his experiences, Willis Smith, a 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 detailed account of his life since he disappeared. Smith's mind seems clouded, and it is suspected the story of forcible restraint in Wisconsin may be a figment of imagination.

BATTURS SUCCEEDS SHOUP

James O. Parsons Goes to Louisiana 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.

\$12,000 RANCH SURPRISE

Wife of Poor Miner Given Deed to Valuable Property.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Mrs. Lucy J. Christman, 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 married again and there has been litigation.

FARWELL MAY GET PLACE

Chicago Man Mentioned to Take Garfield's Place Under Taft.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—The Record-Herald today prints the following news article under an Augusta, Ga., date: The newest name suggested for a member 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 metropolis.

STILLMAN MAY QUIT BANK

Frank Vanderlip Slated for Presidency of Richest Institution.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—At the annual 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 \$200,000,000.

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 ordinance prohibiting the sale of near-beer 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.

FOUND IN FAINT BESIDE DEAD MAN

Sensational Testimony in Erb Case.

MURDER FOLLOWED QUARREL

Evidence Indicates Mrs. Belsel 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. Belsel 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, Mrs. Belsel 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 incidents subsequent to the shooting, the witness said Mrs. Belsel was found in a faint on the floor near the dead man, and when revived asked: "What will they do with me for this?"

Direct Testimony.

There was no direct testimony, however, to uphold her contention that she acted in self-defense. The testimony in no manner supported 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 slept with a revolver under her pillow, was also testified.

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