

ITALY'S CALAMITY.

Review Of One Of The World's Greatest Disasters, Which Cost 250,000 Lives.

The last two centuries have witnessed no more stupendous drama of disaster than that enacted last week in Sicily and Calabria. In the early morning of December 28, 1908, the cities of Messina and Reggio were overwhelmed by a triple catastrophe of earthquake, flood and fire, their fate being in varying degrees shared by a score of other towns and villages in the stricken region. According to an official estimate 115,000 lives were blotted out, while some dispatches double this figure. Scarcely less appalling than the terrible toll of death is the physical and mental suffering of between 200,000 and 500,000 survivors whose condition cries out to the whole civilized world for alleviation. Measured by loss of life, the recent earthquakes of San Francisco, Valparaiso, and Jamaica are dwarfed to comparative insignificance. If even the lowest of present estimates stand, the closing week of 1908 will have to its credit a disaster surpassed in kind only by the Yeddo earthquake which killed 200,000 Japanese in 1703, and by that of Antioch in 526, which is credited with the destruction of 250,000. Yet in the last half-century alone, more than 110,000 earthquake shocks have been recorded. And no inhabited part of the earth's surface, according to the Springfield Republican, is more subject to these tremors than the region about the strait of Messina, where the blow has once more fallen.

Such details of this latest Mediterranean earthquake as have reached the outside world carry a burden of horror which stuns the imagination and stills comment. The sudden nightmare of crumbling walls, of inland-rushing sea on one side and devouring fire on the other, was followed by the slow tortures of hunger and cold, by the moans of the wounded imprisoned in the ruins, and by the spectacle of men, reduced to savagery by the extremity of their need, fighting to death over scraps of food. Dogs preyed upon the bodies of the dead, and the human underworld, responding to the anarchy of nature, rushed forth to acts of theft and outrage. From the first connected accounts a Roman correspondent to the New York Times gives the following description of the catastrophe as it fell upon Messina, whose fate may be regarded as typical of what happened in part to neighboring towns and villages:

"Messina had not awakened to its duties for the day when, at 5:20 o'clock on Monday morning the disaster occurred. Lights were still burning in the hotels and the splendid, sickle-shaped harbor was filled with shipping. Suddenly, without warning, the earth began to tremble. A great shock followed a few seconds after the first oscillation. Those in the ships in the harbor, heard a roar, caught a glimpse of falling walls, and looking up, saw Messina crumbling into ruin. A dense cloud of

dust arose to hide the city's death-throes.

"Shouts of alarm from the sailors turned the attention of the watchers to the sea. The water had been violently troubled some minutes before. Now it seemed to recede, as though gathering for a forward rush. A moment later in the words of an eye-witness, the sea swelled and rose in a wall of water 35 feet high and hurled itself upon the city, engulfing whole streets near the water front. As the wave receded its surface was black with corpses and the wreckage of houses. The effect of the whole was to create a scene unequalled in terror and grandeur. The fall of dust, the flames, the falling houses, the shrieks and prayers of the inhabitants were so terrifying that of those who escaped some lost their reason."

The destruction of the aqueduct and water system left the city a vast smoldering tomb. Says a later dispatch:

"Hunger and thirst have driven the people mad with the animal desire to satisfy their cravings that stop at nothing. At every point looting and struggles for scraps of food and bits of fuel and clothing proceed. Revolver shots are exchanged at every street corner, brother fighting with brother, over some bit of garbage. A fearful struggle over casks of biscuits, preserves, raisins, and other foodstuffs took place at the custom house. A regular battle with knives took place among the survivors resulting in several deaths, one man falling with his throat cut in defending a few crackers."

From Reggio comes the account of a chasm 80 feet wide which opened in the earth immediately after the shock, and belched forth scalding water to add to the agony of the sufferers. At Palmi a whole regiment was wiped out of existence. The other side of the picture is supplied by the eagerness with which all nations have come forward with help and sympathy for Italy in her hour of affliction. The foreign warships in the Mediterranean were the first messengers of succor to reach the scene.

From everywhere money and help is being offered. But as the Prefect of Messina states the case, "no amount of assistance will be excessive." The United States supply-ship Celtic has been diverted from its errand to the returning fleet and will go at once to Messina with a million and a half of navy rations for the earthquake sufferers—enough to feed 60,000 people for a month. Our fleet will doubtless render any other aid within its power. Although millions of dollars have already been contributed, "it is feared," says a Roman dispatch, "that the world's generosity will be insufficient in view of the immensity of the disaster." "Such a disaster," remarks the New York Call (Socialist), "does at least for the time make the whole world kin."

THE FARM

Now is the time for farmers to plan next season's crop. Those within reach of Louisa should include tomatoes and beans for the canning factory. Anywhere from two to ten acres should be contracted for. Tomatoes improve your land and will give you from \$35 to \$50 cash per acre, according to the season and the attention the crop gets.

It is not difficult to go through a flock of pullets and select those which will make the best winter layers.

Often we hear poultry keepers blame the breed, while as a matter of fact the fault is entirely with the owner. Select the hustling shifty looking pullets, with red combs—those that go about slinging and scratching all day.

Old hens may be selected in the same way and if we are careful to dispose of all others, our profits will be greater.

At this season of the year pullets that will lay during the winter, look sleek and their combs and wattles are red.

You can not mistake a good pullet when you see her and it does not pay to consider any other.

During the laying season feed as follows: Morning two quarts of warm skim milk, one quart of shorts, and one of bran, well mixed. Warm, if possible, so that a stiff mixture will be made. At noon give them three times each week one pound of green cut bone. During the cold months give at 4 o'clock each day one-half gallon of whole corn to each 25 fowls, to be scattered in the litter to be scratched for until the fowls are ready to go to roost. After they have all gone to roost, scatter half gallon of wheat and oats in the straw, so that all of them may begin work at the break of day next morning. A cabbage head, a few beets, or a few boiled potatoes, a few times each week will furnish an acceptable change which the fowls will appreciate. If the fowls show that they are getting too much food and begin to act lazy, cut out the noon-day meal, and see that they are kept busy all the time.

No castron rule can be laid down for feeding laying hens. The large breeds will require more food than the smaller breeds, and the hens which lay most will require more food than those that are not good layers. Therefore we must use our own judgment and watch the hens closely, because if they are given full meals while not laying they will get too fat, and if stinted while laying, they will get thin and quit.

Hens need a certain amount of food, suitable to the time of year and the laying season. Lazy hens will get fat on a ration which would mean almost starvation for hustling, laying hens, and unless we watch the flock and weed out the non-layers, we will be feeding a useless and costly flock. Try to feed so that the hens are hungry all the day long, and so that each one may get a full supply only when roosting time comes.

A hungry hen will hustle, but if her appetite is satisfied, she will sit around and grow fat.

Every few weeks we should go over our flock of hens and see if they have lice. If we find, even a few, the entire flock should be dusted with insect powder, and the house should be whitewashed and the roost should be sprayed with kerosene. The dropping boards should be cleaned each morning, and once a week unsleaked lime should be sprinkled over them and also on the floor and walks. More disorders are due to the neglect of the roosting house than from any other cause. We are all prone to laziness, and we put off from day to day the very things that should be done. The many disorders we looked after each day, and from the poultry yard, and consequent dissatisfaction among those who keep poultry.

If each of us who keep hens would look after them each day just as carefully as we look after our cows or hogs, or if we live in the city, just as carefully as we look after our daily housework, we would have a healthy flock of fowls and a full supply of eggs all the seasons of the year.

At daylight each morning, scatter a small quantity of mixed wheat and cracked corn in litter, and let the fowls begin work as soon as it is daylight. See that there is grain in the litter during the entire day and be sure and keep the hen busy. Give as much green

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food as it is possible to get. Any small cabbage heads, turnips, beets or small potatoes, all make splendid food either cooked or raw.

The vegetable scraps from the kitchen, if put in a large pot and boiled during the meal time and then thickened with bran and corn meal and allowed to cook while cooking, make one of the best foods for laying hens.

Many waste bones and scraps of waste from the table make appetizing bits for the fowls, and just a little care in preparing the mixture will bring splendid results in the way of eggs.

When all else fails in supplying the products, we turn to the hens and always feel sure that for all occasions we can rely on them to supply the demand whether it be for the invalid or for the everyday family supply.

EDISON AS SEER.

Wizard Foretells Wonders Which Are To Come.

The next era will mark the most wonderful advance in science and invention that the world has ever known or hoped for. So vast will that advance be that we can now have scarcely any conception of its scope, but already a great many of the inventors of the future are assured, writes Thos. A. Edison in the New York Times. It is only of those that I regard as practical certainties that I speak here.

First—Within the next 20 or 30 years—and it will start within the next two or three—concrete architecture will take enormous strides forward; the art of molding concrete will be reduced to a science of perfection and, what is equally important, of cheapness; there will rise up a number of gifted architects and through their efforts cities and towns will spring up in the country beside which Turner's picture of the ancient Rome and Carthage will pale into nothingness and the buildings of the Columbia Exposition will appear common. But great expense will not attend this; it will be done so that the poor will be able to enjoy houses more beautiful than the rich now aspire to, and the man earning \$1.50 a day, with a family to support, will be better housed than the man of today who is earning \$10.

Second—Moving picture machines will be so perfected that the characters will not only move but will speak, and all the accessories and effects of the stage will be faithfully produced on the living picture stage. This, of course, will not be done so well as on the regular stage, but its standard will approach very near to that, and the fact that such entertainment will be furnished for 5 cents will draw

vast numbers of the working classes. The result will be that the masses will have the advantages of the moral of good drama, they will find an inexpensive and improving way of spending the evening and the death knell of the saloon will be sounded.

Third—In perhaps 15 or 20 years—depending on the financial condition of the country—the locomotive will pass almost altogether out of use, and all our main trunk lines will be operated by electricity.

Fourth—A new fertilizer will spring into existence, containing a large percentage of nitrogen. This will be drawn from the air by electricity, and will be used to increase the arability of the land. Even now this is done to a large extent in Sweden.

5. All our water power will be utilized by electricity to an extent now almost unthought of and will be used with great advantage, both industrially and for railroads.

6. A successful aerial navigation will be established—perhaps for mails—and will achieve a sound, practical working basis.

7. We shall be able to protect ourselves against environment by the use of serums and things of that sort so that the general state of health will improve and the average span will increase by a large percentage. The grand fight which is being made against tuberculosis and cancer will reach a successful culmination and those diseases will be entirely mastered.

8. A new force in nature, of some sort or other, will be discovered by which many things not now understood will be explained. We unfortunately, have only five senses; if we had eight we'd know more.

9. We shall realize the possibilities of our coal supplies better and will learn how to utilize them so that 90 per cent of the efficiency will not be thrown away as it is today.

Finally, let it be said hardly any piece of machinery now manufactured is more than 10 per cent perfect. As the years go on this will be improved upon tremendously, more automatic machinery will be devised and articles of comfort and luxury will be produced in enormous numbers at such small cost that all classes will be able to enjoy the benefits of them.

These are some of the inventions which the world is awaiting which it is sure of seeing realized. Just how they will be realized is what the inventors are working now to determine.

This Is An Easy Test

Sprinkle Allen's Foot-Ease in one shoe and not in the other, and notice the difference. Just the thing to use when rubbers or overshoes become necessary, and your shoe seem to pinch. Sold everywhere 25c. Don't accept any substitute.

Read the announcement column on page seven. There are some new ones this week.

A NIGHT RIDER'S RAID.

The worst night riders are calomel, croton oil, or aloes pills. They raid your bed to rob you of rest. Not so with Dr. King's New Life Pills. They never distress or inconvenience, but always cleanse the system, curing colds, headaches, constipation, malaria. 25c. at A. M. Hughes.

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