

SCORES ARE KILLED IN EARTHQUAKE

Three Towns in Sonora, Mexico Are Destroyed and Hundreds Killed and Injured—Messenger Brings News of Disaster and Appeals for Aid—Cities in Volcanic Area.

NOGALES, Ariz., Dec. 21.—Reports of the destruction of three towns near the Sierra Madras in Sonora by an earthquake have been confirmed, said a message received by the Mexican consul here today from the Mexican consul at Douglas, Ariz. The message said there were several hundred casualties.

It is also stated that the towns of Grandos, Oputo and Huasabas were devastated. Reports from the zone of the disaster are meager, according to the message, due to the isolation of the cities. Damage caused by the quake is heavy, the message adds.

The latest Sonora quake recalls the severe shock which rocked the country along the Haviste river in 1888, when large fissures were opened in the earth and many lives lost.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Dec. 21.—Grandos, Huasabas and Oputo, three towns in the Sierra Madera mountains of Sonora, Mexico, were destroyed by an earthquake Wednesday night, according to the story told by a courier who arrived late yesterday at Nacoari, a rail head approximately 75 miles south of the international border line. The courier had ridden all Wednesday and all day yesterday over the mountains which lie between the three towns and the railroad. As he arrived, exhausted, he told an incoherent story of how adobe houses had been tumbled about the heads of the inhabitants.

"Many, many dead," were the words he used in describing the extent of the casualties. His appeal for food, tents and blankets for the homeless was forwarded to President Durazo of Agua Prieta, across the border from Douglas. The president announced that supplies would be shipped by rail to Nacoari and would be taken by stage the remainder of the way.

Grandos, Huasabas and Oputo are approximately forty miles south of Nacoari. The combined population of the three towns is placed at 5000.

RIGHT TO PRESCRIBE BEER IS ARGUED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The right of physicians to prescribe beer for their patients was denied in a brief filed today by the government with the supreme court in a test case expected to result in final determination of that question.

Defending the constitutionality of the Willis-Campbell anti-beer law, the government's brief, signed by Solicitor General Beck and Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, assistant attorney general in charge of prohibition prosecutions, declared that beer has no medicinal value and its prohibition under physicians' prescriptions is necessary to enforce national prohibition.

GUN EXPLODES, BOY NEAR DEATH
EVERETT, Wash., Dec. 21.—Floyd Palmer, 16 of Birmingham was seriously wounded yesterday afternoon while duck hunting with Fred Hooten on Port Susan, off Birmingham. The gun, lying in the boat, was accidentally discharged, the shot entering the boy's back. Palmer is now in a critical condition at the home of his parents.

SOVIET PLOT TO OVERTHROW U. S. GOV'T. DENIED BY RUSSIA AND U. S. RADICAL

MOSCOW, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press)—Foreign Minister Tchitcherine issued a statement today denying that the Russian soviet government had ever sent any documents to the American workers' party, or had ever had any connection with it whatsoever. If such documents exist, the statement declared, they are forgeries, the authenticity of which Russia would like to submit for arbitration.

Former Baker School Teacher Killed By Bandits in Mexico

ONAWA, Iowa, Dec. 21.—Word was received here by A. T. Christensen that his sister, Mrs. C. R. Earhart, formerly Miss Emily Christensen, had been slain by Mexican bandits at her home in Tula, Mexico.

BROKER GIVES INSIDE STORY OF OIL PLUNGE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Jesse L. Livermore, New York stock broker, today gave the senate public lands committee some intimate details of operations in Wall street and incidentally upset popular belief as to a broker's commission.

Appearing as a witness in the inquiry into the leading naval oil reserves, Livermore described the formation in October, 1922, of a group to "make a market" for the stock of the Mammoth Oil company, the subsidiary of Harry F. Sinclair which was organized to operate Teapot Dome reserve No. 3.

As a result of an advertising campaign, the witness said, public subscriptions were received for 151,000 shares at \$40 a share and 109,000 shares were allotted. These shares subsequently were re-purchased by the syndicate interested in the issue at prices ranging from \$40 to \$50.50. On the entire deal, Livermore said, involving sale and repurchase of more than \$10,000,000 worth of stock, his personal return was \$9,916.

"Why did you have to repurchase?" asked Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana.

"To furnish a stable market," was the reply.

"That was why I was retained." Many of the subscriptions received, the witness explained, were from professionals who were certain to let the stock go at the first opportunity to obtain a price higher than that of issue. Unless there was a buying agency to take these issues the public would have no confidence in the issue.

Much of Mr. Livermore's testimony covered the same ground as the senate investigation last spring into oil prices.

PIERCE GRANTS COVELL REPRIEVE

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 21.—Arthur Covell, Coos county astrologer sentenced to death on the gallows for complicity in the murder of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Ebba Covell, will not hang today as sentenced.

Pending decision on his appeal Governor Pierce has issued a reprieve to Covell.

DAWES OFFERED PRESIDENCY OF THE RUHR COM.

France Selects U. S. Member of Committee to Examine German Finance As Official Head—Dawes Grateful, But Says Nothing

PARIS, Dec. 21.—(By Associated Press). The reparations commission this morning decided to offer to Charles G. Dawes of the United States the presidency of the committee which is to examine German finances.

An American thus will head the principal expert committee to be named for the investigation of Germany's resources and financial situation.

The reparations commission found it necessary to postpone issuing its invitations to the other delegates on the committees aside from the Americans but in view of the need of gaining time to permit the representatives from the United States to arrive without delay, the names of General Dawes and of Owen D. Young of New York were approved and instructions given that formal invitations be sent them.

It was the decision of the commission that the presidency of the leading expert committee ought to be offered to General Dawes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—(By Associated Press). Brigadier General Charles G. Dawes refused to comment early today when informed by the Associated Press at his home in Evanston, North Shore suburb, that he had been decided on by the reparations commission to head the committee to examine German finances.

"Thank you very much, but I have nothing to say," said General Dawes. General Dawes is regarded by his friends as a singularly well equipped for the proposed duties, both from his financial experience and zeal as a public servant. He is the founder of, and long has been head of, one of Chicago's largest banking institutions.

In 1917-18 he served in France, most of the time as chairman of the general purchasing board which handled the supplies for the American forces. He was the first director of the budget under President Harding, being appointed in June, 1921, serving one fiscal year, for which a saving to the government of \$250,000,000 and \$300,000,000 was credited to the operation of the budget bureau under his guidance.

Anarchist's Appeal Denied
NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The appellate division of the supreme court today upheld a lower court conviction of Harry M. Winitsky, on charges of criminal anarchy and also decreed that he must serve the ten year sentence imposed at that time.

DELINQUENCY IN JACKSON COUNTY TAXES DECREASES

Tax figures for this year, or the 1922 levy reveal some interesting statistics, gleaned from the records of the sheriff's office.

In 1921 the total delinquent taxes were \$228,797.78, and this year, they were \$205,181.71, for a decrease of two per cent.

MAKES DEBUT AS A CONCERT SINGER AT 80



The ambition of a lifetime was realized by Mrs. Henry Clay Wright, of Austin, Texas, recently when she made her debut in New York as an opera singer.

SUPERVISING OF TAXES ARGUED IN SUPREME COURT

Four Counties Declare the Present Law Is Violation of Constitution—Yamhill Banks Support Action—Klamath Fails to Attend.

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 21.—That the law creating the county tax supervising and conservation commission is unconstitutional and that the acts of the commissions in eliminating from the 1924 budgets certain items of proposed expenses were without legal authority, were the two outstanding arguments advanced by attorneys who appeared before the supreme court here today in an effort to have the act declared invalid.

Four counties were represented at the hearing. Of these, Yamhill and Umatilla were represented by attorneys, while Tillamook and Polk counties participated in the case as amici curiae. Klamath county had intended to be represented but sent word at the last minute that the attorneys there had not been able to complete the required briefs and other legal papers.

The suit affecting Yamhill county was filed by a number of the prominent banks, as bond holders and tax payers, to compel the county court there to levy a tax for the year 1924 sufficient to take care of obligations previously contracted. Special reference was made in the Yamhill county case to the action of the tax supervising commission in elimination from the 1924 budget of two items of \$32,500 and \$10,305.

These items, the attorneys argued, represented principal and interest on bond issues voted by the tax payers of Yamhill county and approved by the county court and the so-called budget committee there.

In attacking the constitutionality of the tax supervising commission act, the attorneys argued that the law, as now constructed, takes the taxing power away from the regular form of the government created for that purpose and places it in the hands of the governor through his power of appointment to the supervising commissions. It further was alleged that the act, as amendment of the 1921 legislature, was not passed by that body in the manner provided by the constitution.

FORD TO BE PUT ON TICKET, SOUTH DAKOTA

WATERTOWN, S. D., Dec. 21.—Plans to put Henry Ford's name on the primary ballot are being carried forward by the South Dakota Ford-for-president club, regardless of Ford's declaration that he would not be a candidate for president, James F. Houlihan, chairman has announced.

BIBLE DEBATE IN N. YORK WON BY MODERNISTS

Modernists Win First Victory in New York Debate With Fundamentalists—Unitarian Pastor Declared to Have Better of Baptist Divine.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(By Associated Press). Religious modernists have won their first victory in the series of debates between Rev. Charles Francis Potter, pastor of West Side Unitarian church and Dr. John Roach Straton, pastor of Calvary Baptist church, and one of the most prominent leaders of the so-called fundamentalist or conservative element among Protestant denominations.

Rev. Mr. Potter was awarded the judges' decision in the first debate last night when he upheld the negative side of the question, "resolved, that the bible is the infallible word of God." His victory, however, was won on presentation of his arguments, for the judges did not base their decision on the merits of the question itself.

The vote of the judges—two Protestant Episcopalians and a Christian Scientist—was two to one.

Rev. Mr. Potter's arguments were based largely upon three premises: That the bible was inaccurate, historically and scientifically; that it contained obvious contradictions and that it represented God as having "morally degrading ideas."

To prove that the bible was not infallible, he said, he had only to show that any one part of it was not infallible, and he quoted passages after passages from the scriptures to support his contention.

Dr. Straton argued that God as a sovereign, most certainly would have framed a code of laws to govern His subjects and he held that the bible was given to mankind as that code. A final authority is necessary in any walk of life, he declared, and unless that authority exists for the religious man, then that man is a religious anarchist.

BIG BATCH OF LIQUOR CASES ARE DISPOSED OF

A number of interesting liquor cases have been disposed of in Justice Taylor's court, one of which has been hanging fire for some time and the others transpiring within the past few days.

Ralph Bragg, well known young man of this city, pleaded guilty to driving an automobile while intoxicated, and in addition to being given a sentence of ten days in the county jail, had his drivers license suspended by the court for a period of three years. He was arrested by Patrolman Cave while driving about the city streets the other night in an intoxicated condition.

George Fry was fined \$50 and Ralph Barbee was fined \$10 on the charge of possessing liquor. There was no bootlegging charged in either case. Fry had several bottles of moonshine cached near Phoenix. Barbee got off with the lighter fine because he was regarded as less guilty having accompanied Fry to the cache to get two half pint bottles. Inasmuch as neither young man seems to have the money to pay the fines they will probably serve out their terms at the county jail. Patrolman Cave also made these arrests.

P. R. Kennedy, also of this city, who created such a commotion in court some time ago by refusing to enter a plea and persisting in talking, following his arrest by the police, and was sentenced by Judge Taylor to 10 days in jail for contempt of court, was bound over to the grand jury on \$1000 bail yesterday afternoon at his preliminary hearing. This was on the charges of possession of liquor and breaking glass on the street, as it is claimed that when arrested he broke a bottle and jug, full of moonshine. The charges of importing liquor and of selling the same were dismissed.

Pick Strawberries In Ontario, Canada; Pansies in N. York

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—New York enjoyed summer weather today, the last day of autumn.

LEVIATHAN HITS REEF, TUGS FAIL TO PULL IT OFF

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press).—The Leviathan queen ship of the American marine, inbound from Cherbourg today, grounded on Robins reef in New York harbor. A call was sent for all available tugs.

The reef is located just north of Tompkinsville, Staten Island. The ship grounded after she had passed quarantine on the way to her dock. Half a dozen tugs reached the Leviathan and made fast. They tugged away vigorously, but apparently were unable to budge her, with the low water mark about an hour ahead.

The dense fog that hid the sea giant from shore observers when she struck, lifted an hour later and the Staten Island benches were covered by crowds who assembled to watch the operations of eight tugs that chugged mightily in apparent futile efforts to float her.

ANOTHER BIG SALE OF OREGON TIMBER

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 21.—Sale of several tracts of timber in Polk and Clackamas counties, at an aggregate price of more than \$52,000, was announced today by the United States land office.

The two largest tracts are located in Polk county, near the western boundary line. One went to the Willamette Valley Lumber company, the other to the William M. Mitchell Co.

The purchase involved fir, hemlock, cedar and larch to a total of approximately 20,000,000 board feet. The price was \$11,578.11. The second tract, awarded to the Mitchell company, includes fir and hemlock to a total of approximately 22,000,000 board feet, and brought a total of \$57,159.09.

Director Told Wife Lurid Tale to Bring Her Back to Life

LONG BEACH, Cal., Dec. 21.—(By Associated Press). Elsie LaMaile, theatrical man and moving picture director, accused by his wife, Helen, two days ago in a divorce complaint of having tried to sell her to Lou Harris, a supposed negro leader of the Juarez underworld, today made a signed statement to the Long Beach Telegram in which he characterized the entire charge as a myth. He said there was no such person in existence as Lou Harris and declared he had invented the story to "bring my wife back to life."

PEACE NEAR IN MEXICO IS BELIEF

Obregon Stops Recruiting and Conference With Rebel Chief With View of Halting Hostilities Is Reported—Puebla Reported Captured By Government Forces

(By the Associated Press.) Indications that the rebellion in Mexico has entered a less belligerent phase are given in news dispatches from Vera Cruz, where the rebels maintain their headquarters.

General Gaudalope Sanchez, chief military supporter of Odolfo De La Huerta is reported to have gone to Esperanza, in the fighting zone, to confer with other rebel leaders in Puebla and Oaxaca on a plan for terminating the conflict. He was accompanied by a civilian representative of Huerta.

The military situation apparently remains stationary with no troop movements of importance. President Obregon is reported to have ordered suspension of recruiting on behalf of the rebels, deeming the government forces sufficient to cope with the uprising.

VERA CRUZ, Dec. 21.—The impression, prevalent for several days, that the Huerta and Sanchez rebels would compose their difficulties with the Obregonists, gained ground today by newspaper advices that General Gaudalope Sanchez and Senator R. Z. Capmany had gone to Esperanza to confer with rebel leaders in the states of Puebla and Oaxaca relative to a termination of the warfare.

Senator Capmany, according to the advices, accompanied General Sanchez as the representative of Odolfo De La Huerta who with the general instigated the campaign against the present regime in Mexico City.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press).—Special dispatches from Puebla state that forces under General Almazan, loyalist, succeeded in an attempt to capture that city.

Rebels Claim Victories.
JUAREZ, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press).—Developments in the revolutionary situation, beyond the claims of opposing factions as to victories in recent operations were lacking in Juarez early today.

The towns of Apizaco, Querto Mexico, Acapulco, Puebla and Cuatla have been captured by the rebels under General G. Sanchez, representatives of the Huerta faction announced at Nogales, Ariz. The Sanchezites are within 60 kilometers of Mexico City which the Obregon forces are preparing to evacuate, the announcement said.

Many dead and wounded were left on the field near Apazaco, according to the revolutionary statement which reported that 3000 prisoners were taken by the rebels there after a clash yesterday, following which the government troops were retreating.

On the other hand, Counsel General Huiz here said the rebels are being driven toward Vera Cruz and tearing up the rails behind them to hinder pursuit.

Daily Report on the Crime Wave

EVERETT, Wash., Dec. 21.—The Marine cafe, near the waterfront was held up early this morning by two armed masked men, one of whom seized the cash register containing about \$75. The police later found the empty register under a nearby railway viaduct.