

EARTHQUAKE HAS 100,000 VICTIMS

Messina and Reggio Almost Completely Destroyed.

Sibilian Hotels Were Crowded With Foreign Tourists and Many Have Perished—Italian King and Queen Hasten to Scene of Disaster to Direct Relief Measures.

Rome, Dec. 30.—One hundred thousand dead; Messina, on the island of Sicily, and Reggio and a score of towns in southern Italy, overwhelmed; the entire Calabria region laid waste—that is the earthquake's record so far as at present known. Reports are coming slowly into Rome on account of the most complete destruction of lines of communication to the stricken places.

The death toll in Messina ranges from 12,000 to 20,000; that of Reggio, which with its adjacent villages numbered 45,000 people, includes almost the entire population; at Palli, 1000 are reported dead; at Cassano, 1000; at Cosenza, 500, and half the population of Bagnara, about 400. The Monteleone region has been devastated and Riposa, Seminara, San Giovanni, Scilla, Lazzaro and Cannitello and all other communes and villages on the straits are in ruins.

The king and queen of Italy are now on their way to Messina, having sailed last night from Naples aboard the battleship Vittorio Emanuele. The pope has shown the greatest distress at the calamity, and he himself was the first to contribute a sum amounting to \$200,000 to the relief of the afflicted. British, French and Russian warships are steaming toward the south, and already several of the ships of Great Britain and Russia have performed heroic service in the work of rescue.

It is feared that many foreigners have been killed, as a number of hotels at Messina and doubtless all other places were crowded with tourists. Little is known of the fate of the diplomatic representatives of the powers stationed at these posts, although the Italian government is using every effort to relieve the anxiety felt on this account.

There is the gravest danger that a pestilence will follow the destruction of the towns. On account of the vast havoc wrought, bodies will be unburied for days and weeks. Those who escaped death, many of whom are badly injured, are making their way by the thousands to the nearest place of refuge. Their sufferings even now must be intense, as they are without food or clothing.

Stunned at the magnitude of the calamity which has overtaken fellow-countrymen, all Italy mourns tonight for the stricken province of Calabria and the island of Sicily. Accustomed for centuries to earthquakes, Italy stands ever in dread, but none was prepared for the disaster which in the fraction of a minute yesterday devastated cities and towns and caused the death of thousands.

San Francisco Remembers 1906.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—Mayor Taylor issued a proclamation yesterday afternoon stating that the response for aid for the suffering people of Italy will doubtless be quick and generous in this city, and requesting that all contributions be sent to Allen Knight, treasurer of the California branch of the American National Red Cross, 502 California street, San Francisco. Contributions will also be received by Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the California branch of the Red Cross, at Berkeley.

Tidal Wave Destructive.

Rome, Dec. 30.—Many hundreds of living persons are still beneath the ruins in Calabrian towns, but it is quite impossible to relieve them. At Riposto the tidal wave was terrific. At first the sea receded for a great distance from the shore and then it swept forward with tremendous violence. The water, advancing in a huge wave, swept before it every house and building for a thousand feet from the shore line. The waters rushed through the streets of Riposto to a depth of from 10 to 20 feet.

Opera Company to Give Benefit.

Los Angeles, Dec. 30.—Arrangements are being made by the management of the Lambardi grand opera company, which is filling an engagement here, to give a series of performances for the benefit of the Italian earthquake sufferers. Several members of the Lambardi company formerly lived in the devastated districts. Local Italians have already started a relief fund for the aid of their suffering countrymen.

Roosevelt Sends Message.

Washington, Dec. 30.—President Roosevelt sent a cable message of condolence to King Victor Emmanuel yesterday expressing the sympathy of the American people in the misfortune that has befallen Italy. The president said the American National Red Cross society would issue an appeal for contributions, and would communicate with the Italian Red Cross.

New York Plans Aid.

New York, Dec. 30.—Benefit performances for the earthquake victims and survivors were planned today for early dates by the Metropolitan opera company, many of whose members are from the devastated regions. Signor Caruso reiterated his intention of donating his week's salary of \$2500 to the fund. Other operatic stars subscribed generously.

France Goes to Rescue.

Paris, Dec. 30.—France yesterday ordered the battleships Justice and Verite, together with three destroyers, to proceed to Messina under forced draught to aid in the work of rescue.

WOE IS IMMENSE.

Earthquake Victims of Italy May Number Over 150,000.

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 destroyed, 15.
Smaller towns destroyed, estimated, 50.
Warships sunk, (torpedo boats) 12.
Ships sunk by tidal wave, 600.
Many American tourists among the dead.
Formation of Straits of Messina changed.
Historic Scylla and Charybdis destroyed.
Etna and Stromboli, volcanoes, in eruption.
Second and third shocks felt in Sicily.
Cable to Aeolian isles cut; disaster feared.

Rome, Jan. 2.—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. 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. Telegraphic communication has been established with Messina, the apparatus having been set up in a railway 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 icy wind that followed the deluge of rain. Destitution is appalling. There is little food and less water.

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

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. There is no longer any place where the refugees may find shelter.

The government is finding difficulty in ascertaining the fate of many foreigners who were in the earthquake area at the time of the catastrophe, inquiries concerning whom are coming from all parts of the globe. The commander of the Russian battleship, Admiral Makharoff, 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.

Late dispatches state that the city of Palmi contains 1,500 dead and twice as many injured. Two-thirds of the town was laid waste. All the villages adjacent are destroyed.

The king has telegraphed Premier Giolitti informing him that Reggio is in the same awful condition as Messina and announcing that a Russian steamer with 500 injured will arrive at Naples tomorrow. His Majesty asks that all preparations be made for their reception at the hospitals.

Dispatches from Catania describe Messina as appearing like a huge incandescent furnace. The fire spread to the buildings, that had not yet fallen, completing the work of destruction. The strait of Messina is now choked with corpses of men and animal.

General Marazi, commandant at Catanzaro, has telegraphed to the government that he has tried vainly for days to reach Reggio by land and sea. The roads are impassable and the shore has been so torn and twisted, as far as he traveled in Calabria, that it was impossible to approach by water.

Consul's Family All Dead.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The British consul at Messina is reported injured and his wife and children dead. The ambassador says it is reported that ninety Americans were in the Trinacria hotel at Messina, which is said to be totally destroyed. It is known, however, that some of the guests escaped. The foreign office reported that several foreign nations are hurrying warships to the scene to offer assistance. The ambassador has dispatched consular officers in quest of information concerning subjects.

Believes Americans Escaped.

Rome, Jan. 1.—Ambassador Griscom returned late this afternoon from the foreign office, where he went to make inquiry about Americans who may have been in Calabria and Sicily at the time of the disaster. It is not believed there were any Americans at either Messina or Reggio when these cities were demolished, with the exception, of course, of American Consul Cheney and his wife at Taormina, but no casualties have been reported.

Red Cross Devotes \$50,000.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The executive committee of the National Red Cross society at a meeting today decided to send the Italian Red Cross society \$50,000. This amount is the surplus on hand from the contributions to the fund for the relief of San Francisco following the earthquake of 1906.

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

HENEY AFTER CALHOUN.

Says He Will Stay in Fight on Higher-Ups if He Dies for It.

Washington, Dec. 29.—"I am going back to San Francisco to finish Patrick Calhoun, and I am going to stay with the graft prosecution, even if they kill me. What's the difference whether one dies at 49 or 69?"

Francis J. Heney made this statement today when asked what his plans were. Although weak from the wound inflicted by Morris Haas' bullet, Heney professes to have lost none of his enthusiasm. He will not admit that the possible dangers of his position rob him of either zest or determination.

"My wife is very nervous about me," he said with a smile. "She fears some other fellow will do a better job next time."

Heney will call at the White House this afternoon in response to a special invitation sent to him by President Roosevelt. It is rumored that he will give the president his views on the utility of the secret service in catching criminals.

COLORADO BORDER TANGLE.

Congressman Cook Says Government Was Misinformed.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Representative Cook, of Colorado, has been requested by President Roosevelt to submit to him by next Tuesday morning, in time for the cabinet meeting on that day, a brief of his contentions and arguments concerning the veto of the bill fixing the boundary line of Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma as the 37th parallel of latitude. Mr. Cook saw the president some time ago and said that the facts had been misrepresented to Attorney General Bonaparte, upon whose recommendation President Roosevelt vetoed the boundary line.

Mr. Cook alleges that the Colorado Fuel & Iron company is opposed to the border being located as fixed in the bill.

Arrest Murderous Reds.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Three young Navajo Indians are in custody at the Ship Rock agency in Northwest New Mexico for complicity in the killing, on Christmas eve, near Ameth, Utah, of four members of their tribe and the serious wounding of an Indian woman, according to a dispatch received at the Indian affairs bureau today from Superintendent W. T. Shelton. Mr. Shelton went to the scene of the trouble last Saturday. One of the Indians, it is said, has confessed to the killing. Of the killed two are women. No cause is assigned for the tragedy.

Winthrop Accepts Job.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Beckman Winthrop, of Massachusetts, assistant secretary of the treasury, has been offered and accepted the office of first assistant secretary of state under the incoming administration, succeeding Robert Bacon, of New York who in January next is expected to temporarily succeed Elihu Root upon the latter's retirement. The tender was made with the consent of President-elect Taft by Senator Knox, whose selection as secretary of state was announced several days ago.

Stamp Slot Machines.

Washington, Dec. 30.—If one can drop a penny in a vending machine and obtain a piece of chewing gum or a handful of peanuts, why not be able to drop in a coin and secure a postage stamp? This is what the postoffice department wants to make a popular feature of its service, and it today announced that it is now prepared to issue limited quantities of postage stamps in rolls of 500 or 1000 for use in stamp-vending and stamp-affixing machines.

Revenue Cutter on Trial.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The new revenue cutter Yamacow, recently completed by the New York Shipbuilding company of Camden, N. J., is to have her official acceptance trial tomorrow on the Delaware river. The Yamacow is of the Seminole type and is intended for service on the South Atlantic coast, with headquarters at Savannah.

Dead Letter Sale.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Over \$2,000 more was realized by the postoffice department by the Christmas sale of dead letter packages this year than last. This year's proceeds were \$11,300. Under the law the money must be held for three years, during which time the sender of any dead letter package sold may claim the amount at which it was knocked down.

Engineers Go With Taft.

Washington, Jan. 2.—President Roosevelt has invited a number of engineers to accompany President-elect Taft on his trip to Panama this winter. James Dix Schuyler, of Los Angeles, and Arthur P. Davies, chief engineer of the reclamation service, Washington, are among those honored by Roosevelt.

President Requests Trip.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Representatives Cushman and Humphreys, of Washington, left today with the house committee on interstate commerce for a trip to Panama. They will sail from Charleston, S. C., and the trip will consume about 15 days. The committee goes at the special request of President Roosevelt.

NEW BOSSES LIKE OLD.

Professor Ford, of Princeton, Draws Parallels in History.

Washington, Dec. 31.—With James Bryce, British ambassador, presiding, the American Political Science Society met here this week in its first annual gathering. The general topic for consideration was "The Increase of Federal Force and Power in the United States." One of the principal papers was by Stephen Leacock, McGill University, Canada, on "The Limitations of the Federal Government."

In the course of the discussion Professor Henry Jones Ford, of Princeton University, declared that neither the power nor the responsibility essential to democratic rule was embodied in the American state. "The resemblances," he said, "that historians are now noting between ancient and modern bosses, grafters and spoilsmen rest upon substantial identities, affording fine demonstration of the universal principle that like causes produce like effects, irrespective of the intentions with which the causes are put in operation."

He asserted that efforts of reformers were directed against conditions from which the power was gained rather than against conditions under which power was exercised.

May Condemn Site.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Dissatisfied with the high figures placed upon real estate offered to the government by agents for a site for a subtreasury building, the government, through Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Beckman Winthrop, has threatened to secure property in San Francisco by condemnation. Secretary Winthrop has notified Baldwin & Howell, real estate agents for property bounded by Sansome, Clay, Merchant and Battery streets, partly owned by the Kohl estate, that it must be placed at a lower price than \$325,000 demanded for the site. Winthrop declares that if a lower price is not set, the government will secure other property in the block and will begin condemnation proceedings, as the treasury department wants the property in that section.

Harriman Money in Salton Sea.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The attorneys of E. H. Harriman are alarmed at the possibility of failure on the part of the congressional committee on claims to allow even a portion of the remuneration asked by the railroad king for work done by his road in building the Colorado river, where it broke its banks and threatened Imperial valley. The claim has been reduced to \$1,082,623.97, but there is no indication of desire on the part of the legislators to take up the matter.

Epoch in Canal Building.

Washington, Dec. 30.—With the early arrival in Washington from Paris of Leroy Parks, the isthmian canal commissioner, will be signaled an epoch in the building of the canal. The time has arrived, it is said, when the maximum force has been employed. Henceforth the work in the canal zone will be confined to excavation and dam and lock construction.

Diplomats Are Uneasy.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The stir in diplomatic circles caused by the resignation of Ambassador Griscom has led to much speculation as to the future of all of America's representatives abroad. Although no statement has come from Mr. Taft, it is not improbable that a number of the diplomatic officers abroad will be asked to retain their positions.

Used 4,000,000 Trees.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The native forests this year supplied 4,000,000 Christmas trees, the forestry service estimating that one out of every four families observed the tree custom at Yuletide. Gifford Pinchot, United States forester, upholds the Christmas tree custom and believes that it should be maintained.

Pinchot Starts on Mission.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Bearing invitations from President Roosevelt to President Diaz of Mexico and Premier Laurier and Lord Grey of Canada to appoint delegates to the National Conservation Congress to be held here February 18, Gifford Pinchot left Monday for Canada and Mexico.

Squaring Away for Venezuela.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The arrival of Social Commissioner W. I. Buchanan to treat on behalf of the United States with the officials of Venezuela, and the arrival of Admiral Arnold at La Guayra, is announced in messages to the navy and state departments here.

Barrios Recovers From Injury.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senor Barrios, the Guatemalan minister of foreign affairs, who recently was seriously injured in an automobile accident, called at the White House Monday and sailed for home on December 30. A bandage across the face was the only trace of his injury.

Treasury Buys Silver.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The treasury today purchased 100,000 ounces of silver for delivery at New York, 75,000 ounces for delivery at New Orleans, and 50,000 ounces for delivery at Denver, at 49.148c per fine ounce.

Advance Oregon Postmasters.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Among the 220 fourth-class postoffices which will be advanced to the presidential class January 1 are the following in Oregon: Canyon City, \$1000; Central Point, \$1100; Oakland, \$1200.

RUEF IS SENTENCED.

Maximum Term of 14 Years Given Deposed Boss.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Fourteen years in the penitentiary, the maximum, is the sentence meted out to Abraham Ruef, who for four years directed the political destinies of San Francisco as adviser of the administration of Eugene E. Schmitz, mayor of the city.

Judgment was pronounced at the close of a day devoted to legal battle, wherein the defense sought to introduce many reasons for a new trial. When Judge William P. Lawlor had denied this and other motions involving delay, the defendant arose at the court's command and stood unmoved through the recital of judgment. There was no demonstration on the part of the spectators during the proceedings in the court room, nor later, when Ruef, having entered the prison van in the custody of a deputy sheriff, started on the dusk on his long ride to the county jail.

Before the adjournment of court notice of appeal had been filed on behalf of the defendant and the court had signed a writ of probable cause, which will act as a stay of execution.

In a trial that was prolonged through a period of nearly four months Ruef was convicted, December 10, of bribing John J. Furey, an ex-supervisor, to favor the award of an overhead trolley franchise to the United Railroads. This was one of 114 indictments returned against Ruef by the Oliver grand jury, which heard its supervisors confess the acceptance of bribes in several matters involving public service corporations.

One of the many incidents that tended to make the trial of Ruef remarkable was the shooting of Assistant District Attorney F. J. Heney by Morris Haas, an ex-convict, whose past record was exposed by the prosecutor after the would-be slayer had been accepted as a member of the jury. Haas subsequently committed suicide in the county jail.

WAR CLOUD AGAIN.

"Banzai" and "Hooray" Can't Keep Peace in Far East.

Tokio, Dec. 31.—Although the reception given the United States battleship fleet by the Japanese was pronounced one of the most pleasant and interesting incidents of the world cruise and went far toward easing the strained relations between the two countries, and although much good feeling has followed the recent publication of the agreement between Secretary of State Root and Ambassador Takahira, the consensus of opinion among Americans in the orient is that unless the temporary good will is immediately strengthened little of political value will result.

While no diplomatic crisis is expected to develop between the two countries in the near future, owing to the condition of the finances of Japan, yet the fear is being generally expressed among Americans here that the apparent sincerity of the welcome to the fleet and the sympathetic tone of the five articles recently exchanged between the two powers may deceive the people of the United States into believing that no danger to the nation's interests now exists in the far east, any failure at this time to build up the position of America on the Pacific, the naval strategists declare, will ultimately result in national disaster.

That a compelled peace will come to the east, despite the protestations of friendship by Japan, is the universal belief of those men who are experienced in oriental politics and who, in case of trouble, will be entrusted with the defense of the national interests.

DISASTER IN COAL MINE.

Four Men Dead and 25 Entombed in Precabontas District.

Bluefield, W. Va., Dec. 31.—Four men are known to be dead and probably 25 more were entombed as the result of an explosion which occurred in the Pocahontas coal company, the largest coal mining concern in southern western Virginia. It is not known exactly how many men were in the mine at the time.

The men leave the mine after what is known as the "running" and many of the 25 at work were not in the mine when the explosion occurred. Eighteen of the entombed men have been taken out of the colliery alive.

The rescuing parties have been unable to get into the shaft because of the fire and smoke.

Anti-Semites Rage in Finland.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 31.—Basing their action on ancient and obsolete anti-Semitic statutes, the Russian authorities in Finland have inaugurated a wholesale persecution of Hebrews and are driving them from their homes into the fields to starve and freeze. Reports of terrible suffering and appalling loss of life come from all parts of the dependency. The weather is extremely severe and the hunted Hebrews, stripped of their household goods and unable to secure food, herd together on the snow-covered fields and die.

China Wants Loan.

Peking, Dec. 31.—For the purpose of developing the Canton-Hankow railroad, the Chinese government has directed its foreign agent to attempt to place a loan with British, French, German and Japanese banks. The action follows the failure of the government to float a domestic loan of \$5,000,000 to new shareholders of the national telegraph system. Fearing a second failure to secure money for the road, the government has deemed it prudent to raise money outside China.

No News From Consul.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 30.—Friends here have received no word from Dr. Arthur Cheney, of Yale, class of 1889, American consul at Messina. It is feared that he may have been killed.

SOUTHERN ITALY IS DEVASTATED

Series of Earthquakes Lay Waste to Sicily and Calabria.

Tidal Waves Swamp Cities and Cover Dead With Mud—Thousands of People Perish and Survivors Are Panic Stricken—Many Hundreds of Boats Are Lost.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The three provinces of Cosenza, Catansaro and Reggio di Calabria, comprising the department of Calabria, which forms the southwestern extremity of Italy, or the "toe of the boot," were devastated yesterday by an earthquake, the far-reaching effects of which were felt almost throughout the entire country. The town of Messina, in Sicily, was partly destroyed, and Catania was inundated. In Messina hundreds of houses have fallen, and many persons have been killed.

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 last night indicate that the havoc has been great, and the destruction of life and property more terrible than Italy has experienced in many years.

The City of Messina has suffered probably more than any other place, the latest information coming directly from that quarter stating that two-thirds of the town was destroyed and several thousand persons killed.

The steamers Washington and Montebello, which were in the harbor, later proceeded to Catania, loaded with injured, who were so stupefied by terror that they seemed unable to realize what had happened, simply saying that it looked as though the end of the world had come. Five steamers left Catania for Messina to assist in removing the injured from that place, who are reported to number thousands.

At Catania the panic-stricken people, fearing new shocks, absolutely refused to enter their houses, and are camping on the squares.

The tidal wave sank 500 boats there and did great damage to several large vessels and steamers, including the Austrian steamer Puda.

Not only did Catania suffer from the effects of a tidal wave, but a similar body of water inundated the handsome streets of Messina which flank the harbor, covering them with a thick layer of mud, which rendered more difficult the succoring of the wounded, many of whom could be seen lying under the wreckage.

It is reported that the villages of Faro and Ganzirri, adjoining Messina, have disappeared. The effects of the earthquake were aggravated through an explosion of gas. The flames swept along several streets, adding terror upon terror.

In Calabria the region around Monteleone was most affected. The village of Stefaniconi, the inhabitants of which number 23,000, was virtually destroyed. Only five persons were killed, but many were injured.

MANY VILLAGES RUINED.

Quake Centers at Etna—Thieves Rob Dead and Start Fires.

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Reports from all the towns and villages around Messina state that serious damage has been done by the earthquake, and that the number of victims is large. The gravest damage was done to public buildings and churches at Florida, Noto Chiaromonte, Vittoria, Paterno, Teranova, Marianopoli and Narro. At Mimmo there were a number of shocks.

At Augusta, which once before was destroyed by an earthquake, the tidal wave destroyed the government salt works. The prisoners employed there mutilated, but were eventually suppressed.

At Patti the shock was accompanied by a blinding flash of light, while serious havoc was wrought at Barcelona and ten persons were killed at Castroland and Montagna.

The Santa Maria college at Alix, between Messina and Catania, was overturned, several of the girl students being buried in the ruins.

There is no doubt that a large portion of Messina has been destroyed. To add to the disaster thieves were soon setting fires at various points and stealing everything they could lay their hands on, even robbing the injured as they lay homeless, and the dead. The stores were broken into and great disorder and even terrorism prevailed for a time. The authorities, however, promptly took the most stringent measures to maintain order, and those who were caught in acts of incendiarism or robbery were severely dealt with.

One Year for Each Cent.

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 29.—One year in prison for each copper penny he had stolen was the punishment meted out to George Gross yesterday morning by Superior Judge Brown. He pleaded guilty to the burglary of the store of G. W. Wetmore, at Thirty-fourth street and San Pablo avenue, about a month ago. Thomas Driscoll was the companion in the robbery, and the two of them secured some tobacco and eleven pennies.

San Francisco's Big Tax.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—City Treasurer McDougall yesterday sent to the state treasurer's office at Sacramento \$1,030,524.29 in gold, that sum being the city's share of state taxes. The money was sent through the Wells-Fargo express, and is one of the biggest consignments of coin ever sent out of San Francisco.