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THOUSANDS KILLED

DEATH LIST GROWS HOURLY FIRE SWEEPING THE RUINS

Many Caught in Wrecked Buildings Burned to Death—Tidal Wave Sweeps Over Messina, Burying Hundreds Under Debris and Mud—Estimated Seventy Thousand Have Perished, and the List Grows As Communication Is Established With the Outside World—Aid Being Sent From San Francisco and Other Cities

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Rome, Dec. 29.—An official dispatch received this evening by the minister of marine estimates the number of dead at Messina alone to be 50,000. This makes the extent of the calamity even greater than any previous reports indicated.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Telegraphic communication has been restored tonight as far south as Palmi, and each new stretch of wire that is put in operation brings the story of new horrors, resulting from the great earthquake, which, at the most conservative estimates, caused the death of 25,000 persons and the injury of a number that cannot be estimated. The Tribune tonight estimates the dead at 70,000.

Messina, the beautiful Sicilian city on the Straits of Messina, has been blotted out. Catastrophe in three forms visited the city in swift succession. First came the terrific quake, shaking down buildings, crushing hundreds in the ruins and frightening the survivors out of their wits. Then the sea rose in a tremendous tidal wave and swept in upon the town, inundating it, and leaving a deposit of over two feet of mud and slime. As soon as the water subsided, fires broke out and spread rapidly until the flames swept over the ruins in a solid mass. History will never tell the number of dead nor the story of the horrible agonies suffered by men, women and little children, who were caught in the debris, but were not fortunate enough to be killed outright. Refugees say 12,000 must have died, and even they base their estimates upon guesses.

If reports received through official channels tonight are not exaggerated out of all proportion, the destruction of Messina will take its place beside Pompeii and Herculaneum and St. Pierre.

Between four and five thousand wounded have been accounted for by the rescuers and they report that they believe there will be thirty thousand requiring attention.

The last census taken at Messina showed a population of over 90,000, but it is believed that at the time of the earthquake, at least 100,000 made their homes there.

The first message from Palmi brought to Rome news of the destruction of that city. Over eight hundred of the ten thousand inhabitants are dead. Practically the entire population is homeless and in the greatest distress. Reports say that it is impossible to care for all the wounded properly and that many have died through neglect when they could have been saved. Many bled to death from the mere lack of any one to staunch their wounds. Whole families were killed in their homes. Mothers died with children in their arms. Scarcely a single survivor has not lost a loved one or near blood kin. Many of the more ignorant classes are on the verge of insanity. The priests and the soldiers are working valiantly. The priests have gone about among the refugees, urging them to take heart and join in the work of rescue. Through their brave efforts hundreds have been inspired to take up the work, where previously they had given themselves over to lamentations and prayer.

No estimate can be obtained of the damage at Giovanni, which was swept by a tidal wave and all communication was cut off. It is feared that Giovanni has suffered a fate similar to that of Messina though there is as yet no way of determining. The meager reports that have drifted through to Palmi indicate that the town was wholly wrecked and that the loss of life could not

be estimated. Some are inclined to discredit these reports on account of the wild state of mind of everyone in the southern part of Italy, where many have faced horror upon horror on all sides, and have had practically no food and no sleep at all.

Bagnara was razed by fire following the quake and the town is said to have been practically wiped out. The death list there undoubtedly will be heavy. A dispatch to the government officers here say that out of 7500 at Bagnara three hundred are dead and five hundred are severely injured.

Late dispatches from Cantanzaro tend to increase the first reports of the damage and suffering there. The whole population of the town is encamped outside the city. The men for the most part are too dazed to work. The women are kept in a state of continually nervous fright by movements of the earth which have followed the big quake, so that practically nothing has been done since the destruction of the town. The soldiers who have charge of the town under martial law have forced the men to work, but they have gone about the labor in a dazed fashion. The food supply is insufficient and army officials report that unless supplies are received almost immediately there will be many deaths from starvation. The wounded are being cared for by monks and nuns. A refugee camp outside Cantanzaro was attacked this morning by a band of half insane criminals who escaped from the prison when the walls were shattered by the quake. The fiends fell upon the women and the children and stole from them the little trinkets that they wore. They showed no mercy for the wounded and felled with clubs any who gave resistance. A small boy ran to a temporary garrison where a squad of soldiers had been placed and gave the alarm. The soldiers returned with the boy, surprised the fiends at their work and shot them down.

Ten were killed and not more than two escaped. No word has been received from the Italian torpedo fleet which was out Messina at the time of the quake and it is feared that the ships may have been swamped and lost with all on board in the tidal wave. The naval minister has sent out scouts in vain. It is believed that the torpedo fleet undoubtedly would have been heard from by this time if it had survived the wave. The British ship *Exmouth*, with the cruisers *Euryalus*, *Minerva* and *Stuic* have been ordered to proceed to Messina from the station at Malta.

The tremor was felt throughout the length of Italy and even reached over the Alps.

Several hundred foreigners, including many women, were in Messina at the time of the disaster. No word has been received from them, and it is feared that an awful percentage of them were killed.

Sea Covered with Wreckage.
Rome, Italy, Dec. 29.—The captain of the Italian warship *Washington*, which arrived at Palermo, Sicily, today said that he believes he was entering the Straits of Messina just as the first shock occurred. "The ship quivered as if she had lost one of the screw propellers and immediately we were enveloped in a fog," he said. "We continued toward Messina, but soon came upon floating wrecks of ships, houses and furniture, that had been washed out to sea from the city."
"There was so much debris in the water, and so many wrecks, that it was dangerous navigation, and we escaped collision with the greatest difficulty. Soon many small boats

came about manned with survivors begging for aid. We went in toward the city and stopped for a short time. It seemed that the city had been utterly wiped away. Near Gassidre the mayor of the town came out and met us in a small boat. He said that 1000 had been killed and 500 injured."

Tribune Says 70,000.
Rome, Dec. 29.—A late edition of the Tribune here today estimates the number of earthquake and tidal wave victims at between 65,000 and 75,000.

The Tribune says that twice that many were injured, and are suffering desperately from hunger and exposure.

Relief commissions are rushing food, supplies and medical stores to the stricken sections. King Emmanuel is on his way south, and will assume direction of the relief work.

The fearful loss of life and horrible suffering of the victims is appalling. Reports continue to increase the horror of the disaster. Hundreds of thousands are homeless, and most of them are without food. All the seismic apparatus in Italy is broken by the shock.

In nearly all cities orders have been given to shoot down looters, and these orders have been carried out in many cases.

The heaviest damage was done at Messina, in Sicily, and Reggio, in Calabria, across the straits from Messina. Few reports have come from Reggio, but they indicate that the city was shaken terribly, and that the loss of life was heavy. It is the capital of the province of Reggio Di Calabria, and is a city of about 50,000 inhabitants.

Towns Are Annihilated.
Rome, Dec. 29.—The complete destruction of Messina, the large seaport town of Sicily, with a population of 150,000, is confirmed in an official dispatch to the Italian government today. The dispatch expresses the fear that Reggio, across the Straits of Messina, has been completely annihilated, and that most of the towns on the straits have been destroyed.

Railway communication into the stricken towns has been established. The transportation is confined to the bringing in of supplies and government troops, and to the taking out of refugees.

Messages just received say that fire has broken out in Messina, and that the flames are spreading rapidly over the ruined city.

The wrecked and shattered buildings are food for the fire, and, as the water supply has been cut off, there is no means of checking the conflagration. Even if means were provided there is no organization of any kind to carry on the work.

The dispatches indicate that the city is doomed. A squadron of battleships left here today for Messina, where the ships will be divided and patrol the coast in the devastated districts.

Messina is the second city in Sicily, ranking next to Palermo. It is an ancient city, said to have been established by pirates from Cumao, in the eighth century, B. C.

The convent of San Gregorio, containing the museum of inestimable value, is said to have been so badly damaged that it is in danger of collapsing.

The city is at the northeast corner of the island, on the Straits of Messina, and is in the line of contact on which earthquakes between Aetna and Vesuvius are most violent.

Tidal Wave Killed Many.
Naples, Italy, Dec. 29.—Twenty-five thousand deaths is the best estimate made today of the loss in the great earthquake and tidal wave which devastated Southern Italy and Sicily yesterday. King Victor Emmanuel passed through the city today en route to Rome, from which city he will proceed to the affected districts.

The king received reports from Messina saying that the tidal wave there left a two-foot layer of mud and slime over the city, and that scores were smothered.

A serious clash between the soldiers and looters at Messina today resulted in a number of deaths.

The soldiers fired on the looters, and drove them into the mountains. General Coeta, who, in addition to his military position, is an archbishop, commander of the garrison at Messina, is among the dead.

Twelve Thousand in Messina.
Palermo, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Twelve thousand are dead at Messina, according to the latest reports received here today.

BALFOUR'S DEHORNED SOCIALISM TO JOIN LABOR AND CAPITAL

(United Press Leased Wire.)
London, Dec. 29.—Former Premier Arthur J. Balfour has started a vigorous campaign throughout Great Britain for "capital and labor" combinations in many industries, taking as his text Sir Christopher Furness' monarcho-operative shipbuilding scheme. Balfour is conducting his movement as president of the labor co-operative association, an organization of several years' standing into which, however, new life has been injected by the big shipbuilding experiments.

The audiences which the former premier has been addressing in the leading English cities are the most curiously mixed of any gathered in the United Kingdom. Peers and workmen, Socialists, Liberals and Conservatives, captains of industry and unionists all seem equally enthusiastic over the plan, which, it is hoped, will revolutionize the relations between capital and labor, and put an end to industrial strife by placing the two interests on an equal footing, and making them work toward a common end.

The ex-premier makes it clear, however, that it is not Socialism which he is advocating. He urges individual, rather than committee, control of both commercial and industrial enterprises, declaring his belief that the higher the degree of individual efficiency among members of any form of managing board the less likely would they be to work harmoniously together.

"Our association ideal, however," he explained in his last speech, "is complete co-partnership. I mean that those who carry on the work should be associated in all that the work brings in."

"Everything that softens or obliterates the division between employer and employed is a step in the right direction. The more we encourage mutual knowledge of each others' affairs, the more we can bring the two classes together, the more we can get the workman to understand the difficulties of the employer, the more we are likely to produce a class of workmen fit to deal with all questions, industrial, political or social. This result we shall get by co-operation, and I doubt if we shall get it in any other way."

"I think that the plans we advocate can be most effectively carried out in the first instance, at all events, in those well established industries which have little about them of the speculative element."

The Unwritten Law Again.
(United Press Leased Wire.)

Denver, Colo., Dec. 29.—Burdette Edward Bell, in the city prison today for shooting and killing Courier Deary, an actor, yesterday afternoon in the Leone Hotel, today declared that the "unwritten law" prompted him in killing Deary.

Bell declared that Deary desecrated his home, and that he attempted to entice Mrs. Bell to accompany him on the road.

Mrs. Bell, who is being detained by the police as a witness in the case, today calmly discussed the shooting and its cause. She said: "My husband was good to me, and I liked him. Deary also was good to me, and I liked him, too."
Bell is 27 years of age and a laundry maker. The Bells have an 18-months-old girl.
Deary was 29 years of age. It is said that Mrs. Bell met him through an advertisement he inserted in a newspaper for an actress to accompany him.

DUNBAR BEATS STATE COURT HOLDS FEES WERE HIS

The supreme court took action on the State vs. F. I. Dunbar case today, and handed down a decision reversing and dismissing it.

This suit was originally commenced by J. K. Sears, a taxpayer, on behalf of the state, alleging that Dunbar, as secretary of state, received a sum of money as fees for filing various papers, and for other necessities in connection with his office, which he converted to his own personal use after being appealed from Circuit Judge Gallows' court, the supreme court holds that the state has no right or title to the fees and perquisites exacted by the defendant, under the statutes, nor is the defendant accountable to the state therefor in this suit.

The court holds that the money provided by the legislature for copying lists of resolutions for the printers is not as personal compensation to the secretary for personal services, but is for paying the expense for having such records transcribed, hence the state is not entitled to recover this item stated further in this complaint.

A decision was also handed down in the case of State vs. Fisher, which was appealed from the circuit court of Linn county, George H. Burnett, judge. The case was reversed and a new trial ordered. The defendant in this case was tried and convicted of violating the state game laws, by having in his possession six deer hams. The court holds that the defendant has a right to show in his explanation of his admitted possession of the deer during the close season that the deer were killed during the open season.

MADE HAUL FROM COUNTY TREASURER

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Sioux Falls, S. D., Dec. 29.—Two masked men today robbed Michael Meir, treasurer of Sanborn county, of \$6987, an escaped. The robbery was one of the boldest on record here.

The men entered the office of the treasurer and pointed their revolvers at him. Several persons were nearby outside, but the bandits made no noise. They made Meir walk to the vault, where he was forced to hand over all the cash on hand.

Then the robbers looked the treasurer in the vault and fled. They were noticed hurriedly leaving the office, and the robbery was soon discovered, and Meir released. A posse is in pursuit of the bandits.

Winthrop Gets New Job.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Buckman Winthrop, of New York, at present assistant secretary of the treasury, announced this afternoon that he has accepted the assistant secretaryship of state, to succeed Robert Bacon. It is understood that Secretary Root will resign soon, and that he will succeed by Bacon, who will hold the portfolio until the Taft cabinet comes in and Senator Knox assumes the premiership.

Commissioner at La Guayra.
Washington, Dec. 29.—The arrival of Special Commissioner W. I. Buchanan to treat on behalf of the United States with the officials of Venezuela, and the arrival of Admiral Arnold at La Guayra was announced today in messages to the navy and state departments here.

CLOSING SESSIONS OF CITY COUNCIL FOR 1908

Budget for 1909 Is Large — \$12,899 for Street Funds — Grand Total of \$71,277.—Reserves Provided For the Coming Year.

All aldermen were present but Pressnell and Waldo.

m. at the S. P. depot, Mr. Moores called for the eyes and nose.

(Continued on page 7.)