

MANY PERISH IN EARTHQUAKE

THE MOST TERRIBLE DISASTER
IN HISTORY OCCURS IN
SOUTHERN ITALY.

50,000 REPORTED LOST

At Messina 12,000 Perish in Earth-
quake and Tidal Wave—King
and Queen Go to Scene.

Rome, Dec. 27.—Between 90,000 and 100,000 dead; Messina, on the island of Sicily, and Reggio and a score of towns in Southern Italy overwhelmed; entire Calabrian region laid waste—that is the earthquake's record of Monday so far as at present known. Reports are coming in slowly to Rome on account of the most complete destruction of lines of communication to the stricken places.

The death total in Messina ranges from 12,000 to 50,000; that of Reggio, which, with its adjacent villages numbered 45,000, includes almost the entire population; at Palli, 1000 are reported dead; at Cassano, 1000; at Cosenza, 500, and half the population of Bagnara, about 4000.

King and Queen to Aid.

The King and Queen of Italy are now on their way to Messina, having sailed Tuesday evening 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 \$200,000 to the relief of the afflicted. British, French and Russian warships are steaming towards



VICTOR EMMANUEL OF ITALY.

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 in other places were crowded with tourists.

Swept by Tidal Wave.

Messina, whose tragic history has been marked by tidal waves and war, and which was the center of Monday's terrestrial maelstrom, was shaken to ruins. Flashes burst forth to complete the city's destruction and to burn alive untold numbers helplessly pinned beneath fallen walls. The Strait of Messina was shaken and twisted by the earthquake's trembling, for mariners report the channel altered beyond recognition. Practically three-fourths of the city was swept from the earth by a vast



MESSINA CITY HALL.

tidal wave. Hundreds met death in this inundation.

Danger of Pestilence.

There is the gravest danger that a pestilence will follow the destruction of the town. On account of the vast havoc wrought, bodies will lie 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.

Mount Aetna appears to have been the center of the disturbances and that portion of Sicily within a radius of 40 miles seems to have been laid waste. It is not known whether the volcano is in action, as that section of the island is completely cut off from the world, even the railroads of the entire eastern half of the city being destroyed.

NO ONE RESETS POWER OF GOMEZ IN VENEZUELA

Caracas, Dec. 28.—The Presidency of Juan Vicente Gomez has been received by the country at large, officially and unofficially, and Venezuela is through with one of the most popular revolutions in the annals of the republic, a revolution in which not a drop of blood is shed.

The authority of President Gomez is accepted supreme. Even General Celestino Castro, brother of the ex-President, who was chief of the department of Tachira, has turned over to the new military commander of that district 6000 rifles and 3,000,000 rounds of ammunition.

The doors of Venezuela have been opened to all Venezuelans residing abroad, and all agitators have been urged to return. The cattle monopoly, maintained for so many years by ex-President Castro has been abolished and the press has been given its freedom.

SOLDIERS LEAVE CUBA

Departure of United States Forces
Marks Cuba's Independence.

Havana, Jan. 1.—New Year's day witnessed the beginning of the evacuation of Cuba by the army of pacification, which has been in possession of the island since the beginning of the provisional government in October, 1906. The first provisional regiment of marines, numbering 900, were among the first troops to leave.

About half this regiment will sail in January on the cruiser Prairie, which arrived here Christmas eve, bound for Newport News. The Prairie will return about the middle of the month and embark the remainder. The final embarkation will not occur until April 1.

The purpose in deferring the departure of the portion of the 17th Infantry until April 1 has been the subject of considerable speculation, but it is believed this was agreed upon at a conference between Governor Magoon and President-elect Gomez. Cubans are greatly pleased by the departure of the American forces, as marking the complete establishment of independence. All show the kindest feelings toward the troops.

Echo of Chicago Mystery.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—George W. Fitzgerald, former assistant teller of the United States Subtreasury at Chicago, has filed suit for \$50,000 against William Boldenweck, who is in charge of the Subtreasury, and I. E. Young, a private detective. The suit is the outgrowth of the sensational arrest of Fitzgerald last spring, charged with stealing \$173,000 from the subtreasury. Fitzgerald's acquittal promptly followed Mr. Boldenweck's refusal, under orders from Washington, to testify in the case.

HOLD-UPS SENTENCED

Jack Hayes and William Burke Con-
fess to Robbing O. R. & N. Train.

Portland, Or., Dec. 30.—Owen Jack Hayes, alias Jack Walton, who with his accomplice, William Burke, was arrested by the police on a charge of holding up the Chicago Express of the O. R. & N. December 17, near Clarno, a small town 8 miles from Portland, and robbing the express car, Tuesday pleaded guilty when arraigned in court and was sentenced to 12 years in the penitentiary. Burke, whose confession on December 21, implicated Hayes, was sentenced to four years. The third man concerned in the hold-up, known as "the Swede," is still at large, but it is believed information has been obtained which will cause this man's apprehension with little difficulty.

Conservation Work to Be Extended.

Washington, Dec. 28.—It was announced at the White House that a conference looking toward the conservation of the natural resources of North America will be held at the White House, February 18 next.

Letters suggesting the plans have been addressed by President Roosevelt to the Governor-General and to the Premier of Canada, and to President Diaz of Mexico. They will be delivered to the officials in person by Clifford Pinchot, chairman of the National Conservation Commission and Forester of the United States.

Chicago's Poor Are Fed.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Eight thousand poor people in Chicago ate their Christmas dinners as guests of the Volunteers of America today. Men, women and children crowded into Tattersal's Hall and were given the season's delicacies.

Many packages were sent to the old and infirm.

Fatal Railroad Wreck.

Great Falls, Mont., Dec. 28.—As the result of a head-on collision between a freight train and a work train on the Great Northern this afternoon, eight men are dead and four injured seriously. The blame for the wreck has not yet been placed.

Coopers Are Denied Bail.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 28.—Judge W. M. Hart today refused to admit to bail Colonel Duncan B. Cooper, Robin G. Cooper and John S. Sharp, charged with the murder of Senator E. W. Carmack on November 9. The prisoners were conducted back to jail to await their trial on January 29.

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Women's Club Notes.

From Mrs. J. A. Abbott's report as delegate to the State Federation recently convened at La Grande we gather the following:

Mayor Hall in his address of welcome made a strong plea for the children of the very poor, many of which drift into the ranks of criminals before their fourteenth year. He said his only hope for them lay in organized motherhood. One of the best addresses was that of Mrs. Moore: How the Club may benefit others. Its report of the different clubs throughout the state, of work done, was most interesting and instructive.

The afternoon was given to the discussion of club amenities, business obligations, the duty of delegates and the press in relation to club work.

In a paper on the industrial condition of women and children, the terrible life of the sweatshop worker was described and stress was put upon the responsibility of the consumers, who might aid in the effort to reform present conditions, if they would buy and wear no ready made clothing except those garments bearing the white label.

The legislative committee reported three resolutions which were adopted: 1st. to petition the legislature to allow the public schoolhouses to be used for social centers for the neighborhood. 2nd. A bill to require the wife's signature to indorsements of notes or other papers whereby property may be liable. 3rd. An amendment to the pure food bill, prohibiting samples of drugs or medicine being thrown about as advertisements.

The president was instructed to confer with the relatives of Sam Simpson, with a view to the collecting and publishing his poems.

Among other resolutions was the following: be it resolved, that there is a necessity for the further supervision by clubs of the sanitation of our public schools.

Our space will not permit us to give Mrs. Abbott's description of the royal welcome given the club women by the citizens of La Grande nor the many delightful receptions and social func-

tions tendered the delegates. The La Grande ladies spared no pains to make the convention a brilliant success—and they succeeded.

Forest Grove will entertain the federation next November.

PREJUDICE VANISHES

In days gone by clubwomen realized that there was always a certain amount of prejudice to be overcome in every community among people who did not realize what club work really was. If any such prejudice ever did exist among the men of La Grande it vanished before the convention was over. An evidence of this is found in the fact that on the second evening of the convention a certain lodge of men was in session, and the convention being under discussion the members of the lodge called up the chairman of the finance committee and told her there was \$150 in their treasury left over from a certain entertainment which was at the disposal of the entertaining clubs if they needed it. This is almost unprecedented in club affairs.

To Rename Places.

Ugly names in Oregon must go and at the first meeting of the Oregon Geographic board held in Portland last Saturday, objections were raised to absurd and ridiculous appellations of places throughout the state and an attempt will be made to change them. It was decided to ask the legislature for an appropriation to defray the expenses of the committee. One of the important duties of the committee will be the settling of disputes as to what the real name of some valley, brook or mound is and another will be the selection of appropriate names for all sorts of towns, rivers, mountains and other places. George H. Hines will have charge of the work in the following counties: Clatsop, Columbia, Marion, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill. The work in other counties will be done by the other members of the board. This work will be watched with interest.

—Money to loan on farm security
W. H. Hollis.

Annual Report of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School for 1908.

Average attendance: First quarter, 105; second quarter, 154; third quarter, 132; fourth quarter, 174; annual, 141.

Receipts for the year: From general collections, \$134.07; from missionary collections, \$83.13; from birthday offerings, \$19.24; from the Home Department, \$5.70; total, \$242.14.

The year has brought a marked growth in the school. Probably the largest factor in producing this growth has been the remarkable faithfulness of the teachers. Although the school has ten teachers, their absences for the year aggregate but fourteen. One teacher was not absent and no one teacher was absent more than three times. The classes most faithful in attendance have been the classes of girls taught by Miss Mary Corl and Mrs. Carlyle. Mrs. Millie Taylor and Fred Knight have shown unusual ability in holding their classes of boys. Mrs. Gould's young people's class is the largest, having enrolled sixty-six pupils in a single quarter. The Bible class, taught by Mr. Pollock, is almost as large as Mrs. Gould's. The primary department is flourishing, but the attendance fluctuates with the vicissitudes of childhood. Equally faithful with the teachers are the chorister, Fred Gardner; the librarian, Gus Gardner; the secretary, Clara Knight, and the organist, Edna Mills, except that in one or two cases a short summer vacation was taken. Officers and teachers neither favor nor practice proselyting, but the attendance of any who do not belong to another school, church or congregation is welcomed.

ARTHUR C. BOGGESS,
Superintendent.

Mrs. George Kirkwood Passes Away.

Another well-known resident of this city has joined the silent majority. Mrs. Janet Kirkwood, wife of George Kirkwood, passed away at her home here December 25 after several months' illness. She was born in the island of Rothsay in the western part of Scotland and was 82 years of age at the time of her demise. Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood were married at Glasgow, Scotland, November 14, 1856, and sailed the day after the marriage for America and landed at Indianapolis, Indiana, January 3, 1857.

Subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood settled in several of the Middle States residing 12 years in Illinois and a similar period in Nebraska. Later they came to Oregon where they have lived for 17 years, first settling in Seaside, then in Hillsboro and for the past 15 years in Forest Grove.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Kirkwood leaves to mourn her death, a daughter, Mrs. W. O. Donalson and two grandchildren, Earl and Jessie Donalson, all of Hillsboro. Other relatives reside in Scotland. Mrs. Kirkwood was of a quiet, amiable disposition and a good neighbor. The remains were taken to the Portland crematorium for incineration.

The Domestic Science class will hold its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 5, with Mrs. W. B. Haines. The subject for discussion will be "Saving Steps and Strength." Mrs. A. Buxton and Mrs. J. Clark will present the subject to the class. A full attendance is desired.

J. B. Eddy, of Portland, right-of-way agent for the Harriman system was here Monday on business matters. Mr. Eddy lived here for a number of years during which he was editor of the Times. He still has a lot of friends in Forest Grove.

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