

ANY LIVES WERE LOST

Horrible Disaster in a Small Italian Village.

THREE HURLED INTO THE SEA

Enormous Rock Loosened and Fell, Carrying With It Hotels, Villas and a Famous Monastery.

Rome, Dec. 25.—A terrible disaster took place this afternoon at Amalfi, the regular tourist resort on the Gulf of Salerno. About 2 o'clock an enormous rock, upon which stood the Capuchin hotel, slid bodily into the sea with a deafening roar and without a moment's warning, carrying with it the hotel, the old Capuchin monastery and the hotel Sante Calerina and several villas. Many people were buried in the debris, which crushed four people to the bottom of the sea, destroying their crews. The mass of earth which slipped was about 50,000 cubic feet.

The population is in a state of terror, fearing fresh calamities. Troops have been ordered upon the scene and have begun rescue work. It is believed that the loss of life is heavy, including a number of monks and the occupants of the hotel. As yet it is impossible to ascertain the exact number.

Amalfi is a small, but lively town of 5,000 inhabitants, situated at the entrance of a deep ravine, surrounded by imposing mountains, and rocks of the most picturesque forms. The Capuchin monastery was founded in 1212 by Cardinal Pietro Capuano, for the Capuchinians, but came into possession of the Capuchinians in 1583. The building, which stood in the hollow of a rock that rose abruptly from the sea to a height of 230 feet, contained fine cloisters.

TRAGEDY AT A REHEARSAL.

Eleven School Children Burned to Death at Quincy, Ill.

Quincy, Ill., Dec. 25.—While the school children of St. Francis' parochial school, Seventeenth and Vine streets, were rehearsing this afternoon for an entertainment to be given Tuesday evening, the dresses of one caught on fire from a gas jet and 10 minutes after four of them were burned to death, two died an hour later, and five others died before midnight. Half a dozen others were burned more or less severely.

The dead are: Irene Frieberg, May Wavering, Mary Althouff, Bernardino Friend, Colletta Middendorf, Mary Hickey, Wilhelmina Gottendorf, Olivia Timpe, Addie Futterer, Josephine Bohne, Margaret Warner.

All of these are between 9 and 11 years old. Helen Zebbing and several other teachers, Father Nicholas and Professor Mushold, were painfully burned trying to rescue the children. The school hall was filled with children, and many would have been killed in the panic which followed had it not been for the prompt efforts of the teachers and Sisters who were in charge of the entertainment and were present. The children rushed for the doors, but prompt efforts quieted them, and no one was hurt in the rush.

BROOKE'S FAREWELL.

Banquet Tendered the Retiring Governor of Cuba.

Havana, Dec. 25.—Sixty-five persons were present at the farewell banquet tendered to General Brooke today at the Paris restaurant. General Mario Menocal presided, and Ernest Lee Cozzant acted as toastmaster. Major General Wood, in response to words of welcome, said:

"The United States is in Cuba in the person of representatives, who intend to carry out a great work and to fulfill strictly the promises of the United States congress. As for myself, I can only do what the president has sent me to do, but I hope to enjoy the esteem and confidence of the Cuban people as General Brooke has enjoyed them."

General Brooke said:

"I shall always remember the long hours of toil in Cuba, but I shall also ever recall the kindness shown me by all Cubans, especially by those who realize that the Americans are their best friends."

Mining Under Butte.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 25.—A special to the Times from Butte, Mont., says: Alexander Tarbet, a Salt Lake mining man, today closed a deal with the owners of the mineral rights to the Destroying Angel and Copper Bottom Lodge claims, by which he secured control of the interest for \$300,000. The veins run through the business portion of the city, and the Destroying Angel was uncovered recently by persons who were excavating for the foundation of a hotel. It has developed into the richest copper vein in this district, and the new owners intend to tunnel under the city. As soon as the deal was closed this afternoon, they started to sink a shaft, which will be put down 1,000 feet at the corner of Broadway and Arizona streets, within a half block of the two principal hotels and the city hall.

PROTECTED HER HOME.

Young Woman Shot and Killed an Intruder.

Natick, Mass., Dec. 25.—Lewis Perry, aged 33, Spanish war veteran, was shot and killed today by Miss Lizzie Morse, at her home in West Natick. Four shots were fired, two of them taking effect, one in the heart. Miss Morse, who was placed under arrest, says that the circumstances justified her in shooting Perry. The Morse family is one of the wealthiest and best known in town. Miss Morse and the members of her family claim that Perry and Arnold Slappen, on bicycles, rode up to the Morse house, demanded admittance without stating their business, and, upon being refused, smashed several windows. Miss Morse went to the bureau drawer and loaded a 22-caliber revolver. She claims that the men went around to the front of the house, where Perry finished smashing the glass in one of the windows, and climbed in, in spite of her remonstrances. After gaining an entrance, he grabbed Miss Eireta Morse and wrenched from her a croquet mallet, with which she tried to protect herself. Lizzie rushed to her sister's assistance and informed Perry that she would shoot him if he did not leave the house. He gave her a terrific blow with the mallet and felled her to the floor. She managed to get up again, and told Perry to get out of the house, when he dared her to shoot. She then fired four shots at Perry, who managed to climb through the window and then fell dead.

WANTED HIS PICTURE IN PRINT.

New York Man Shot His Wife and Killed Himself.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 25.—John Edgar Gardiner, in order to get his picture into print, shot his young wife and then killed himself today. Gardiner was 60 years of age, his wife 29. They had been married but a short time, and were living apart on account of his bad habits. On several occasions he had asked how she would like to see their pictures in a local paper. His wife took fright at this, and forbade him to speak to her on the subject. He called at the house today and asked her to come out, as he was going West. She declined, and he forced his way into her apartments, saying, "See what I have brought you," drew a revolver and shot her twice, one bullet passing through her arm, the other entering her side. The woman was able to rush from the house to a neighbor's. When the police officers arrived Gardiner walked to the center of a room in full view of the officers, and, placing the weapon to his head, killed himself.

Crater Lake Park.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Among the familiar bills of the last congress to reappear this year are two that were introduced by Representative Tongue, of Oregon. One is his bill for creating a public park, including Crater Lake, and much of the surrounding country, and the other is his bill providing for the examination and classification of the lands in the Roseburg and Oregon City land districts within the grant made to the Oregon & California Railroad Company. Both bills are practically the same as were presented in the last congress.

The Crater lake bill proposes to set aside a tract of 249 square miles, without drawing it from settlement or sale and making it a public park or pleasure ground, to be known as the Crater Lake National Park. This park, if established, is to be under the control of the secretary of the interior, who will preserve the lands in their natural condition and prevent all residence, mining, lumbering or other business operations within its limits. The old provision for restaurants and waiting-rooms is again inserted, as are the provisions for governing and protecting the park. It is proposed that the costs and expenses of creating the park shall be borne by the general government. It was this last provision that aroused Speaker Reed against the bill last congress, for he contended that any expense attached should be borne by the state. Now that Reed is out of congress, the bill may have a better chance of becoming a law.

Wages Advanced.

Pittsburg, Dec. 25.—The Carnegie Steel Company posted today, at its various works in this city, notices reading substantially as follows:

"Taking effect January 1, 1900, common labor at these works will be increased to \$1.50 per day, and all other day turn and tonnage labor (with certain exceptions), will be increased in proportion."

The exceptions are the tonnage men working under sliding scales, where the rates of wages increase and decrease in proportion to the proceeds of the products. This adjustment is 7.41 per cent advance on the wages now being paid, making a total of 25 per cent of increase made by the company voluntarily since the last general scale.

Five Thousand Bills Introduced.

Washington, Dec. 25.—The officials of the house of representatives have struck a balance on the recent deluge of bills, showing that up to the recess the records stood: Total bills introduced, 5,015; joint resolutions, 95; simple resolutions, 65; grand total, 5,175 measures of all kinds.

SUGAR BEETS.

Conclusions From Experiments Conducted by Oregon Agricultural Station—Industry in Washington.

The Oregon agricultural experiment station at Corvallis has issued a pamphlet in which it presents the conclusions reached after five years of investigation concerning beet sugar production in Oregon. It says three sections of the state are exceptionally well adapted to the industry, viz: Union county in the vicinity of La Grande; Malheur county, in the vicinity of Ontario, and Arcadia; Jackson county, in the vicinity of Medford, possessing as it does a large area capable of producing a very large supply of beets. Water, fuel and limestone are easily and cheaply obtainable in each locality.

The most serious obstacle in any of these localities is the limited number of people available for field help at short notice, especially would this be true in Malheur county.

Western Oregon is not well adapted to the industry on account of the early fall rains and a soil which is very heavy and sticky, and tenacious to the beet when wet, and it also lacks a cheap lime supply.

Beet growing in Malheur county would have to be under a system of irrigation similar to that in Utah.

If beets are planted in the middle of April either in eastern or southern Oregon nothing is gained by delaying harvest later than the first week in September.

The Original Klein Wanzenbener and the Elite Klein Wanzenbener have proven themselves well adapted to the conditions in the Grande Ronde valley, and have both given good results in Jackson county. The former has given the better results in the latter place. Each has given better results in each place than the Vilmorin.

In eastern Oregon beets may be left in the ground quite late without serious loss from second growth.

Beets for sugar production should not be planted on alkali soils.

Beets may be allowed to grow much larger here than in Germany and still hold an excellent per cent of sugar.

The hill lands of Jackson county are not well adapted to the industry.

The establishment of a sugar factory makes possible a most excellent opportunity for a high development of the dairy industry. This is of no mean consequence when it is remembered that all three of the localities which present favorable conditions for the industry produce immense quantities of alfalfa, and yet ship in dairy products in large amounts. Why not produce them at home and supply the neighboring sections?

The establishment of a sugar factory means also the development of a large fuel and lime industry.

Waverly Sugar Factory.

The new sugar factory at Waverly, Spokane county, Washington, began operations December 6. This is the first beet sugar factory to be built in this state, and the second in the Pacific Northwest. The farmers in the vicinity of the factory raised about 400 acres of beets this year, the yield being 4 to 12 tons per acre. D. C. Corbin, of Spokane, owner of the factory is paying \$4 per ton for beets containing 12 to 14 per cent of sugar and 33 1-3 cents per ton additional for each per cent of sugar above 14. The average price for the entire crop is about \$4.50 per ton.

Taking the average yield as eight tons, half way between the extremes, this would give a gross return of \$36 per acre. The cost per acre of the beets delivered at the factory is in the neighborhood of \$25 to \$30. This leaves some profit to the average beet grower, and considerable to those whose beets give yields of 10 or 12 tons per acre. Another year, when the farmers know more of beet culture, and are in position to give their crops the attention they need, better results may fairly be expected. This is the beginning of an industry which will, if successful, become an important feature of Eastern Washington agriculture. It will give the farmers of the Palouse country a profitable crop to grow in rotation with wheat. When the farmers have learned the value of sugar beet pulp as a stock feed, it will also doubtless result in an increase of live stock on the wheat ranches in the vicinity of the factory.

Northwest Notes.

Postmaster Winter, of Colville, has resigned.

Spokane saloons are compelled to close at midnight now.

The enrollment of pupils in La Grande's public schools is 641, with 15 teachers.

Dogs killed 26 head of sheep for a Kentuck slough rancher in Coos county last week. He has killed one of the dogs.

The money orders issued from the Tillamook postoffice last month numbered 350, amounting to \$4,399, while the money orders paid out numbered 100, amounting to \$1,465.

H. H. Lazard has been appointed county clerk of Coos county, to succeed W. E. Rackleff, who violated the office-holders' rule that few die and none resign, by vacating the place last week.

INVESTIGATION OF IRRIGATION THE WORST AND THE BEST.

The Division of Agriculture to Tabulate Important Data.

A special effort will be made by the division of agriculture of the twelfth census of the United States to collect and tabulate important data relating to irrigation in the arid and semi-arid regions of the United States. A preliminary schedule has been prepared and will soon be sent out to obtain the names of corporations and individuals owning canals or ditches. This is one of the essential steps for securing desired information regarding the extent and value of the canals and ditches for irrigation, and their sources of water supply.

In the preliminary schedule a request is made for the names of the principal canals or ditches in their order down stream, the ditches to the right (looking down stream) being arranged on the first page of the list and those heading to the left on the last page. Request is also made for the name and postoffice address of some person who can give detailed information concerning each ditch.

The principal schedule now in course of presentation will be mailed to the addresses thus obtained calling for further data, which will be supplemented by detailed statistics gathered by the census enumerators.

It should be noted by all interested in the subject that these various inquiries of the census office in no way conflict with, or duplicate the work, with reference to irrigation which is being conducted by any other department of state. The most nearly related inquiry is that of the geological survey, which, like that of the census, is under the more immediate direction of Mr. F. H. Newell, the special agent for irrigation in the eleventh census, and hydrographer of the geological survey. The fact that Mr. Newell has supervision of this work in the twelfth census guarantees its efficiency and its value to the arid and semi-humid regions.

It will be readily apparent that the volume and value of these statistics will depend largely upon the attention and interest shown therein by those engaged in irrigation and it is earnestly hoped that all to whom the schedules are addressed will appreciate the importance of the request and make prompt and careful reply. In this way only will it be possible to make the information concerning irrigation full and complete.

In order to obtain a full understanding and an intelligent appreciation of the possible development of the arid and semi-humid regions of the West, a general knowledge of the progress actually made is of vital importance. An accurate census of irrigation will impart such general knowledge, and will be of great benefit to all those concerned in redeeming arid lands. The future development of this vast portion of our domain will be greatly advanced by a comprehensive compilation of facts relating to its irrigation, such as contemplated by the twelfth census.

Wealth in the Sands.

It has been several months since the black sand dunes of the ocean beaches have attracted attention, and now reports are received from a large New York steppe which this valuable wealth from as a stimulus same line as demonstrated along with other valuable resources.

at Mine

Inspector Owen showed an output of 1,128,824 tons of coal with mines not reporting sufficient to bring the product up close to 1,300,000 tons. The last three months of the year will show an output crowding 1,000,000 tons, and Mr. Owen makes the estimate that the coal mined in the state this year will pass the 2,000,000-ton mark, exceeding the best previous year record by about 300,000 tons, and bringing \$5,000,000 into the state. Coal and fish will run a very close race this year for third place in bringing cash into Washington, while lumber and shingles are getting close to wheat and flour for first.

Timber Supply Disappearing.

Bradstreet's says: "Official reports sent out by the forestry division of the department of agriculture show that the entire standing timber supply of the United States is in round numbers 2,800,000,000,000 feet, and that the annual cut is 40,000,000,000 feet, which shows that the entire lumber supply of the country will be extinct in 50 years. As about half of the whole supply is on the Pacific coast, all the available timber east of the Rocky Mountains will have vanished in about 30 years."

Boundary District Strike.

One of the biggest strikes in the Boundary country has been reported two miles from Camp McKinney, above White's bar, between the forks of Rock creek. The strike was made on the Dayton mineral claim, the first assay giving \$800 in gold, five ounces in silver and 1 per cent in copper.

Wall Street Suffered, But General Business Was Good.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The worst day in Wall street in many years was in part the legitimate result of the best year in business ever known. Because the country had prospered so greatly and so expanded its business that it could no longer afford to have many millions locked up in carrying stocks representing imaginary values, the question was not one of monetary supply. When the country found ample use for its capital in regular trade and productive industry, a contraction of loans became necessary, which would have been more painful if the volume of stocks had been larger.

The business of the country close to the holidays is necessarily smaller than it has been, and yet larger than at the same date in any other year. Exchanges through principal clearing-houses for the week have been 33.7 larger than last year, and 50.4 per cent larger than in 1892, including 32.1 per cent gain in payments outside New York. There was not even a suspicion of unsoundness in any considerable branch of industry or trade, the extraordinary expansion in some being as well warranted as the material gain in others.

Cotton suffered in speculation for a day with stocks, but the great decrease in receipts from farms since September—over 1,500,000 bales—gives strong support to prices, as does the increase of 200,000 bales in takings by spinners.

Wheat has fallen both in foreign demand and in prices, in spite of still larger loss in Western receipts, for the week only 3,306,286 bushels, against 7,340,170 bushels last year.

Failures for the week have been 220 in the United States, against 258 last year, and 26 in Canada, against 31 last year.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.
Onions, new, \$1.00@1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, \$1.20.
Beets, per sack, 85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c@\$1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 73@90c per 100 pounds.
Peaches, 65@80c.
Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 90c per box.
Watermelons, \$1.50.
Nutmegs, 50@75c.
Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17@23c; ranch, 22c per pound.
Eggs—Firm, 80@81c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—9@10c; dressed, 11@13c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$17.00@18.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.35; blended straight, \$3.10; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; Graham, per barrel, \$3.50; whole wheat flour, \$3.10; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millet—Bran, per ton, \$16.00; shorts, per ton, \$17.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.50 per ton; whole, per ton, \$22; oil cake meal, \$23.00.

Portland Market.

Walla Walla
Clover, \$9@10.50; wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 37½@40c; store, 25@35c.
Eggs—18@19c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.50@3.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.00; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$7.00@9.00 for old; \$4.50@6.50 for young; ducks, \$4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12½@13c per pound.
Potatoes—55@70c per sack; sweets, 2@2½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, \$1; beans, 5@6c per pound; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 3@4c per pound; tomatoes, 75c per box; green corn, 12½@15c per dozen.
Hops—8@11c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$3@3.50; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 5@6½c per pound.