

DEATH LIST GROWS

Victims of Earthquake Estimated at One Hundred Thousand.

WHOLE PROVINCES LAID WASTE

Almost Entire Population of Reggio Exterminated—Sicilian Hotels Filled With Tourists.

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

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 zone 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 animals.

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 Trincria 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.

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.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

OPEN BIG TRACT.

40,000 Acres in Eastern Oregon to Be Placed on Market.

Vale—Settlement of the Willow Creek valley, lying north of this city, is to commence, the Willow River Land & Irrigation company having announced that a block of 4,000 acres, divided into tracts of 20 and 40 acres, will be placed on the market before March 1. The company's double reservoir system at the head of Willow creek is practically completed; that is, the lower dam is finished and full of water and the upper dam will be completed in 60 days.

The company announces that it has secured options on all of the land which it proposes to irrigate and will open it to settlers as fast as ditches can be constructed and put in operation. The land will be sold to practical horticulturalists at a reasonable rate, on condition that the work of setting out fruit trees is commenced next spring.

D. M. Brogan, president of the company, has left for the coast, well satisfied with the progress made by his men on the reservoirs. Before leaving Mr. Brogan announced the practical completion of the company's plans.

"The company aims to settle the valley with practical horticulturalists," he said, "and the land will not be sold in larger tracts than 40 acres to any one purchaser. The purchaser must sign an agreement to commence work on his land immediately. We do not want the land to be held up by speculators."

"A corps of engineers from the coast under C. F. Ashford is now in the field platting out the land and laying out the townsite of Brogan at the head of the valley. In the near future a railroad will be constructed from Vale, and the settlers will have transportation facilities at their doors. A power plant will be erected at the upper dam for light and power purposes."

The people of Vale are deeply interested in the development of the company's plans, which mean a large increase in the productiveness of the country tributary to this city. According to government estimates the company's reservoir system can be developed to water 90,000 acres, which includes practically all of the available agricultural and horticultural land in the valley.

DUNBAR WINS SUIT.

Case Against Former Secretary Reversed and Dismissed.

Salem.—On the ground that the defendant is not accountable to the state for fees collected unlawfully, but to the persons alone from whom unauthorized collections were made, the supreme court has reversed the case being prosecuted against F. I. Dunbar, former secretary of state, by Attorney L. H. MacMahon of this city on behalf of the state for the recovery of over \$100,000 alleged to have been exacted unlawfully during his term of office.

The exact sum which it was alleged Dunbar had collected in fees without authority was \$103,926. These collections were made by the secretary during his term of office as secretary of state, between the years of 1899 and 1907. They were received for the filing of various papers, issuing commissions and licenses, recording documents and copying public records; and it was further alleged that he had appropriated these sums to his own use when they had been collected for the use and benefit of the state.

The foundation for the plaintiff's right to recover was based on the provisions of the constitution in article 17, which is as follows:

"The secretary of state shall receive an annual salary of \$1,500 and shall receive no fees and perquisites what ever for the performance of any duties."

Oregon Midland to Cross State.

Portland.—Articles of incorporation for the Oregon Midland railway have been filed by Miller Murdoch, an attorney for the road. The stated capitalization is \$100,000, and the line is proposed to be built from Weiser, Idaho, across Oregon to Tillamook. The incorporators are C. M. Conry, a timber cruiser; Miller Murdoch, R. A. Canby and John P. McOrsdel. The railroad is planned to cut east and west across Oregon, beginning at Weiler, the southern terminus of the P. & N., and its promoters are said to have an understanding with one of the Rocky mountain roads, once said to be the Denver, Northwestern & Pacific, although no official information has been given out concerning such a connection. The Harriman lines have plans for a cross-Oregon road and have surveys in the field at present, but this line is entirely outside of anything that Harriman is doing in the east and west route.

Appointment is Approved.

The Dalles.—Asa G. Stogsdill, the retiring assessor of Wasco county, has been appointed assistant postmaster of The Dalles office and will assume his duties January 1. While the appointment of Ed Hostetler as postmaster has not been confirmed, it is an assured fact that it will be, since there is no opposition.

NEW DOUGLAS ORCHARDS.

Two Hundred Thousand Fruit Trees Will Be Planted This Year.

Roseburg.—Upwards of 200,000 trees will be planted in Douglas county this year. Among the heaviest planters are the Sutherland Land & Water company, 50,000; W. C. Harding Land company, 35,000; other local realty firms combined, about 30,000; individual fruitgrowers in all sections of the county, from one to 100 acres. C. O. White, of Myrtle Creek, will plant 100 acres to apples on a tract of fine river bottom land near that place. The two large companies above mentioned are located on the main line of the Southern Pacific, 13 miles north of Roseburg. Most of the trees are Spitzenberg and Newtown Pippin apples, and Barlett pears. There are also quite a number of walnuts, as well as prunes and peaches.

One of the largest prune orchards in southern Oregon is located in Looking Glass valley, eight miles southeast of Roseburg. It is one mile square, and the rows are all in perfect alignment, making a pretty sight in the spring when the trees are in bloom. This orchard is owned by George Marsh. There is also a tract of fruit trees comprising over 100 acres in Chenoweth park orchard, near Yoncalla. The Winston fruit section comprises over 200 acres of apples, pears and prunes.

It is from one of these orchards that the record crop of the year was harvested, bringing the owner \$2400 per acre. This section also produces some of the finest pears in the world. Douglas county is first in the market almost every year with strawberries. While this section is known to be the best protected from frost and droughts, there are seasons when there are not extremely full crops in all parts of the county, but a total failure is not known.

Report Road to Extend.

Salem.—The sale of 310 acres of agricultural land south of this city a few days ago to a prominent Portland business man has created the impression that the extension of the Oregon Electric southward is practically certain. The sale was made to A. H. Birrell, and though the consideration was mentioned as only \$10, it is understood that the real consideration was in the neighborhood of \$25,000. The ranch sold was the Sarah E. Kleppin place, on what is known as the Slough road. It is presumed by those who have discussed the matter that Mr. Birrell had studied the situation and became convinced that the Oregon Electric will be extended.

Puter Case Dismissed.

Salem.—The three state land fraud cases pending against S. A. D. Puter have been dismissed on motion of District Attorney McNary. The statute provides that applications for the purchase of state land must be sworn to before a notary public or a county clerk. The applications which Puter made and which were alleged to be fraudulent were sworn to before the clerk of the state land board. Mr. McNary said that after investigating the question thoroughly he is convinced that this affidavit does not constitute perjury, and therefore he would dismiss the cases.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Barley—Feed, \$27 per ton; brewing \$28.
Wheat—Bluestem, 97c; club, 96c; 91c; 90c; 89c; Red Russian, 88c; 87c; 86c; 85c; valley, 91c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$12.50 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$14.00 per ton; eastern Oregon, \$16.50 @ 17; clover, \$12; alfalfa, \$12@13; grain hay, \$12@13.
Fruits—Apples, 75c@82.5c per box; pears, \$16@17.50 per box; quinces, \$16@17.50 per box; cranberries, \$14.50@15 per barrel; persimmons, \$16@17.50.
Potatoes—80c@90c per cwt.; sweet potatoes, 25c@30c per cwt.
Onions—\$14.25 per 100 pounds.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1; parsnips, \$1.25; beets, \$1.50; horseradish, \$6.00 per dozen; Artichokes, \$16@17.25 per dozen; beans, 20c per pound; cabbage, 14c@15c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per dozen; celery, \$4.50 per crate; cucumbers, \$2@2.50 per box; egg plant, 11c per pound; lettuce, 75c@81 per box; parsley, 30c per dozen; peas, 15c per pound; peppers, 15c@20c per pound; pumpkins, 15c@16c per pound; radishes, 30c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 10c per pound; squash, 14c@15c per pound; tomatoes, \$1.50@2.
Butter—City creamery, extras, 36c@37c; fancy outside creamery, 32c@33c per pound; store, 18c@20c.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 40c; easterns, 30c@35c per dozen.
Poultry—Hens, 12c per pound; spring, large, 11c@12c; small, 14c@14c; mixed, 11c; ducks, 16c@17c; geese, 11c; turkeys, 18c@20c; dressed turkeys, 20c@25c.
Veal—Extra, 9c@9.5c per pound; ordinary, 7c@8c; heavy, 8c.
Pork—Fancy, 7c@8c per pound; large, 6c@7c.
Mutton—6c@7c per pound; lambs, 8c@8c.
Hops—1908, choice, 7c@7.5c per pound; good prime, 6c@6.5c; fair prime, 5c@6c; medium, 5c@5.5c; 1907, 2c@2.5c; 1906, 1c@1.5c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 10c@14c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15c@16c.
Mohair—Choice, 18c@19c per pound.

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 in 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 16 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 is the only certain peace which 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 Pocahontas 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 Lick branch colliery, owned by the Pocahontas Coal company, the largest coal mining concern in southwestern 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 52 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.

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.

RELIEVE SUFFERING

Work in Earthquake District Is Reduced to System.

MANY BAD CRIMINALS ARRESTED

Latest Estimate of Dead Exceed 200,000—Slight Shocks Continue in Earthquake Zone.

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 are 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 contemplated their coal'ng.

Contributions for the earthquake sufferers continue to arrive at the American Red Cross headquarters. Miss Mabel T. Hoarman, 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 with 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 attorneys 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.

Earth's Crust Sinking.

Baltimore, Dec. 31.—Dr. Harry Fielding Rees, 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.