Heppner Gazette

Issued Thursday of Each Week

HEPPNER ..... OREGON

RESUME OF THE WEEK'S DOINGS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Comprehensive Manner for Busy Readers—National, Political, Historical and Commercial.

The Italian earthquake will not affect the fruit trade.

Heney says Harriman is behind all San Franciso grafters.

Local option people expect that a large part of Indiana will go dry this year.

All hope of American Consul Cheney having escaped the earthquake has been given up.

Lack of funds may cause the investigation of New York's financial condition to stop.

Night riers of Tennessee made an unsuccessful attempt to kill Attorney General Caldwell.

A Japanese steamer was wrecked off the coast of China and the survivors murdered by Chinese.

Roosevelt has cabled the Italian government offering the use of the battleship fleet, which is near there.

Poisoned candy has been sent through the mails to two families at Denver. The police are entirely at sea.

Roosevelt has sent two cargoes of supplies to the earthquake sufferers and will ask congress to give $500,000.

All lines of the Milwaukee road have been reorganized under the name of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad company.

Heney says he is not seeking public office.

The Italian governmen has reduced relief work to a system.

The first step in restoring independence in Cuba has been taken.

A volcano at sea and a field of boiling water is reported off the coast of Georgia.

Ex-Consul Price, of the United States, and his entire family perished in the earthquake.

The Baltimore water front had a fire which for a time threatened the entire district. The damage is placed at $200,000.

The Chinese imperial railway has displaced almost all foreign employes and hereafter the road will be operated by natives.

The government has secured evidence that meat packers have been soliciting rebates from railroads in the form of damage claims.

The Hamburg-American steamship line is preparing for a direct line from Europe to the Pacific coast through the Panama canal.

Every state and city in the United States, led by the government, has hastened to raise relief funds for the stricken earthquake sufferers.

Postmasters throughout Great Britain have started paying old age pensions, by which the government will distribute $35,000,000 annually.

Venezuelan students burned Castro in effigy.

All nations are hurrying aid to the Italian earthquake sufferers.

For a second time vandals have looted a Jewish temple at San Francisco.

Cracksmen broke into the Fowler, Cal., postoffice safe and secured $1,300.

The number of deaths in the Bluefield, W. Va., mine disaster may reach 50.

All cities in California have joined in a protest against the new freight rates.

The government has secured substantial evidence against the beef trust at Chicago.

The Pioneer Flour mill at Scramento has been destroyed by fire of incendiary origin.

Count Boni has lost control of his children, the court awarding them to the mother.

James A. Finch has been convicted at Portland of murder in the first degree for killing Ralph Fisher.

Two men held up a Rose Ciy park car at Portland and secured $20, escaping by taking the car. They were later arrested.

The Chicago police department and the Law and Order league have joined hands in a crusade to prevent society women from gambling.

Claus Spreckles left an estate valued at about $50,000,000.

The Yaqui Indians and the Mexican government have arranged terms of peace.

Cosgrove has improved so much that he has seen several callers.

A movement has been started in Oklahoma to disfranchise negroes.

The county treasurer at Woonsocket, S. D., was robbed of $5,000.

An Austrian scientist believes the greater part of Sicily will sink beneath the sea.

A blizzard in England has tied up railroad traffic. Several persons have frozen to death.

UNITED STATES LEADS.

Ahead of Other Nations in Relief of Earthquake Sufferers.

Rome, Jan. 5.—The United States is far ahead of other nations in the relief work. Yesterday Ambassador Griscom succeeded in finding an Austrian Lloyd steamer of 8,000 tons, capable of carrying 1,200 passengers. He has chartered the steamer for two weeks, and she is being loaded with medical supplies and provisions. This will cost $50,000. It is expected that the steamer will sail from Civita Vesshi, about 50 miles from Rome, on Thursday. It will be placed under the orders of the Italian government.

In addition to supplies, the American relief vessel will embark six doctors and twenty male and female nurses, three of the latter being American girls from New York who volunteered their services.

American energy has been strongly manifested in the work looking to relief of the earthquake sufferers. Ambassador Griscom and the members of his committee have assumed personal responsibility for the expenses of the expedition, relying upon the American public for funds.

Prior to engaging the steamer the ambassador visited Foreign Minister Tittoni and asked him if it would be a real service to send south a vessel properly supplied. Signor Tittoni answered that it would be most appreciated, for medical and supplies were urgently needed.

GUNBOAT TO NICARAGUA.

Report of Revolution Said to Have Caused Action by Uncle Sam.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Reports of expeditionary movements in Central America have led to a close watch of the situation by the Washington government and, acting under orders from the Navy department at the request of Secretary Root, the gunboat Dubuque today sailed from Havana for Bluefields. The Dubuque will touch at Key West for supplies. Her presence in the neighborhood of Nicaraguan territory will have a reassuring effect in the event that any trouble occurs in that section.

At the State department it was stated that there was no fresh advice from Central America and no official explanation of the gunboat's dispatch to Nicacaguan waters was forthcoming. Senor Corea, the Nicaraguan minister, said there might be some friction, but that he did not believe that there was any revolution forming.

Reports connecting John Moisant, of Sa vador, with a revolutionary organization claimed to be fitting out in Nicaragua against Salvador, attracted some attention here. It was recalled that he is one of the two men claiming to be naturalized American citizens who were imprisoned in Salvador and whose lives were barely saved through the intervention of the government.

STORM KING GRIPS ALASKA.

Temperature Low and Several Lives Reported Lost Near Nome.

Nome, Jan. 5.—The worst storms which have ever swept the peninsula are in progress. The glass is steadily falling and much suffering results. Ice last night backed up into First street and merchants were forced to move their goods.

During the storm four Eskimos were stranded on an ice floe. Rescue was impossible, and they perished almost in sight of the city. One team of Freighter J. E. Rowe is missing, with the driver, and much alarm is felt for his safety.

A searching party left last night to seek seven miners, believed to have perished in the storm. Neither miners nor searchers have been heard from. From reports received there has been much suffering everywhere in the storm zone except at Nome.

Leased for 5,000 Years.

Dublin, Jan. 5.—The fishermen of Lough Neagh, from the counties of Antrim, Downs and Derry, will appeal to the house of lords against the judgment of the Court of Appeal restraining them from fishing for eels in the portion of the lough known as Tooms bay. The action has opened up a page of very ancient history. The plaintiffs obtained an injunction against the fishermen under a lease dated July 18, 1905, from the Earl of Shaftesbury, for the residue of 5,000 years, and this lease is the cause of the fight.

Big Army Gun Cracked.

Manila, Jan. 5.—One of the 10-inch rifled guns in the coast defense fortifications on Grande island, which lies at the entrance of Subig bay, has been found to be defective, and a board of officers has been appointed to conduct an investigation and determine the responsibility. The weapon was but recently placed in position and during the firing of the first shots from it a crack in the inner tube developed, which renders it useless.

Riot at Relief Meeting.

Lynn, Mass., Jan. 5.—A mass meeting of tallians held in Laiters' hall to raise funds for the earthquake sufferers, ended in a riot. The trouble was precipitated by a Socialist Labor speaker, who charged that funds raised for sufferers by a previous earthquake had been misappropriated.

Castro Very Sick Again.

London, Jan. 5.—The Daily Mail's Berlin correspondent says that Senor Castro, ex-president of Venezuela, has grown suddenly worse and will undergo an operation in a few days.

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF OREGON

WHAT OREGONIANS READ.

State Library Commission Gathers Interesting Statistics.

It will undoubtedly be interesting to the people of Oregon to learn what books are generally the most popular in the state. The Oregon Library commission has a method of keeping tab on the popularity of books sent out in the traveling libraries and those bought for the school libraries of the state. The most popular books in the $15,000 purchase of 1908 for the public schools were: Carpenter, "North America"; Washington, "Up From Slavery"; Saunders, "Beautiful Joe"; Alcott, "Little Women," "Sunbonnet Babies' Primer"; Eggleston, "Stories of Great Americans for Little Americans"; Carpenter, "Europe"; ———, "Foods; or, How the World Is Fed"; Carpenter, "South America"; Sewell, "Black Beauty"; Andrews, "Seven Little Sisters"; Baldwin, "Fifty Famous Stories Retold"; Carpenter, "Asia"; Defoe, "Robinson Crusoe"; Riis, "Making of an American"; Hale, "Man Without a Country"; Baldwin, "American Book of Golden Deeds"; Lord, "First Book Upon the Birds of Oregon"; Wyss, "Swiss Family Robinson"; Lane, "Industries of Today."

The most popular books in the free traveling libraries circulated through the 100 different communities in the state are:

Alcott, "Under the Lilacs"; Alden, "Moral Pirates"; Bacheller, "Dri and I"; Brown, "Two College Girls"; Brush, "Colonel's Opera Cloak"; Chambers, "Maid at Arms"; Fox, "Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come"; Greene, "Pickett's Gap"; Mitchell, "Amos Judd"; Munroe, "Flamingo Feather"; Ollivant, "Bob, Son of Battle"; Rice, "Sandy"; Stoddard, "Talking Leaves"; Webster, "When Patty Went to College"; White, "Blazed Trail"; "Strange Stories of Colonial Days"; "Strange Stories of 1812"; Beard, "Outdoor Handy Book"; Brady, "Border Fights and Fighters"; Brooks, "True Story of Lincoln"; Burton, "Four American Patriots"; DuChaillu, "Wild Life Under the Equator"; Dumas, "Count of Monte Cristo"; Kieffer, "Recollections of a Drummer Boy"; Hornaday, "Two Years in a Jungle"; Roberts, "Kindred of the Wild"; Slocum, "Around the World in the Sloop 'Spray'"; Stevenson, "Treasure Island"; Thwaites, "Daniel Boone"; Willard, "Tramping With Tramps"; Williams, "Romance of Modern Engineering."

There is a great amount of studying being done in the debating clubs in the state, and the schools and colleges are busy with discussions of public questions. The most popular subjects for debates in Oregon just now are the questions of:

"City Government by Commission," "Municipal Ownership of Public Utilities," "Government Ownership of Railroads," "Ship Subdies," "Tariff," "Trusts," "Asiatic Immigration," "Strikes," "Trades Unions," "Industrial Arbitration," "Injunctions," "Woman Suffrage."

The young people of Oregon are preparing themselves for citizenship in these debating societies. They are devoting a good part of the time to Oregon questions, the four state debating league questions this year being on Oregon school conditions—the raising of school funds, apportionment of school funds, county unit of administration, and free text-books, and in every debating district in the state these questions are to be threshed out, and somebody is going to learn something about actual conditions and the means of remedying them.

Every one seems to feel that the debating society is the best school for citizenship, and it will not be long before these societies are organized outside of the schools, and each town will have a young men's debating club for the lawyers, doctors, clerks and other young men who want to get at the facts of questions of public policy. The old-fashioned "lyceum" was a good school, and it ought to be renewed.

The Oregon Library commission at Salem sends out free circulars telling how to organize debating societies, sends lists of questions for debates, and follows this up with periodical articles and books upon the questions, so that every one who debates may have a chance to study the question with the most reliable information at hand.

Ice on Klamath Lakes.

Klamath Falls.—The Klamath lakes are entirely frozen over the first time in several years. Ice is being cut that is nearly six inches thick. Lake Euanna, in front of Klamath Falls, is affording excellent skating. On both Lake Euanna and Upper Klamath lake, fishing through the ice is meeting with success. The steamer Klamath has been able to make schedule time between Klamath Falls and Tuter's landing, although a large ice breaker was necessary to make a channel.

Third Set of Teeth Appears.

Sumpter—John Reinhardt, an aged pioneer of John Day, not long ago had removed all the teeth that remained to him and supplied in their place a brand new set of false teeth. Noticing that his gums were paining him, he discarded the set, and not long afterward he found that nature was providing him with another, as well formed as those given him in infancy. Today he has as good teeth as ever and enjoys life immensely.

New Building Is Voted.

Forest Grove.—The Forest Grove school district voted by a vote of 82 to 33 to erect a new school building, costing $12,500. The population has so increased that a new building is necessary. The site and plans have not yet been submitted, but a modern ideal building will be constructed. The present building will be used for the intermediate grades.

CAPITOL MORE CONVENIENT

Numerous Changes in Equipment to Greet Next Session.

Salem.—A number of improvements are under way at the capitol with a view to making conditions more comfortable and convenient for the members of the legislature when they meet here January 11. Secretary of State Benson is having a telephone line installed from the desk of the chief clerk of the senate to the desk of the chief clerk of the house. It is thought that this will facilitate the work of the clerks by enabling them to communicate without sending a written message, as has been required in the past.

Today two openings in the railings which separates the senate floor from the spectators' gallery were made, so that members or others may pass in or out without walking through the center of the room.

The last session of the legislature provided for the purchase of new desks and chairs for the senate, and a committee composed of Senators Hart of Baker, Johnson of Benton and Mulit of Jackson, was appointed to procure the new furniture. This will be here in time for the opening of the session. The new desks have flat tops and are considerably larger than the old ones. The chairs have low backs, which will be more convenient in some ways, but not so comfortable to recline in.

Depositors to Get More.

La Grande.—Progress in unraveling the tangled affairs of the defunct Farmers & Traders National Bank, of which J. W. Scriber was cashier, is advancing not only satisfactorily, but even more hopefully than had been anticipated. Receiver Walter Neidner has stated that he has been rendered invaluable aid by the ex-cashier. The receiver is optimistic and has so expressed himself to many of the defunct bank's creditors. It is stated on good authority that creditors will receive a larger percentage of their deposits than was first thought possible.

Divide Douglas and Lane.

Eugene.—Cottage Grove business men will possibly ask the legislature to form a new county from the southern portion of Lane and the northern portion of Douglas counties. For many weeks the plan has been under discussion in Cottage Grove. The name of the new unit will probably be Bohemia. If the two old counties fight the movement, the Cottage Grove people believe that they will not be successful in the legislature, but that recourse to the initiative at a future election will be successful.

Woolen Mills Stay at Pendleton.

Pendleton. — That the Pendleton woolen mills will be retained in this city seems almost assured by the offer of E. Y. Judd to sell the machinery to the Bishops, of Salem, for $5,000. The offer will be accepted at once and steps will be taken to arrange for a subscription of $30,000 in bonds among local capitalists. Only the questions of a rate on electric power and a location for the mills are yet to be solved to insure the mills to the city, for it is believed the money will be secured without trouble.

Directors Will Pass Judgement.

Portland—Definite news concerning the building of the Deschutes branch line of the O. R. & N. is expected at the headquarters of the Harriman lines here within a week. General Manager J. P. O'Brien, of the lines in Oregon, is in the East at present and will probably attend the monthly meeting of the directors. All large construction items are referred to the directors for approval before work is begun and the Deschutes line is awaiting approval.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Barley—Feed, $27 per ton; brewing, $28.

Wheat—Bluestem, 98c; club, 91c; fife, 91c; red Russian, 89c; 40-fold, 93c; valley, 91c.

Oats—No. 1 white, $32 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, $14 per ton; eastern Oregon, $16.50@$17; clover, $12; alfalfa, $12@13; grain hay, $12@13.

Fruits—Apples, 75c@$3 per box; pears, $1@1.75 per box; quinces, $1@1.25 per box; cranberries, $14.50@15 per barrel; persimmons, $1@1.25.

Potatoes—80@90c per cwt.; sweet potatoes, 2@2¼c per pound.

Onions—$1@1.25 per 100 pounds.

Vegetables—Turnips, $1.25 per sack; carrots, $1; parnsnips, $1.25; beets, $1.50; horseradish, 8@10c per pound; artichokes, $1.40 per dozen; beans, 20@22½c per pound; cabbage, 1½@1¾c per pound; cauliflower, $1.25 per dozen; celery, $4.50 per crate; cucumbers, $2@2.50 per box; egg plant, 11c per pound; lettuce, $1@1.25 per box; parsley, 30c per dozen; peas, 17½ per pound; peppers, 15@20c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1½c per pound; radishes, 30c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 10c per pound; squash, 1@1½ per pound; tomatoes, $1.50@2.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 36@37c; fancy outside creamery, 32½@35c per pound; store, 18@20c.

Eggs — Oregon ranch, 37½@40c; eastern, 27½@32½c per dozen.

Poultry — Hens, 12c per pound; spring, large, 11½@12c; small, 14@14½c; mixed, 11½c; ducks, 16@17c; geese, 11c; turkeys, 18@20c; dressed turkeys, 20@25c.

Veal—Extra, 9@9½c per pound; ordinary, 7@8c; heavy, 5c.

Pork—Fancy, 7½@8c per pound; large, 6½@7c.

Mutton—6@7c per pound; lambs, 8@8½c.

Hops — 1908, choice, 7@7½c per pound; good prime, 6@6½c; fair prime, 5½@6c; medium, 5@5½c; 1907, 2@2½c; 1906, 1@1½c.

Wool — Eastern Oregon, average best, 10@14c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15@16½c.

Mohair—Choice, 18@19c per pound.

BLOW AT REFORM.

Chinese Regent Dismisses Yuan From All Offices

Pekin, Jan. 4.—It is the consensus of opinion that the Manchus do not understand the full significance of their precipitate act, which resulted today in the dismissal of Yuan Shi Kai, grand counselor and commander in chief of the forces. The act, however, is attributed mainly to the regent and is characterized as dangerous inasmuch as it gives to the revolutionaries and reformers an issue on the cry "China for the Chinese."

That the situation is grave is becoming more and more apparent. That a government upheaval would follow the succession has been generally accepted, but even the Chinese did not exect this to occur before the expiration of the hundred days of mourning.

At the conclusion of a conference between the British, American and German ministers today a second meeting of diplomats was called to include the representatives of other powers, in the hope of formulating a concerted program of action. It was realized at the first meeting that Japan was the doubtful element and there was a general conviction that the powers would not be able to take any definite steps before further developments.

GOOD FOR FORAGE.

Wizard Burbank Succeeds With His Thornless Cactus.

Los Angeles, Jan. 4.—The official reports on the first summer's field cultivation of the Burbank thornless cactus were issued today by the Western Empire, an agricultural journal which has had charge of extensive experiments on the new forage plant.

With the exception that one lot planted in the Indio desert nearly perished from the effects of excessive alkali in the soil, the average results are pronounced successful. The largest tests were made upon the hardy thornless varieties, which Luther Burbank collected from all parts of the world, and of these varieties large quantities will be distributed this year to those who will make experimental tests with them.

The report concludes that thornless varieties have to be fenced to protect them from rabbits, but that the early fears expressed that they would revert to the old habits of growing thorns have been dispelled by this year's results, as the propagation is not from seed, but from cuttings, which, according to all botanical law and history, rigidly conform to the features of the parent plant.

The uses as a fodder for the family cow and for poultry upon the small tracts where personal attention is given seem to have been fully established.

DEAD AT MESSINA 115,000.

Estimates Increase Total of Losses by Earthquake.

Rome, Jan. 4.—Exact statistics of the dead and surviving in the earthquake district are still impossible to obtain, because all dead bodies buried under the ruins have not yet been excavated. It is equally impossible to make any accurate count of the survivors, for they are today scattered from one end of the country to the other. The only figures that can be given are reached by calculating the total populations before the disaster and subtracting therefrom the numbers that are supposed to have survived. The result is, of course, approximate.

On this basis is made the estimate that about 25,000 people have left Messina and the communae. As the total population of the city and communae was about 155,000, and as there are still about 15,000 people still in the district, the dead probably number close to 115,000.

The victims are increasing daily, not only through the dying of the injured, but also by the many suicides committed by the desperate survivors.

Harriman Lines Extended.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—Extensive work on the Harriman lines, officials say, is to be pushed during the coming summer. The Southern Pacific is to build north on an air line from Denison, through Topeka to Lincoln, Neb. The Union Pacific is to build a double track line from Omaha through Lincoln, connecting with the present Union Pacific main line at Central City, Neb. Arrangements are being completed by General Manager Mohler, of the Union Pacific, for the Central City cut-off through Lincoln.

Used Dead Man's Name.

Los Angeles, Jan. 4.—One of the smoothest swindles that has been worked in the West is being perpetrated on merchants of the Pacific coast by an unknown man, who is floating checks ostensibly given by W. A. Cowden, ex-clerk of the Supreme court of the state of Tennessee. The latter, according to advices from Nashville, has been dead several years. When a check was returned from Nashville with the statement Cowden had departed.

Crooks Make Heavy Haul.

Los Angeles, Jan. 4.—A Los Angeles thief began the new year with what is doubtless the heaviest haul, weight considered, ever made in this state. He got away with 100 tons of coal, valued at $1,500, from the yards of the Black Canyon Coal company, on South Alameda street. The greater part of the coal, for blacksmiths, was valued at $17.50 per ton.

ITALY'S EFFORTS TURN TO RELIEF

Sufferers Being Attended to in More Systematic Manner.

Hundreds of Dangerous Criminals Being Arrested by Troops—Latest Estimate of Dead Exceed 200,000—Slight Shocks Continue and Tottering Walls Fall.

Rome, Jan. 2.—Although graphic stories are coming into Rome of the horrors in Southern Italy and Sicily, these are but repetitions of individual tragedies already recorded. What chiefly concerns the government and the people is the progress that is being made toward the relief of those who have suffered by the dread visitation. Considerable advance in this respect has been made at Messina, where, according to official reports received here, the supply service is beginning to work satisfactorily. The different regions of the coast have been allotted to various warships and other ships as centers, from which torpedo boats and launches may distribute rations and water to the different villages.

Slight shocks were felt in the earthquake zone today, completing the ruin of the crumbling buildings. These shocks keep up the alarm of the population. One quite severe shock was felt at 3 o'clock in the morning and another at 9 o'clock. Fires are still burning, although much rain has fallen.

The latest investigations on both sides of the straits make it certain that many more than half the population of the coast towns and villages have been killed. Professor Ricco, director of the observatory at Mount Aetna, estimates that the victims of the earthquake exceed 200,000.

Hundreds of dangerous criminals have been arrested by the troops and arre under close guard.

Great relief was felt here when the announcement was made that the Lipari islands, which were reported to have disappeared with their population of 28,000, suffered little or no damage from the earthquake.

CULGOA WILL GIVE SUPPLIES

Has Much Food Which Battleships Will Not Need.

Washington, Jan. 2.—A more careful scrutiny of the data showing the stores aboard the naval supply ship Culgoa, now at Suez, discloses quantities of staple articles, much of which it is thought will not be required by the battleships. This cannot be determined finally, however, until the vessels reach Suez. The data have been laid before Secretary Newberry, who is keeping the State department advised regarding the location of the ships and available food resources. As in the case of the battleships, some time must elapse before the Culgoa can reach the earthquake region.

Today the Navy department was in communication with Admiral Sperry, who said that he would want 25,000 tons of coal for his ships at Port Said, where the program of the Navy department contempliated their coaling.

Contributions for the earthquake sufferers continue to arrive at the American Red Cross headquarters. Miss Mabel T. Boardman, a member of the executive committee, was at headquarters today supervising the work there.

OCTOPUS BEGS OFF.

Standard Oil Seeks Relief From Missouri Rulings.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 2.—In a motion for a rehearing in the Missouri ouster suit against it, filed in the Supreme court here today, the Standard Oil company of Indiana asked to be allowed to remain in Missouri as long as it conforms to rules and regulations that may be laid down by the court.

An appeal was also filed wih the court for a remittance of the fine of $5,000 imposed on the Republic Oil company, on the ground that this company has gone out of business.

The action for a rehearing and the appeal are signed by Alfred D. Eddy, of Chicago, and Frank Hagerman, of Kansas City, attorneys for the company. Mr. Hagerman will leave for New York tomorrow to consult with the chief officers of the company.

While the company has filed a motion for a rehearing, it is said that the Standard Oil attonrneys will seek a modification of the recent decision of the Supreme court. Attorney General Hadley will not consent to a modification of the decision unless the Supreme court orders it.

South Gets Drier.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 2.—State-wide prohibition laws went into effect yesterday in three southern states—North Carolina, Mississippi and Alabama. Georgia is the only other state wherein statutory prohibition exists. A new law which seeks to regulate the liquor traffic in Louisiana became effective yesterday, and although the law is not so sweeping in its terms as a state-wide measure, prohibitionists contend that it will drive saloons out.

Earth's Crust Sinking.

Baltimore, Dec. 31.—Dr. Harry Fielding Reis, professor of geological physics at Johns Hopkins University and one of the leading authorities in the United States on seismic disturbances, attributes the earthquake in southern Italy to a general dropping or sinking of the earth in that locality.