

FOURTEEN TOWNS DESTROYED, HUNDREDS KILLED BY EARTHQUAKE AND ERUPTION MT. ETNA

SCORES BURIED BENEATH RUINS VOLCANO'S BASE

Cities Completely Razed—Thousands Homeless Fleeing Disaster—Great Fissures in Earth From Which Gas and Smoke Ascend—Hundreds of Injured—Wires Prostrated.

ACIREALE, Italy, May 9.—Etna was still rumbling today and the thousands of villagers whose homes were destroyed by last night's earthquake were abject with terror. Soldiers and gendarmes were removing the dead and injured from the ruins of the 14 thickly populated towns at the volcano's base.

Linares, Catania and St. Veneris were completely razed. Several villages from which no reports had been received were, it was feared, also destroyed.

In the earth there were great fissures from which smoke and evil smelling gases ascended.

Mount Etna was still in eruption today. The inhabitants of the villages at its base had fled to the open country.

MAZATLAN'S FALL SEEMS IMMINENT

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Unofficial messages received this afternoon said the city officials at Mazatlan embarked last night on the gunboat Guerrero and the steamship Limantour, supposedly to go to Salina Cruz, that the federals had abandoned the stranded gunboat Morelos, that west coast lighthouses were abandoned last night and the coast in darkness, that the terrified inhabitants of Mazatlan were fleeing and that the city's fall seemed imminent.

The same advices stated that while the British steamship Cotriano on which many refugees escaped from Manzanillo, was at that port the federals set fire to the pier and used dynamite to complete the work of destruction, that the Cotriano narrowly escaped taking fire and that shots were fired across its deck from the shore.

It was added, commenting on reports that American shipping had been captured by Mexican craft, that the Mexican transport Korrigan did actually take the American Brig Geneva but released it at the demand of Captain Magruder of the Raleigh.

FINE WEATHER FOR KENTUCKY DERBY

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 9.—Fine weather prevailed here today for the running of the fortieth Kentucky Derby. Eleven horses were nominated to participate in the race, but only eight started, the others being scratched. The track was heavy. Old Rosebud was the favorite in the betting.

PRIVATE PARKS, U. S. A., SHOT BY MAAS' TROOPS

Secretary of War Receives Report Concerning Case of American Soldier Who Wandered From Vera Cruz While Suffering From Heat Stroke and Slain by Mexican Feds.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Secretary of War Garrison admitted today that he had received a report concerning the case of Private Parks, orderly to Colonel Taggart, at Vera Cruz, who, wandering from the city, supposedly while suffering from a heat stroke, was reported to have fallen into the hands of General Maas' Mexican federals and been executed. From Garrison's manner and his unwillingness to discuss the case it was believed the news of the execution had been confirmed. The secretary promised a statement later.

Parks served as Colonel Taggart's orderly. Yesterday Colonel Taggart went to the federal lines and Mexican officers said they had ordered the execution of a uniformed American who had entered their lines but would not admit that Parks was the man.

A railroad man told Colonel Taggart that federal soldiers had said that Parks was executed and another uniformed American shot two days before. It was believed here that Parks became insane after smoking a poisoned cigarette given him by a Mexican woman.

Secretary of State Bryan said he had not received any report concerning the Parks case and it was not known whether the administration would consider it a matter for state or war department consideration.

BEAR RAID ON STOCK MARKET

NEW YORK, May 9.—Bear traders again renewed their activity at the opening of the market today. An ostensible motive for selling was furnished by disquieting news from Mexico overnight. A sharp break in American stocks was also reported from London.

Popular shares were sold freely, Reading being unloaded in large lots. As a result of the decision of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. to not undertake the financing of the Missouri Pacific road, its securities were weak. The stock broke nearly two points to 15 1/2; the convertible bonds lost 2, and the 4s fell 3/4.

Later support was extended to Missouri Pacific, Chesapeake & Ohio and other issues which have been weak of late, and this fact steadied the entire list.

BECKER TRIAL ADJOURNS WITH TEN JURORS

NEW YORK, May 9.—The trial of former Police Lieutenant Charles F. Becker, charged with murdering Herman Rosenthal, adjourned at noon today with only ten jurors in the box. When court adjourned yesterday the box was filled, but Justice Seabury this morning excused Jurors Van Eman and Robert Baxter, and the examination of witnesses was resumed. Later another juror was chosen, but Justice Seabury also excused Juror Paul Camors.

FOUR GIRLS CREMATED. MAN FATALLY BURNED

NEWARK, N. J., May 9.—Four girls were cremated and a man fatally burned in a fire which destroyed the Alpine apartment house here early today.

ARMY AND NAVY MAKING READY FOR HOSTILITIES

High Officials Constantly at Their Desks—Supplies Being Provided and Transports Chartered—Maas With Large Force Expected to Attack Funston.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—War preparations were being rushed here today.

High officials of the war and navy departments were constantly at their desks. Troops were held in readiness. Supplies were being provided. Transports were being chartered. Blank orders of all sorts were awaiting signatures.

In the meantime President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan insisted that the situation was unchanged. They were taking precautions, they said; not preparing for hostilities. Mediation negotiations, they added, were progressing.

Maas May Attack  
Reports from Mexico indicated that General Maas, with a large Mexican force, might attack Vera Cruz at any moment; that General Zapata, the southern rebel chieftain, was preparing to assault the capital, and that highly critical conditions prevailed at Tampico.

President Wilson, however, was optimistic. He professed to be convinced that the constitutionists were about to solve the Tampico problem by wresting the city from the federals' hands. He did not believe General Maas would risk an attack on Vera Cruz.

Secretary of War Garrison had chartered five transports and was arranging for more to take reinforcements to General Funston from Texas City.

Munitions Not Seized  
Navy department officials said there was no intention of seizing Puerto Mexico, where the German steamship Cecille landed a quantity of arms and ammunition for President Huerta yesterday. It was learned that the state department has known for a week that this shipment was on its way and that still another cargo was coming on the steamship Bavaria. No action was taken, however, since it was realized that the seizure of Puerto would be practically an act of war.

It was understood that President Wilson had asked Mayor Baker of Cleveland, Federal Supreme Justice Lamar and Frederick Lehmann, the St. Louis lawyer, to represent the United States before the "A B C" mediators and that a fourth delegate might be appointed.

JAPANESE ARMS LANDED IN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Government officials today were investigating a report that a consignment of arms and ammunition, purchased from Japan, was landed Thursday at Salina Cruz and rushed to Mexico City. This consignment was said to be the final shipment of a quantity of arms and ammunition President Huerta bought last December. The shipment, it was said, included a number of siege and rapid-fire guns.

SUPREME JUSTICES TO BE MEDIATORS

WASHINGTON, May 9.—It was reported today and generally credited in official circles that President Wilson would select as the United States' representatives before the American-Mexican mediators Supreme Justices Hughes and Lamar and Frederick Lehmann of St. Louis. Lehmann, a well-known lawyer, lunched with the president today.

MRS. WILLIAM GIBBS M'ADOO IN HER CHARMING WEDDING GOWN



MRS. WILLIAM GIBBS M'ADOO  
The photograph herewith shows Mrs. William Gibbs M'Adoo, nee Eleanor Wilson, youngest daughter of the President, in her charming wedding gown of ivory white satin, trimmed with real point lace.

POST COMMITS SUICIDE; SHOTS SELF WITH RIFLE

Multi-millionaire Cereal Manufacturer of Battle Creek Kills Self by Placing Muzzle of Weapon to His Mouth and Pulling Trigger, Blowing Off Top of Head.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., May 9.—Charles W. Post, multi-millionaire cereal manufacturer of Battle Creek, Mich., committed suicide here today by shooting himself.

The millionaire killed himself with a .30-30 caliber hunting rifle. He placed the muzzle of the weapon in his mouth and pulled the trigger with his toe, blowing off the entire top of his head.

The suicide occurred early today just after Mrs. Post and Post's secretary had come into Santa Barbara on business. Post told the nurse who was left with him that he was tired and wished to be alone.

Found in Death Agony  
A few moments after she had left the room the woman heard a shot and rushed in to find the millionaire in his death agony.

Post yesterday ordered a special car in which to go east on May 30, presumably to Battle Creek, Mich.

Post had spent the winter at his mansion here. His health had been failing for some time, but his friends had understood that he had been improving since he returned here following an operation, supposedly for appendicitis, performed recently at the Mayo brothers' sanitarium at Rochester, Minn. Post made the trip from Santa Barbara to Rochester in a special train, making a new record for the trip across half the continent. He was accompanied by two doctors and several nurses.

At Rochester he was found to be much improved, but the operation, it was stated, was performed as a precautionary measure against future attacks.

Was Sixty Years of Age  
Charles William Post was born at Springfield, Ill., October 26, 1854. He was the son of Charles Rollin and Caroline Lathrop Post.

Post was educated in the Springfield public schools and also attended the University of Illinois but never graduated from that institution. He first engaged in the hardware business, then was a commercial traveler and still later was manager of a plow factory at Springfield.

Post broke down from overwork in 1884 and for several years was an invalid, traveling for his health until 1891. Then his health improved he studied medicine, hygiene and dietetics and this led him into the cereal food business, from which he amassed a fortune.

The statement that Post had shot and killed himself came direct from Coroner Ruiz, who received the message from the cereal magnate's home three or four miles outside town. He left at once to go there with his dead wagon. Newspaper men were also on their way by automobile.

DIGGS' COMPANIONS FREED WITHOUT TRIAL

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., May 9.—Upon motion of Assistant District Attorney Ferreri, the case of Walter J. Gilligan, jointly accused with Paul Spott and Maury I. Diggs of criminal assault upon Miss Ida May Peering, was dismissed today by Judge Cohaness. Ferreri stated to the court in explanation of his motion that the case of Gilligan is identical with those of Spott and Diggs, both of whom have been acquitted, and similar testimony would be produced if Gilligan were tried.

STRIKING COAL MINERS GIVE UP GUNS TO TROOPS

TRINIDAD, Colo., May 9.—Colonel Lockett's order to striking coal miners, mine guards and other civilians to disarm went into effect at 9 o'clock this morning. At 1 o'clock this afternoon it was estimated that the strikers had surrendered 150 rifles and revolvers. Military officers refused to state how many arms had been deposited altogether.

The weapons of the mine guards were said to have deposited with the operators, who will surrender them all in one lot. Crowds this morning gathered at every designated depository and watched the surrender. The largest crowd was at the strikers' camp outside the town of San Rafael.

Men carrying weapons of all kinds, from the oldest-fashioned carbines to the latest high-power rifles, trudged into the camp.

COUNTRY MOST IMPORTANT BUT MOST NEGLECTED

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 9.—The most important and at the same time the most neglected unit in America's governmental daily life is the county, Professor Graham Taylor of Chicago university told the national conference of charities and corrections today. Professor Taylor was president of the conference.

"The county seat," he said, "is the center of more governmental activities than any other seat of government. In fact, it is the rural capital of the great majority of people. But the extent to which it is neglected is evidenced in the faulty records and accounts, indifference to public health, bad conditions in jails and almshouses, extravagance in sheriffs and prosecutors' offices and irresponsible trusteeship."

"The county may well be taken as the point at which politics should be humanized. It lies all around and very close to every home town and neighborhood. Therefore it ought to be and can become the framework within which private citizens can best work with public officials and public agencies can best co-operate with volunteer organizations for the common welfare."

SUFFRAGETTES PARADE STREETS OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Singing a marching song amid flying banners and the playing of ten bands, 2000 suffragists from various sections of the country today paraded Pennsylvania avenue from La Fayette square to the capitol. The procession was viewed by an immense crowd.

A banner twenty feet wide, bearing the following inscription, was borne aloft: "We demand the passage of the Bristow-Mondell resolution."

The parade was preceded by a mass meeting in a downtown theater, presided over by Mrs. William Kent, wife of Congressman Kent of California.

WYOMING GOES TO MEET FUNERAL SHIP

NEW YORK, May 9.—The battleship Wyoming steamed out of this harbor today to meet the cruiser Montana, bearing the bodies of the marines and bluejackets killed in the occupation of Vera Cruz, off Ambrusa Light tomorrow. The Montana and its escorts are scheduled to arrive at the Battery at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.