

# GREAT BRITAIN FACES GREAT POLITICAL CRISIS

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
 London, Dec. 30.—The armies of the unemployed throughout England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, the growth of a malign and vicious political power, backed by the liquor interests, and the obstructive methods of the House of Lords are causes that today threaten Great Britain with the greatest political crisis in the last 75 years of her history.

The house of commons, which has been riven by factions for many years, is becoming solidified for action on these three vital matters of political policy, and the existence of the house of lords is at stake.

The point of attack upon the upper-house will be the weakest spot in the decadent aristocratic body—hereditary lawmaking. The liberals, gaining an increasing ascendancy, have vowed to change the form of succession to vacancies in the house of lords from hereditary to elective.

One method of accomplishing this has been tried, and has failed, that of opening up the great game preserves owned by the nobility. The liberals claim that if this could be

accomplished there would be vast acreage for the unemployed to make their homes upon.

Another method is though finance. Next April's budget—the bill providing governmental appropriations and tax levies to meet them—will be purposely designed to bear heavily on the class the peers represent.

The British constitution allows the lords to do one of two things with a finance bill. They may reject it entirely, or pass it without alteration. No changes are permitted in its provisions.

Refusal to pass the bill means the stopping of appropriations for the army, navy and the civil service. Should the lords dare to do this it would mean the cabinet's resignation, the dissolution of parliament and a call for a general election.

The peers own the game preserves, they own the great breweries, and therefore refuse to curb the growing liquor power. They own the government, practically, through obstructive tactics, and their elimination will be the great fight during the coming sessions.

# GRAPHIC STORY TOLD BY CITY CHEMIST GREGORI

Catania, Sicily, Dec. 30.—City Chemist Gregory, of Messina, arrived here this afternoon with one of the most remarkable stories yet told of the great disaster.

"I was on a ferry boat just outside of Messina when the quake came," he said. "It was the most terrific shock that could be imagined. The sea in front of the boat opened in a great chasm, and the water, being suddenly windward from behind us, the boat went down and struck the bottom with such force that it was shattered to pieces.

"The boat was crowded, and I believe that I am the only person that survived. I remember little after the boat went to pieces, except that I was caught in a great swirl of rushing, roaring water. In some way I managed to cling to a piece of wreckage, and at length landed on the Italian side.

"I made my way to Reggio, where I found the streets literally filled with dead bodies, and people absolutely insane.

"It was one long picture of ruin and horror. I had a hard time holding on to my senses and keeping from losing my mind. I thought for a time I had died and gone to hell.

"In a public square I came upon Tina Morlana, the opera singer, seated among a great pile of bodies of women and men, crooning over a bird cage, in which were two little canaries. Although the birds were chirping quite gaily, Marina was bemoaning the death of all the birds in Italy.

"All the birds—the sweet singers—they are all dead," she said, looking up at me with a faint, sad smile, as if she recognized me. She was hopelessly insane, as was everyone else who was alive in Reggio. The dead and dying were everywhere. It was impossible to pass along the streets without stepping over the bodies of men and women.

"In some places—oh, how horrible! It was—the bodies were so thick that I could not pass without actually stepping upon some of the prostrate forms.

"The presence of so many dead seemed to numb the senses. These bodies lost any personality. They were like so many bags of wheat after awhile.

"I saw the body of one woman with two dead children in her arms,

caught and crushed in a doorway. Beside her was a man, evidently her husband, who seemed to have been struck down while trying to release her. Such sights were so common that I hardly noticed them, and I cannot tell what it was that impressed this group on my dazed brain.

"Every building in the city seemed to have been wrecked. I tried to get away as quickly as possible. I did not know or care where I went, but crowded into a boat bound for Messina.

"Once in my own city—Messina—I found destruction and death as general as at Reggio. Everywhere was ruin.

"The streets were blockaded and it would have been impossible for me to have found my way to my home, even if it had not been burned.

"I kept recognizing familiar faces among the dead in the street, until my mind began to lose its balance. I became seasick and felt that the earthquake wars continuing. It seemed to me that the whole of Sicily was rocking to and fro with the movement of the sea.

"Perhaps I fainted, I cannot tell. I remember being pushed on by a soldier, who placed a bayonet between my shoulders, and told me to go to headquarters and report for duty.

"I then walked through the streets, making my way over ruins, which sometimes seemed to block the streets entirely. I remember climbing over a great pile of debris, and there on the top of it came upon the bodies of three little children, beside which a small brown dog stood on guard. The dog had not been injured in the destruction of the city, but some manner had found the children of the family to which it belonged. It charged me viciously and caught its fangs in my clothing. I was forced to retreat and seek passage through another street.

"The soldiers at headquarters told me that they had made an estimate from observations and reports, indicating that 50,000 were dead in Messina, and that an equal number were dead in Reggio. I believe that this is not in the least exaggerated. It is impossible to exaggerate it. There is no way to tell of the horror of the disaster, much less exaggerate it."

Gregory cannot tell how he got into the ship which brought him here. He fainted after telling the story, and is in a serious condition.

# FINCH CASE IS ENDED

## FATE IN HANDS OF JURY

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
 Portland, Or., Dec. 30.—The fate of James A. Finch now rests with the jury. At 2 o'clock this afternoon Judge Bronaugh began reading his instructions to the 12 men who will decide whether or not Finch shall be found guilty of the murder of Ralph B. Fisher. More than half an hour was occupied in the delivery of the court's instructions, after which the jurors were taken to their room to deliberate on a verdict.

The courtroom opinion is that the jury will be out only a short time.

Finch, outwardly at least, maintains a cheerful attitude, apparently buoyed by hopes that his story of self defense has been accepted and that the jury would find him not guilty.

Deputy District Attorney J. J. Fitzgerald this morning concluded his closing argument for the state.

With tears stealing down her face at times, the aged mother of Finch sat just inside the railing of the courtroom and listened to all that the prosecutor had to say against her son.

The defense took numerous exceptions to the remarks of the prosecutor and several times disputed the accuracy of his statements, but Fitzgerald proved that his memory was the best.

# INDIA TROUBLES ENGLAND

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
 London, Dec. 30.—A desperate fight over India's future will begin as soon as parliament reassembles in February.

On one side the reactionaries will stop at nothing to prevent any move in the direction of autonomy for the dependency.

On the other, the pro-Indians will savagely criticize the law, recently passed by India council at Calcutta, and approved by the India secretary, Lord Morley, here, by which the southern provinces were virtually placed under martial law, and the viceroy was empowered to extend it throughout the whole country.

The reactionaries' strength was not realized until Lord Morley revealed his intentions to give gradually more and more of the Indian administrative offices to natives instead of Englishmen.

By the old aristocracy, which has always considered India a providentially given refuge for England's "younger sons" and "poor relations," this suggestion was received as almost treasonable.

Men of this class are ready to face a mutiny, go to war or even to risk loss of the dependency rather than sacrifice any of these places.

The pro-Indians say the India council went beyond all decency in depriving the natives of trial by jury and providing for summary trials and executions in cases of sedition and anarchy. The effect, it is charged, has been the elimination of the Hindu's last hope of justice and the establishment of despotism worse than the czar's, because perpetrated by a dominant power upon a subject race.

It is for his failure to veto the law that Lord Morley will be made the especial object of attack.

The India secretary is theoretically supreme in the government of the dependency, and parliament can neither force him into any policy he disapproves nor from a course he has chosen.

It can drive him from office, however, by a refusal to vote appropriations for his department, and, for that matter, an evident majority against him would be sure to mean his retirement.

It is as yet uncertain whether Morley will be able to command a majority or not. The contest promises quickly to assume immense importance, however, smashing old party alignments and provoking quarrels that may completely alter existing British present conditions.

# LOOTED BANK AT LEISURE

## HELD UP THE TOWN THREE HOURS

Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 30.—After holding the residents of Wellston, Okla., at bay for three hours early today, six masked robbers looted a bank and escaped with more than \$5,000.

In their operations on the bank vaults the cracksmen used 14 shots of nitro-glycerine before the safe and vaults were shattered.

The first blast aroused the town and scores of citizens who ran toward the bank were held off by armed bandits until the vaults were torn open and the money taken. A posse has started in pursuit of the bandits.

# HENEY SAYS ITS CALHOUN

New York, Dec. 30.—Francis J. Heney, who is in this city, today when asked his opinion of the sentencing of Ruef said:

"Ruef certainly will serve the full 14 years. We have 114 indictments against him, charging 18 different crimes, and I am sure he will be satisfied to take his medicine.

"Ruef is not the most important. Neither is Schmitz. It's Calhoun—the business man—that we're after. It's always the business man in politics who commits the greatest crimes. They make such men as Ruef and Schmitz. Pittsburg could well afford to let every councilman, accused, be bathed in immunity to insure the conviction of one banker. Councilmen and politicians are simply the agents of the men higher up."

Heney is returning to San Francisco to take charge of the trial of Patrick Calhoun, president of the United Railroads.

**Burglars Rob Postoffice.**  
 Fresno, Cal., Dec. 30.—Burglars entered the postoffice at Fowler last night and, after dynamiting the safe took possession of \$800 worth of stamps and money. After having carried their loot out of the wrecked postoffice they rode away on bicycles. It is thought that the same cracksmen who looted the postoffice at Kingsburg and Lemoore are identified with this crime.

# MADE RECORD DRIVE OVER ALASKAN SNOWS

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 30.—Impelled by a message from her father that he was dying and wished to see her immediately, Mrs. J. D. Sinclair, of Atlin, Alaska, drove a two-dog sleigh 200 miles over the frozen snows of Southern Alaska, dashed off the gangplank of a steamer as it was casting off its mooring from the Skagway dock, and reached Tacoma in less than six days after leaving her home.

In her race, Mrs. Sinclair established a record for speed that promises to stand for many a day. She is the daughter of Robert M. Thompson, a pioneer of Tacoma, who was in a precarious condition eight days ago. The message was sent to his daughter, who lives with her husband in Atlin, on Sunday, December 20. She received the dispatch late at night, and, hitching up her dog team, immediately began the perilous journey.

For two days and two nights the dogs dragged the sled over treacherous roads, reaching Skagway as the steamer was getting under way to leave the dock.

Throwing the reins of her team to a bystander, Mrs. Sinclair ran the plank and sank exhausted upon the deck completely worn out. Her team is slowly recovering from its nervousness.

**Sends Aid To Italy.**  
 (United Press Leased Wire.)  
 Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—The executive committee of the national Red Cross Society at a meeting today decided to send to 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 for the earthquake of 1906.

CRYING ON YOUR WEDDING DAY?

Charlotte Bronies GREAT NOVEL

JANE EYRE

JANE

DRAMATIZED BY Peter G. Piatti

AT THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, SATURDAY NIGHT

Quality, Style, Comfort

Can Be Found In the Famous

Bishop's Ready-Tailored Clothes

\$10 to \$30

Suits and Overcoats

Come and see what a splendid assortment of suits and overcoats we have for you to select from

SALEM WOOLEN MILL STORE

MICHAELS-STEM FINE CLOTHING

FOLLOW THE CROWD AND GO TO

YE LIBERTY

The House of Comfort

ADULTS 10c CHILDREN 5c