

COLD, FLOOD AND FAMINE ADD TO THE SUFFERING OF QUAKE VICTIMS

20,000 DEAD FROM DISASTER LAST ESTIMATE

Relief Work Under Way Under Army Control—Horrible Situation Described by American Attaché—What Once Were Streets Now Fields of Debris.

ROME, Jan. 16.—Rescue and relief work is being pushed with feverish haste in the earthquake stricken districts of Italy. Thousands of soldiers are digging out and burying the victims and caring for the survivors.

The need of the latter, of whom there are thousands upon thousands, homeless and generally penniless, is urgent, and the people, from the king down, are doing all possible to alleviate their condition. The cold weather, which continues, adds to the terrible suffering, and temporary buildings of wood are being erected as fast as possible to house the homeless.

Dead Only Estimated
The list of dead can still only be estimated, but from what is known it is believed that at least 20,000 persons perished and that twice that number were injured.

More injured are being brought to the Santa Maria hospital, which is close to the Vatican. The pope today again visited the patients.

King Victor Emmanuel and the queen mother, Margherita, made the rounds of the hospitals in Rome yesterday, visiting the injured, of whom numbers are arriving hourly.

The American ambassador, Thomas Nelson Page, will visit the earthquake stricken today or tomorrow. The ambassador has agreed with the Prince Colonna that the best way for Americans to participate in the relief of the victims is to do so as private individuals.

Colonel George M. Dunn, military attaché of the American embassy, returned last night from Avezzano. Speaking of what he had seen, he said:

Horrible Situation
"I never dreamed of such a horrible situation. The whole town is ruined, as every house is down and only three stables remain intact. Churches, palaces and dwellings have crumbled to the ground. What once were streets are now full of debris to the height of six or seven feet.

"Within a short time the work of rescue will be useless, as all those buried under the ruins will be dead. The entire population is extinguished, the people either being dead or wounded in hospitals.

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TURKS' ENTRY INTO PERSIAN CITY OF TABRIZ UNOPPOSED

LONDON, Jan. 16, 4:35 p. m.—The entrance of Turkish troops into the Persian city of Tabriz several days ago was entirely unopposed by the Persians and took place in accord with plans previously arranged between the American consul, Gordon Padlock, who co-operated with the deputy governor and the commander of the Turkish forces.

All the Russians in Tabriz, including the consul, had previously withdrawn from the city in order to avoid a conflict.

Only 600 Turkish soldiers marched into the Persian city, the Kurds, numbering some 25,000 men, having been left at some distance outside the city.

An official telegram from the Teheran government conveying the foregoing information was received in London today. This message adds that Persia was neither prepared nor willing to oppose either side in this conflict, but that she would remain strictly neutral.

DEATH LIST OF ITALIAN DISASTER SLOWLY GROWS

Countless Small Towns Report Fatalities—Rescue Work Progresses Feverishly—Trainloads of Injured Arrive at Rome—Horror of Flood and Famine in Stricken Region.

ROME, Jan. 16.—Famine and intense cold are adding to the sufferings of the earthquake victims and slowly increasing the huge death roll. Food there is in plenty, but its transportation to many of the towns affected is all but impossible because of obstructed roads.

Rescue work is going ahead feverishly, for each hour of delay means death by starvation or exhaustion for buried victims. From town after town come reports of excavation that was too late to save lives.

Small Towns Destroyed
Attention gradually is turning from Avezzano, the center of the disturbance, and the greatest sufferer, to smaller towns where an almost equal percentage of the population was destroyed. In only one case so far—that of Sora—do late reports show that the effects of the earthquake were less disastrous than had been feared. Only 360 of Sora's 17,000 persons appear to have been killed.

While trainloads of injured continue to arrive in Rome, additional details of the horror come in, all tending to confirm earlier estimates of the tremendous loss of life. Reports indicate that, next to Avezzano, the towns that suffered most are Pescara, with 4500 victims; Paterno, with 1000 dead, and Samelino, with 600 of its population of 1000 killed. All are near Avezzano.

Horror of Flood
The horror of possible flood added to famine and suffering from cold exists in the neighborhood of the Fucino canal, which has been dammed by a landslide at Monte Corvino-Rovella. Soldiers and civilians are working desperately to clear the canal.

Though it seems definitely established that the present earthquake will not rival that of Messina in 1908 in the number of dead, the percentage of casualties in proportion to the population affected appears to be much higher, due, it seems, to the dry construction of buildings that was almost universal throughout the stricken district.

The absence of foreigners in the district now devastated is another point of difference between this quake and the last. Not only were the American consul and his wife killed at Messina, but a long list of tourists from the United States were reported missing, in addition to travelers from other countries. No one not an Italian has as yet been reported as injured or missing in the present disaster.

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WITHYCOMBE'S AXE FALLS UPON FINZER; WHITE APPOINTED

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 16.—Captain George A. White, who yesterday was appointed adjutant general of the Oregon militia to succeed Adjutant General W. E. Finzer, announced today that he intended to proceed at an early date to have the National Guard relieved from service in local disturbances by creating a state constabulary. All internal disorders will be handled by the latter.

"The greatest function of the National Guard," said Captain White, "is to prepare for the possibility of service in support of the United States army. The citizen soldiery must not be called upon to perform police duty within the state."



I SHOULD WORRY.

BRYAN'S WARNING CAUSES FLUTTER AMONG MEXICANS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Secretary Bryan's warning to the constitutionalists to refrain from interference with the oil-producing plants near Tampico, Mex., caused a flutter in the local Mexican agencies.

At Carranza headquarters it was contended that the foreign oil producers in the Tampico district had involved themselves in trouble because about two months ago they had withheld the taxes on productions they had been paying to the Carranza government in the belief that Villa would soon be in possession of the place.

Enrique C. Lorente, head of the Villa agency, said he was authorized to state that the Gutierrez government would respect all concessions granted by all previous constitutional governments in Mexico and would restore any properties confiscated.

The oil situation was discussed by representatives of General Carranza with Secretary Bryan and the British ambassador.

While the state department has no official notice that the Mexico City convention has determined to keep General Gutierrez in office until December 31, one dispatch described a plan proposed by Zapata delegates for that purpose, but which would hold Gutierrez and all his acts completely under the orders of the convention. The official dispatches are all three days old.

SCHUMANN-HEINK AT SAN DIEGO HOME
SAN DIEGO, Cal., Jan. 16.—Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink, the singer, is at her home today in Grossmont, near San Diego, to remain, she says, at least a year. Her tour for this season was cancelled owing to a threatened attack of pneumonia. Madame Schumann-Heink arrived last night from Chicago, and is regaining her health.

MANY VILLAGES IN INTERIOR ITALY RUINED BY QUAKE

AVEZZANO, via Rome, Jan. 16, 2:20 a. m.—Official reports regarding the extent of the earthquake disaster now are being received by the authorities. They concern towns and villages in the district in which Avezzano is located and thus far are as follows:

- Paterno, completely destroyed, except one house; 1000 dead out of 5000 inhabitants.
- San Felice, almost totally destroyed; 600 dead out of 1600 inhabitants.
- Scuola, destroyed; number of victims not yet ascertained.
- Villalago, twenty-five dead and twenty wounded.
- Rajano, four dead.
- Fratturo, near Scanno, 200 dead, 60 injured.
- Popoli, five dead, ten injured.
- Pentino, four dead, eleven injured.
- Barrea, nine dead, twenty injured.
- Villata-Barrea, three dead.

The Duke of the Abruzzi arrived here last night and inspected the work of rescue. He visited every spot and gave such aid and advice as he could.

FRANZ JOSEF HEARS POPE'S PLAN

ROME, Jan. 16.—Word was received at the Vatican today from Vienna that Emperor Francis Joseph had received Monsignor Scapinelli, papal nuncio at Vienna, and had been informed of the new plan of Pope Benedict, amplifying his proposal for the exchange of wounded prisoners of war. Pope Benedict now seeks to have included in the arrangement provisions for the exchange of certain classes of civilians, including women, children, men physically unfit for military service and aged persons.

SOISSONS BATTLE VIRTUALLY CEASES; REPORTS CONFLICT

BERLIN, Jan. 16, by wireless to London, 3 p. m.—After several days of violent encounters, the fighting near Soissons has virtually ceased. Nowhere else along the western battle line is there marked activity. Small successes have been won by the Germans in the Argonne and north of Verdun. This is set forth in the official German communication issued here today.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—The French official statement given out in Paris this afternoon makes no specific reference to the recent heavy fighting north of Soissons. Most of the activity of yesterday seems to have been on the part of the artillery and in this the French claim success. There were infantry engagements near Notre Dame de Lorette, near Filirey, and at a point in the Vosges.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The official announcement given out in Berlin yesterday, relating the capture of 5200 French troops at Soissons and saying further that from 4000 to 5000 French dead were found after the battle concludes with the unusual assertion "this is the truth."

A wireless dispatch from Paris, copied in London, categorically denies these German figures. It says that French troops engaged in the Soissons battle were less than three brigades, and that consequently the German figures cannot be correct.

GERMANS EVACUATE BELGIAN COAST TOWNS
AMSTERDAM, Jan. 16, via London, 2:30 p. m.—The correspondent at Ostend of the Tied says the Germans have evacuated all the coast towns and villages as far north as Mariakerke, which is north of Neuport, Westende and Middelkerke, and three miles southwest of Ostend.

LULL SUCCEEDS BATTLE FURY ON WESTERN FRONT

German Success at Soissons Followed by Period of Calm—Little Ground Gained Upon Either Front—Russian Offensive Developing in East Prussia—Expect German Invasion.

LONDON, Jan. 16, 1:05 p. m.—Out of the state of virtual deadlock, which for weeks has existed in the east and west there have sprung during the last few days military events of more importance than followers of the war expected at this time. They are, briefly: The Russian offensive toward new points on the frontiers of East Prussia and Posen; the fighting at Soissons; the expected Turkish advance on Egypt and the plans for a renewed attack on Serbia by combined Austro-German forces.

Gain Little Ground
To the west of Warsaw large German forces are still concentrated but they are gaining little ground and it is thought likely that the fighting which might develop on account of the new Russian movement might overshadow the fighting for the Polish capital. It is even said that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg held in check along the Bzura and Rawka rivers is about to initiate a fresh movement of German troops either from Thorn or from East Prussia, and that the Russian advance toward the German frontier is intended to forestall this attempt.

The British press, with unusual candor, concedes that the Germans were victors in the recent fighting near Soissons.

Battle Fury Spent
The fury of the battle along the Aisne has spent itself and the Germans for the present at least are making no effort to extend the gains they won over the French. Further German successes are reported in today's official statement from the Berlin war office, but they are of minor importance.

Toward the northern end of the line south of the Lys, the Germans reoccupied trenches previously captured by the allies, as is admitted in the French statement, and in the Argonne small engagements are said to have resulted to their advantage.

The French assert that they won definite advantages in artillery fighting and compelled the Germans to evacuate trenches near Clemery.

Uncertain in East
Seldom since the beginning of the campaign in the east has the military situation been so uncertain as at the present. Several independent movements, each with the possibility of vital consequences, are in progress simultaneously. The latest phase of

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WHEAT DROPS FIVE CENTS IN FIRST FIVE MINUTES

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Wheat dropped five cents in the first 15 minutes of today's session on the board of trade, on reports that a congressional movement was on foot to prohibit exports. May wheat which closed at \$1.45 sold down to \$1.41.

For a brief time trading assumed an almost panicky aspect. A storm of stop loss orders from ill-protected bulls came on the market and found the pit temporarily without buyers. At the extreme decline, several of the larger houses began to purchase on a liberal scale. The result was a quick rally, but only to about half the extent of the break. When comparative calm had been restored the May option was steady around \$1.42 1/2.

SENATE HEARS DEBATE OVER DRY CAPITAL

Prohibition Argument Occupies Attention of Upper House—Rioted Attached to Make District of Columbia Dry—Wilson and Bryan Both Cited—Valuable Time Wasted.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Despite the pleas of leaders to cease discussion and turn to work on appropriation bills, the senate devoted its session today to a prohibition debate based on the proposal to suspend the senate rules to attach a "dry" rider to the District of Columbia appropriation bill. Senators on both sides took part in the debate, which ranged from legislative technicalities to the merits of alcoholic drinks and the value of prohibition.

Bryan and Wilson Cited
Senator James put into the record a copy of President Wilson's letter to Rev. W. T. D. Shannon of New Jersey, favoring local option, but opposing the making of a political issue out of the question.

Senator Kenyon submitted an editorial by Secretary Bryan, which he said put the democratic party in favor of prohibition.

To seek some means of relieving the legislative jam in the senate, the democrats of that body will have a caucus late today.

Suggestion has been made that all legislation except the appropriation and ship bills be abandoned and that two weeks be set aside immediately for consideration of the latter.

Wasting Valuable Time
On the senate floor during debate Senator Thomas took his democratic colleagues to task for wasting valuable time.

"Forty-three days of this session are behind us and forty-six remain," said he. "Fourteen appropriation bills are to be passed. We have passed one. And what is more, 75 per cent of the time has been consumed on this side of this chamber, where responsibility for legislation rests."

TWO BATTLESHIP PROGRAM FAVORED WITHOUT CHANGE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Informally reporting the \$148,000,000 naval bill to the house today, the naval committee said that while in the European war "the submarine has been effective in harbor and coast defense, it has not been able to control the sea as the superior battleship fleet has done, causing an enemy with an inferior battleship fleet to suffer great loss of merchant ships, blockading its ports and driving its commerce off the seas."

The committee reported that therefore the two battleship program had not been changed. It added that "the effectiveness of the submarine in the European war demonstrated it to be a naval weapon of great value," and that the "airship for scouting purposes, likewise, has demonstrated its effectiveness."

The bill probably will be reached for debate about February 13. It carries an increase of \$8,492,000 in the building program over what the navy department recommends. The committee commended Secretary Daniels for economics, strongly endorsed the proposed new office of chief of operations and urged the provision for creating a naval reserve which would provide 25,000 trained men within a few years.

"The organization of a naval reserve is necessary to the adequate defense of the country," said the committee.