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Oregon Daily Journal

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PORTLAND, OREGON, TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 29, 1908.—FOURTEEN PAGES.

PRICE TWO CENTS. ON TRAINS AND FIVE STANDS, FIVE CENTS.

THOUSANDS ARE DEAD; ETNA IN ERUPTION CITY OF MESSINA, SICILY, SWEEPED BY GREAT FIRE---HAS NO WATER TO SAVE IT

TIDAL WAVE DROWNS HUNDREDS OF INJURED

Volcano of Etna Belching Volumes of Smoke and Italian Government Fears That Eruption Will Follow--Rescue Parties Hurry to Scene.

Catania, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Volcanic activity was noticed at Mount Etna, and an eruption is imminent. Detonations, indicating an unusual disturbance, can be heard plainly a few miles from the volcano, and are noticeable in this city.

Naples, Dec. 29.—Estimates by the authorities here place the number of persons killed in the earthquake devastated regions of Sicily and southern Italy at 50,000. There is no means of obtaining accurate figures, as there are many outlying districts to be heard from which are cut off from communication.

Great Tidal Wave. The tidal wave at Messina overwhelmed many injured persons who were pinned down by wreckage. Steep hills are back of the town, and before the inhabitants could reach these the water rushed in in a mighty wave 30 feet high and swept all the lower streets of the town.

Telegraph communication has been restored tonight as far south as Palmi, and each new stretch of wire that is put in operation brings the story of new horrors.

Deposits of Slime. When the sea rose in a tremendous wave and swept in upon the town, inundating it, it left a deposit of over two feet of mud and slime. As soon as the water subsided, the fire broke out, and spread rapidly until the flames swept over the ruins in a solid mass.

Four thousand wounded have been accounted for by the rescuers.

All the seismic apparatus in Italy was broken by the shocks. The soldiers are doing good work in the sections visited by the disaster. In nearly all cities orders have been given to shoot down looters, and these orders have been carried out in many cases.

Few reports have come from Reggio, but they indicate that the city was shaken terrifically and that the loss of life was heavy. It is the capital of the province of Reggio di Calabria and is a city of about 50,000 inhabitants.

DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT THAT WAS RUINED BY QUAKE

The Peloritani range over against Calabria occupies the northeastern corner of the island of Sicily, where one earthquake was most severe. This range forms an upland country with steep descent to the Straits of Messina and is deeply scarred by numerous river beds. It ends in a low, sandy formation which sweeps eastward and forms the harbor of Messina, on which is the city of that name, which has been destroyed.

university and the see of an archbishop. The cathedral of Messina has been one of the sights worth seeing in Sicily. The cathedral is described in his book of travels, is dirty and noisy. Most of its streets were steep and narrow. The narrowness of the strip of coast caused the city to stretch out for miles. Aside from the cathedral there are no very remarkable buildings to be mentioned, as the Calabrian earthquakes, of frequent occurrence, have wiped out all that was beautiful architecturally. The quake occurring early in the morning fanned the devastation down like rain when the strait's waters inundated the narrow shelf of land. The harbor of Messina the range with its brush-grown precipices and rivulets set.



Top picture, the harbor of Catania; lower, "La Cala," at Palermo. Both of these places felt the full force of the shock.

LOCAL CONSUL DESCRIBES THE STRICKEN LAND

"Something like 5000 square miles of the Italian mainland was affected by yesterday's earthquake," said Charles F. Candiani, Italian consul in Portland, "and on the island of Sicily the temblor damaged an area fully as large. The damaged mainland does not extend further north than the northern boundary of the province of Calabria and involves about the same territory that was damaged three years ago. The damaged Sicilian territory embraces a strip on the eastern shore 125 miles long and extending into the interior from 30 to 40 miles. The damaged portions of Sicily contain some of the fairest cities on the island, among the number being Messina, a beautiful place occupying a point on the northeastern corner of the island."

BEATS THIEF WITH BARE FISTS

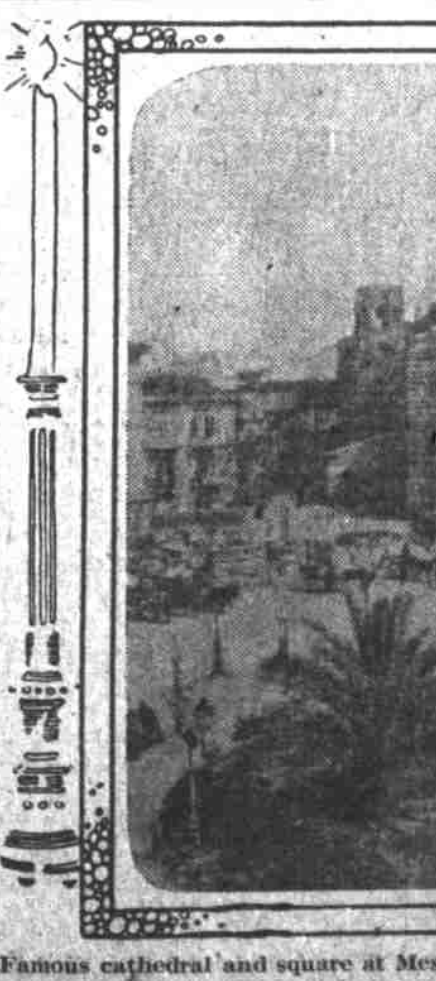
Adolph A. Dekum Chases Burglar From His Room—Ladder Breaks as Intruder Makes Escape From Second Story Window.

Adolph A. Dekum, the hardware merchant of 131 First street, leaped out of bed early this morning and chased out of the house a burglar whom he found bending over his bureau. Entirely unarmed, Mr. Dekum seized the man as he was about to climb down the ladder by which he had entered the house, and struck him several blows. The burglar concentrated his efforts in trying to escape. When Mr. Dekum's last blow landed the ladder broke and the burglar and the ladder fell to the ground. The intruder's electric flashlight fell out of his pocket and was found this morning by the side of the house, 416 Twenty-first street, Portland Heights.

The same man attempted to enter the residence of George W. Collins, manager of the mill of George Almslie & Co., next door, but he was unsuccessful. Warned by a Dream. Impelled by a dream's premonition that he would be robbed, Mr. Dekum last evening for the first time put his gold watch, a gift of his father, under the bed instead of upon a table by his bedside. "It was 3:45 this morning that my wife and I woke at the same time," said Mr. Dekum this morning. "I noticed a light shining on a picture on the wall, and so I turned on the electric light hanging over the bed. Then I saw the burglar standing by the bureau and though I had nothing but my bare hands I jumped out of bed in my night-shirt and yelled 'Get out of here.' I suppose I wasn't awake enough to know what a dangerous thing I was doing. The man ran into an adjoining room, which we call the den, and which was darker than the bedroom. He made for the window, which was open, and just

2000 DEAD AND INJURED IN ONE ITALIAN CITY

Cantanzaro, Italy, Dec. 29.—Reports late this afternoon indicate that 2000 of the city's 25,000 people are either dead or wounded as the result of the earthquake. Martial law prevails and everything possible is being done to relieve the suffering, though comparatively little can be done. Food is in great demand. All supplies have been seized by the soldiers and are being given out to the sufferers in the best manner possible. Most of the survivors are camping in the open country about town and hundreds of persons severely wounded have received no medical attention whatever.



Famous cathedral and square at Messina. The cathedral was destroyed.

MESSINA PREY TO FIERCE FLAMES BURLESQUE MINGLE

After Quake, Then Tidal Wave Followed by Conflagration—Details of Destruction of City—Battle-ships Go to Rescue.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Messina, the beautiful city of 150,000 population, one of the principal harbors of Sicily and a port of importance as a shipping center, is in ruins. The water supply has been shut off by the earthquakes, which laid waste this and many other cities and towns in Calabria, Italy and Sicily, and Messina is in flames. There is little hope that a vestige of it will be left. The loss of life in Messina alone may reach 12,000 and as many more are injured.

The dispatch expresses the fear that Reggio, across the Straits of Messina, has been annihilated and that most of the towns on the straits have been destroyed.

Railroad Established. Railway communication into the stricken towns has been established. The transportation is confined to the bringing in of supplies and government troops and the taking out of refugees. The flames are spreading rapidly over the ruined city.

The wrecked and shattered buildings are food for the fire and there is no means of checking the conflagration. Even if means were provided there is no organization of any kind to carry on the work.

A squadron of battleships left here today for Messina, where the ships will be divided and will patrol the coast in the devastated sections. Messina is the second city in Sicily, ranking next to Palermo. It is an ancient city, said to have been established by pirates from Cumae in the eighth century B. C.

The destruction of Messina was more the result of the tidal wave than of the earthquake, according to the testimony of a trainload of refugees who have arrived at Catania from Messina.

They say the dead officially reported at Messina numbered 1800, but asserted that this would fall far below the correct estimate, which they said should be at least 12,000. The Hotel Trinaeria, in which were 90 guests, was destroyed by the quake and later burned. None of the occupants are believed to have escaped.

The telegraph office, the postoffice.

(Continued on Page Five.)

Lawyer Lord Makes Eccentric Plea for Life of Murderer Finch—Attempts to Drag in Newspaper Editorials and Rebuked by Court

Judge Bronaugh and the jury that is trying James A. Finch for the murder of Ralph B. Fisher were treated to alternations of the tragic and the burlesque this morning during the address of Charles F. Lord, who was making the final plea for the life of the suspended attorney who killed the bar association prosecutor.

The tragedy came in a pitiful plea for the aged mother of "Poor Jim," as the lawyer referred to his client. The burlesque was furnished when Lord unveiled a pair of apothecaries' scales with the dramatic announcement, "Here I have the scales of justice." Then he placed in one end of the scales the names of all the witnesses called by the state, written on narrow slips of paper, and in the other end the names of the witnesses called by the defense, he showed that the defense had the greater number, and the "scales of justice" tipped greatly in favor of the names of several jail birds were dropped into the pan.

Aburdity Is Intensified. The absurdity of this performance was heightened by the fact that among the names balanced up for the defense were District Attorney Cameron, Deputy District Attorney Fitzgerald and Judge Bronaugh. Members of the jury joined in the laugh that swept over the courtroom, and Lord turned fiercely on the smiling faces of the prosecuting lawyers.

"Laugh," he fairly hissed. "Laugh, do you? Ah, you will laugh while a man's life is to be decided. This shows the merciless character of the prosecution. Laugh again, will you? Either your highness developed an opportunity of evidence is on our side, or the statute means nothing."

Lord had not finished when the court adjourned for the noon recess. He expected to speak, he said, two or three hours this afternoon, and this probably means a longer session, as Judge Bronaugh wants to give the case to the jury not later than tonight. If Lord does not finish in time to give Deputy District Attorney Cameron an opportunity for the state this afternoon, the prosecutor will say the last word tonight.

Finch More Serious. Finch seemed in more serious mood this morning as he listened to the final effort of his counsel. He gave no sign of doubt in the minds of the jury. Much of the time he looked at the jurors, as if trying to read their minds. Occasionally he used a pencil and paper, making notes for the use of his lawyers. Now and then he was seen to glance toward his mother, who sat some distance from him.

Lawyer Lord this morning argued little of the law with states of everyone in the courtroom. He devoted almost an hour to an allegory of the day with the art of printing. The purpose of this did not at first develop, but the object was evidently to develop, although Lord carefully worded his remarks to tell of an "imaginary newspaper" that hounded the men who were hungry.

He said the head of this imaginary newspaper was driven into a tower by a Coxe army and he telephoned for help. The scene of the allegory as pictured by Lord was in ancient Egypt, but his purpose was disclosed when he picked up a copy of a Portland morning newspaper and said that "for illustration" he would read some of the ex-

(Continued on Page Five.)

OTHER TOWNS IN DIRE DISTRESS

Giovanni and Bagnara Suffer Severely—Fire Ruins Wrecked Buildings. (United Press Leased Wire.) Rome, Dec. 29.—It is feared that Giovanni has suffered a fate similar to that of Messina, though there is yet no way of determining this. The reports that have drifted through to Palmi indicate that the town was wholly wrecked and that the loss of life could not be estimated. Some are inclined to discredit these reports on account of the wild state of everything in the southern part of Italy, where for many hours they have faced horror upon horror on all sides, have had practically no food and have not slept at all. Bagnara was rased by fire following the quake and the town is said to have been practically wiped out. The death list there undoubtedly will be heavy. A dispatch to the government of these news says that out of 10,000 inhabitants are dead and 500 are severely injured. Four dispatches from Catanzaro tend to increase the first reports of the damage and suffering there. The whole population of the town is camped outside the city.

POWDER SAVES SILVER CITY

Five Buildings in Idaho Mining Town Burned—Three Dynamited.

Boise, Idaho, Dec. 29.—Silver City, the big mining camp in Owyhee county, 60 miles south of this city, suffered a severe loss by fire early this morning, when eight buildings in the business section were destroyed and the entire town was threatened. Dynamite was used to check the progress of the flames, and this was all that saved the big War Eagle hotel. The general store of Charles Caldwell and two adjoining buildings were dynamited. The fire originated in a Chinese restaurant, from an unknown source. Three hundred miners worked for four hours to check the flames. An armed guard was placed about the goods removed from the stores and Chinamen who were caught looting were driven back with shotguns. Four of the destroyed buildings were owned by Mike Rock, sheriff of Owyhee county, who is the principal loser. The loss is estimated at \$10,000, with little insurance.

ONCE LIVED IN CALABRIA

Giovanni Noce of This City Has Relatives in Earthquake Ravaged Province—Tells of Temblor of Three Years Ago.

Giovanni Noce of the firm of Norgard & Noce, this city, was born in the city of Ragliano, Calabria, and visited there about five years ago after having lived several years in Portland. He says the last quake in the vicinity of his home occurred about three years ago, when his family residence was destroyed. The family escaped death in the ruins by a miraculously close margin, the quake occurring early in the morning when the occupants were asleep. They rushed into the streets and fields in their night robes and dared not return for several hours for fear a second shock would bury them under tottering walls left standing after the first shock. Mr. Noce's home was a two-story brick structure and it had to be practically rebuilt. Fearful that eventually they would be buried alive under burning lava or be crushed to death in a hot caustic worse than the one they had just escaped, the senior Noce decided to leave for America. He was in Portland with his son until quite recently, when he left for Des Moines, Iowa. Unable to sell the ruins of the former home, he had it rebuilt and the son now farms it.

is again a smouldering heap of brick and mortar. Until the earthquakes of about three years ago, said Mr. Noce, the people of Ragliano and vicinity did not worry much over the close proximity of Mount Vesuvius, but after that terrible experience no one felt secure. A repetition was feared any time, so my father told me but the people had to rebuild and make the best of it as their affords left. I still have several relatives there but it will probably be some time before I will learn their fate. "Undoubtedly everything is in a state of chaos and it will be some time before they would be restored. The people are very superstitious and that will undoubtedly delay the task of restoration. Calabria is a mountainous country, a practically continuous chain paralleling its shores. The towns mentioned in the dispatches are located on the sides of these mountains, so that one can see a number of them at one time. They average a population of about 10,000 people each. From a scenic point of view, the country is considered ideal."

(Continued on Page Five.)