

SEVERAL TOWNS SHAKEN.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

Towns of San Jacinto and Hemet badly damaged. But there was no loss of life—Some Miraculous Escapes—Business blocks ruined—County Hospital and Hotel Wrecked—Six Women Killed in an Indian Village—Shocks Last From 12 to 15 Seconds in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Dec. 25.—Christmas morning was ushered in here by one of the most severe earthquakes, considering the extent of the territory, ever felt in this part of southern California. Not only Los Angeles, but other southern counties were shaken, the shock reaching to San Diego, and it is believed, even down to Lower California. From all reports received up to 7 o'clock this evening, San Jacinto and Riverside counties, were the centers of the greatest disturbances, the county hospital being wrecked and business blocks of wood and brick being shattered.

At 12:27 o'clock this morning the swaying of buildings in Los Angeles began. From newspaper correspondents' reports it is believed that workers or early risers were awake people rushed into the streets.

The mysterious waves that shook the ground and wooden floors gained in strength, and it seemed almost as if the force could be felt passing beneath the feet. There was a seeming pause of half a second between the first quake and the second, and this lapse accentuated the sharper and shorter shock. It seemed for a brief space that the more lightly constructed buildings must go down, but there was less of that, the wrenching force that has been characteristic of former quakes, which, though less pronounced, have caused more damage.

The direction of the shocks, generally speaking, was northeast to southwest. At some points outside this city three shocks were felt, while at other places the tremors took the form of one prolonged quake, lasting at one place 20 seconds. The duration of the two shocks here was from 12 to 15 seconds. Windows were rattled with vigor and clocks stopped.

Eastern people who had never experienced an earthquake before were taken to the telephone to inquire of the newspaper offices. Many started remarks, such as, "I never felt anything like this before."

At one of the houses where well filled windows cracked when the earthquake began, there was a regular stampede. One old gentleman stood at his room door and bawled lustily for the proprietor. The clerk answered his call from the floor below, and the old fellow said in voice of indignation: "Can't you get this thing up here?"

All over the city buildings creaked, chandeliers swayed and in some isolated instances, windows were broken. The number of clocks that were stopped is large.

At the county jail, which is situated on an eminence, Harry Clark, under life sentence of the State, who was in the jail at the time of the earthquake, all the other prisoners awoke and as the iron building creaked and groaned they lent deriding voices to the hubbub.

At the Catholic orphanage located on Boyle Heights, the children were greatly frightened and the last session of the day was necessary to convince the little ones that the danger was passed. The immense brick building stood the shaking well and no harm was done there.

Gen. Matthews, guardian of the Federal building, reports that the quake resulted in no serious damage to the building. The court house, however, did not fare so well. The earthquake caused a crack in the tower and another near one of the windows of the tax collector's office. The tower crack is regarded as dangerous. It is admitted, however, that the building is in no danger.

At Perry, not far from San Jacinto, no great damage was done, though shattering cracks were made in the masonry. At San Bernardino the freight cars on two tracks were set in motion and ran through two switches, but no damage was done.

At Long Beach, this county, the shock caused articles in stores and houses to drop from shelves and the clocks in the Julian Hotel were stopped. Riverside reports that a few chimneys were shaken down and some windows broken. There was a slight earthquake near the town of Indio, where the shock was the heaviest ever known in that city.

At San Diego, some of the early risers say the earthquake was accompanied by a loud rumbling noise. The shock was the most severe felt here in a number of years. The tall blocks were shaken vigorously and considerable damage done. A high wave on the ocean came rolling in upon the beach right after the shock but did no damage to shipping.

The barometer fell in Los Angeles after the shock and it is thought that a storm will follow. Yesterday and to-day have been the warmest ever known at this time of the year. The thermometer at 4 P. M. to-day showing 70 degrees.

SAN JACINTO, CAL., Dec. 25.—At 4:30 o'clock this morning, one of the most disastrous earthquakes recorded in the history of the State occurred in the San Jacinto valley. Every brick structure in the valley was cracked and business suspended. Every business block is in ruins and the stock ruined. No lives were lost and injuries were received by the occupants of the buildings, although many hairbreadth escapes are reported.

The Indian village of Soboba, two miles north of the bed of Mrs. J. A. Burns, in the Little San. Both escaped with bruises. The doctor, who was struck on the head

WASTED BRITISH VALOR.

BOER TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVERY OF BULLER'S MEN AT THE TUGELA.

Naval Guns Destroy Part of the Bridge at Colenso, Preventing an Attack by the Boers—Varying Reports About the Disaffection of the Dutch in Cape Colony.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Except for a few official reports giving casualties and the movements of small bodies of troops nothing has been received from South Africa of later date than Dec. 23. The situation in its main features, so far as known, remains unchanged. The British naval artillery is reported to have destroyed two spans of the road bridge across the Tugela River at Colenso, thus preventing the Boers from moving southward except by the ford, which the river in the river threatens to make impassable. A Dutch report of the destruction of the bridge prevents that part of the Boer force is south of the river and is unable to join the main body of the army. The reported extension of the Boer force eastward probably explains the recently announced withdrawal of part of the British force to Ficksburg.

The newspapers print under the date of Boer Headquarters, Colenso, Dec. 15, an account of the defeat of Gen. Buller, which, in concise, unobscuring language, confirms the English version. It gives in a few words a vivid picture of the wasted valor of the British Infantry. It says: "Our Mauser fire was so tremendous that they rolled back like a spent wave, leaving ridges and ridges of dead and dying humanity behind them. Again they advanced, to the attack and again they fell back, again and again, until the dead, the void for miles around was covered with dead and wounded."

The report adds that Col. Villedieu Mareuil, the French Attaché and the German officer, Col. von Braun, say that the fight could not have been improved upon by any army. A Lieutenant of the Natal Cavalry, who was wounded on Dec. 15, asserts that a thousand of the disaffected Cape Dutch joined the Boers after Gen. Buller's defeat.

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DELEGATES-AT-LARGE (DEM.)

OBJECTIONS RAISED TO SENATORS HILL AND MURPHY.

Croker and McLaughlin Will Undoubtedly Be Two of the Four—Mayor McGuire of Syracuse Getting to the Front and Might Run for Governor if 1900 Were 1902.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The delegates-at-large to the next National Convention, it is true that the primaries to elect delegates to the Democratic State Convention, which is to select these delegates-at-large, will not occur until next March, but the Democrats of the State are in such a mood that the tangle will have to be discussed very many times before a solution is reached. Richard Croker told his friends that he would return to New York in March. In his absence John F. Cannon is considered to be his chief representative in the State. The chief lieutenant of the chief lieutenant has been for a number of months in close communication with Tammany Hall.

It was said last night that the four delegates-at-large to be sent by the Democratic State Convention to the National Convention must be selected from the following list: Richard Croker, Hugh McLaughlin, David H. Hill, Edward Murphy, Jr., Elliot Danforth, Norman E. Mack and James K. McGuire. The name of William C. Whitney was also suggested, but Mr. Whitney has repeatedly said within the last month so that he was not a possibility. Mr. Croker and Mr. McLaughlin will undoubtedly be selected as two of the four delegates-at-large. The situation in Albany and the silence of ex-Senator Hill on the subject of his name being put forward as a delegate-at-large has been carefully considered, and the Irish name has not been mentioned since his conduct during that memorable campaign.

The situation in New York county is even more complicated. The late Senator Croker has been practically overthrown by the late Mayor McGuire, and Mr. Croker has been in the city since his removal from office. The suggestion of Mr. Murphy, removed from office as County Clerk, and from that day Mr. Hill and Mr. Murphy, Mr. Croker's friends in New York City, have been determined to prevent, if possible, the selection of Mr. Hill or Mr. Murphy as a delegate-at-large.

Elliot Danforth, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, developed a great deal of strength when he ran for Lieutenant-Governor on the ticket headed by Augustus W. S. Stryker, but he was defeated. He is now in Syracuse and is believed to be in the city. He has demonstrated his ability as a vote getter, and he is believed to be in the city. He is believed to be in the city. He is believed to be in the city.

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The situation in New York county is even more complicated. The late Senator Croker has been practically overthrown by the late Mayor McGuire, and Mr. Croker has been in the city since his removal from office. The suggestion of Mr. Murphy, removed from office as County Clerk, and from that day Mr. Hill and Mr. Murphy, Mr. Croker's friends in New York City, have been determined to prevent, if possible, the selection of Mr. Hill or Mr. Murphy as a delegate-at-large.

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CHURCHILL DEIGNED AS A WOMAN.

Escaped From the Boers at Pretoria in Woman's Dress.

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