THE YEAR 1915 A RECORD ONE OF HORROR AND DISASTER

Will Take Place in History as Devoted Almost Exclusively to Prosecution of the Great War

THE year 1915 has been so distinctive from a history making viewpoint that in all the ages to come it will stand apart from those that have preceded it and from those which are to follow. During its entire length the greater nations of the European continent have abandoned themselves to a policy of bloodshed which has fallen little short of delirium. To the neutral onlooker it has been a revival on a huge scale of the irrational and murderous activity which characterized the earlier ages of mankind. It has been the complete overthrow of all the pacific theories which had apparently gained so strong a foothold at the time of the firing of the first gun in the present conflict.

At the beginning of the year it was evident that it was to be a struggle to the death. It was plain that the Teutonic plan to force a speedy settlement by dint of superior armed preparedness had failed. Six months had elapsed and the Teutonic allies were still faced by three great nations, their strength unbroken and their determination inflexible. Austria had been driven repeatedly by her Russian invaders and twice the Serbs had routed Austrian armies sent against them. On other fields also Teutonic efforts had been futile. Thus far Turkey had been of little assistance and the loudly vaunted holy war had failed to come into being. German Southwest Africa had been lost and German influence in Asia had been smothered by the Japanese.

As an offset the Germans still held practically all the conquered territory which had fallen into their hands. Their lines still held firmly in Poland, in Flanders and in France. It was apparent that as yet the Teutonic combination showed no sign of weakening and a war of attrition seemed inevitable. Both in the east and in the west the military operations of the early part of the year were practically without decisive result. The fighting in Poland had resolved itself into a complete deadlock. In January the Franco-English combine made three attempts to break the Teutonic hold on French territory, but accomplished little. The German unsuccessful drive at Warsaw and the rout of the Austrians in Galicia left a slight balance in the January fighting in favor of the Allies.

From a strictly military viewpoint February was a promising month for the Teutonic allies. By the middle of the month German troops were advancing all along the front from the Vistula to the Niemen, and thus seven months after the breaking out of the war German soil was practically cleared of its Russian invaders. The deadlock on the western front was still unbroken.

With the advent of March there came a sudden and dramatic change in the war situation. The scene of military activity was shifted to the Dardanelles. By the third week of the month Rome, Athens, Sofia and Bucharest were the centres of great political activity. The surrender of Przemysl March 22 was the most striking victory for the Allies since the battle of the Marne. The German assertion that the military power of Russia had dwindled into insignificance was disproved at once and the allied cause gained instant strength in all the neutral capitals. One of the greatest strongholds in Europe had been taken by the Russians.

The disaster to the allied fleet at the Dardanelles, which occurred during the third week of March, put an end to the expectation of forcing the straits by naval means alone. German prestige advanced perceptibly and the difficulty of the task undertaken by the allied fleet was now understood. In this month also the British won the battle of Neuve Chapelle after a bloody fight.

In April the French made a bold offensive stroke against the German position between the Meuse and the Moselle—the famous St. Mihiel wedge—which resulted in a tremendous loss of men on both sides, with small advantage for either. Nowhere had the Allies made appreciable gain in territory. The invader held his own stubbornly and with success. About the middle of the month Zeppelins made their appearance over English towns, inspiring great interest and not a little apprehension, but doing comparatively small damage. About this time also the attempted submarine blockade of the British coast proved to be ineffective. In the closing days of the month another great Teutonic offensive swept against the allied lines in Belgium, thrusting the enemy back upon Ypres with great loss of life on both sides.

In May the Germans sent their best troops to the aid of the hard pressed Austrians. By the middle of the month they had worked a startling change in the situation. Przemysl was retaken, the Russian campaign in Galicia was shattered and the Czar's armies were soon back where they started out in the previous September. Russia had suffered the greatest disaster in the war. A new German military hero had been revealed in the person of Mackensen, who was now held with Hindenburg in popular esteem.

In the last days of the month Italy joined forces with the Allies against Austria-Hungary. This move added greatly to the interest of the Balkan situation. Greece hesitated to take a decisive step. The Hellenic Queen, sister of the German Kaiser, was dominant at court and was opposed to linking with the Allies. The other Balkan States were waiting for some decisive result to help them make choice.

The campaign in the west was strangely quiescent. The Allies kept to their trenches and the outside world wondered. Up to June 15 there was no claim of progress by the Allies. The Teutonic claim that its side was still engaged in successful warfare on all fronts was not disputed. The splendid resistance interposed by the discredited Turks came as a surprise to the world. Russia was unable to rally her badly demoralized forces to make a winning defence of Lemberg, the first point had fallen Warsaw became the main objective. It was not until August 6 that German troops made their triumphal entry into Warsaw, capital of Russian Poland.

September marked a decided change in the Teutonic campaign in the east. Vilna fell on September 9, but immediately afterward the Russians won a series of successes over the Austrians, capturing 40,000 prisoners. The escape of the Russian armies from the net planned by the German strategists was complete. The great Teutonic drive was brought to a halt.

The month of October marked a decided revival of military activity on all fronts. After a long period of comparative quiet in the west a desperate offensive movement was made by the Allies. The French drive at Champagne was one of the bloodiest attempts yet made to pierce the German lines. After three weeks of incessant gun fire the French troops left their trenches, September 25, and rushed the whole of the first German line. Nearly 20,000 German prisoners were captured and upward of a hundred field guns, thus far the greatest single capture by the French during the war. But the Germans were not compelled to relinquish any great amount of territory. In Artois the Allies did not succeed in breaking through the German lines, but secured some coveted positions at an appalling cost.

This brief period of allied success was followed by an unexpected turn of political affairs in the Balkans. For a second time the Greek King showed his lack of sympathy with the Allies. In the spring he had prevented Venizelos, his Premier, an avowed supporter of the Allies, from sending troops to the Dardanelles. Now, when the Allies were depending upon the Greeks to hold the Bulgarians in check, Constantine declined again to act.

Bulgaria announced her intention to cast her lot with the Central Powers and the latter opened a campaign having Turkish relief for its apparent objective. On October 19 the Germans crossed the Danube and proceeded to advance southward, every step contested furiously by the outnumbered Serbs. France, England and Italy declared war on Bulgaria. All at once the centre of military activity was transferred to the Balkans.

In November both the long expected allied offensive in the west and the Teutonic drive in the east came practically to an end. The Allies failed to break the stubborn German lines and only achieved a possible moderate success in Champagne and Artois at tremendous cost. By the middle of the month military operations in Russia were practically at a standstill, the Germans having failed to accomplish the object of their campaign. At that time the big German drive to the Golden Horn began to monopolize the attention of the public. The preliminary invasion of Serbia by the Teutonic allies—now including Bulgaria—was begun with notable promptness. In fact as early as October 27 the invading armies met in the northeastern part of the kingdom, by November 1 Kraguyevatz, the chief Serbian arsenal, had fallen and by November 6 the Bulgarians were in Nish, Serbia's provisional capital and railroad centre. By November 19 it was announced that the invading armies held four-fifths of Serbia and toward the close of the month Germany declared semi-officially that the campaign was over.

Since May 24, when the Italian army crossed the Austrian frontier, the fighting has been continuous, especially along the Isonzo front. The strongly fortified and stubbornly defended town of Gorizia was the Italian objective for weeks. In October the Austrian aeroplanes dropped bombs upon Venice, destroying art specimens and damaging a church. The Italian liner Ancona, bound for New York, was sunk by a submarine flying the Austrian flag on November 9. More than a hundred passengers were killed, including several Americans.

On November 16 the United States called upon Austria-Hungary for an explanation and a disavowal. The Austro-Hungarian answer was unsatisfactory and on December 18 a second note, practically amounting to an ultimatum, was cabled. Tension was marked and a diplomatic break seemed possible. On December 14 the retreat of the Allies over the Grecian boundary was made successfully.

At the approach of the new year the solution of the war problem seems to be as remote as ever. Nothing decisive has been accomplished and none of the belligerents seems ready to yield. There has already among all the participants in the struggle been manifested an unshaken purpose to utilize the brief respite which the winter months may bring in an exhaustive preparation for renewed military activity when spring opens.

The War and the United States.

Strictly neutral as has been the policy elected by this country, the Government has been brought face to face with many serious problems which have arisen for the conduct of the European war. One of these was the seizure and detention by Great Britain of vessels carrying American goods to neutral ports in Europe. A protest was made by Washington and on January 10 Great Britain replied by offering reasonable redress for any mistake of that nature. In the latter part of the month Secretary Bryan found it necessary officially to deny twenty specific charges made by German sympathizers of discrimination against the Teutonic allies in international situations.

Early in February Great Britain decided to seize grain and flour shipments to Germany even if intended for non-combatants, and two days later Germany declared the waters around Great Britain and Ireland to be a war zone, and announced her purpose to destroy every enemy merchant vessel discovered therein. Neutrals were warned of the danger sure to follow. On February 6 the Atlantic liner Lusitania made the passage from New York to Liverpool flying the American flag as a protection against hostile submarines. On February 10 the United States sent notes to Germany and Great Britain concerning American shipping in the war zone. Germany was warned against committing a breach of the rules of naval warfare and Great Britain was reminded that serious consequences might follow the use of the American flag by British vessels. On February 16 Germany offered to withdraw from her crusade against British merchant ships if the British would permit the sending of food to the civilian population of Germany. On the same day the British Government seized the American ship Wilhelmina, bound for a German port with wheat for civilian consumption.

Shifting the burden.

The German note in reply to the American protest against the submarine blockade disclaimed all responsibility. Great Britain affirmed its intention to send the Wilhelmina to a prize court. In replies to inquiries from the Washington Government neither Germany nor Great Britain showed any disposition to recede from the positions already announced. On April 11 the German Ambassador protested to the State Department against the attitude of the United States toward the shipment of war materials and British treatment of American trade with Germany. On May 1 the American oil carrier Gulflight was sunk off the Scilly Islands by a German submarine, according to the crew.

On May 7 the big transatlantic liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, with a loss of nearly 1,200 lives, including upward of 100 Americans. On May 13 the United States protested against the German submarine policy and declared its intention of maintaining the rights of American citizens. On May 25 the American steamer Nebraskan was seriously damaged by a torpedo off the south coast of Ireland. On May 28 the German reply to the United States note of protest in regard to the submarine policy in the so-called "war zone" was received. Final statement of the German position was reserved until a common basis of fact as to the status of the Lusitania should be established. On May 31 Germany made official announcement that the Gulflight had been sunk by a German submarine whose captain failed to recognize the American flag.

On June 8 Secretary of State William J. Bryan resigned his office to avoid signing a second note of protest to Germany against submarine interference with merchant ships. On the following day this note was sent and assurances were asked that in future American ships and lives should be safeguarded. On June 22 the British Government sent an official note to the American Ambassador explaining efforts made to protect neutral shipping. On June 28 the British steamer Armenian was destroyed by a German submarine off the coast of southern England and a number of Americans in the crew lost their lives. On July 3 J. P. Morgan, the financier, was shot and wounded by Frank Holt, an instructor in German at Cornell University, with the intent to further the Teutonic cause. Holt had previously secreted a bomb in the Capitol at Washington with the design of destroying the structure.

On July 8 Germany replied to the second Washington note regarding the submarine war against merchant ships, promising safety to United States ships in the war zone if specifically marked, and suggesting that the American flag be placed on four hostile steamers for the safe transportation of American passengers. On the same day the Washington Government assumed control of the wireless station at Sayville, L. I., owned by Germans, to insure strict neutrality. On July 15 Germany announced officially that the attack on the Nebraskan was made by a submarine through a mistake of the German captain.

On July 21 the United States sent a third note to Germany, with the statement that the German reply to a former note had been "very unsatisfactory" and that a repetition of the acts complained of would be regarded as "deliberately unfriendly." On August 3 several notes from Great Britain concerning interference with American trade in the war zone were made public in which it was claimed that Great Britain was doing nothing in violation of international law. In the case of the William P. Frye, an American ship sunk by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich January 28, Germany agreed to furnish indemnity, and the United States accepted the offer and proposed that the matter be referred to the Hague court.

On August 19 the British liner Arabic was torpedoed by a German submarine and several Americans were drowned. A lively diplomatic controversy followed and the tension in the United States was at the breaking point. On September 7 the German Government notified the United States that the Captain of the submarine had torpedoed the Arabic in self-defence, believing that she was about to ram him. On September 9 the United States asked Austria-Hungary to recall Dr. Dumba, its Ambassador, charged with being active in a movement to cripple American manufacture of munitions. On October 5 the German Government disavowed the act of the submarine Captain who sank the Arabic. At this time it was announced that the pending French-British loan of $500,000,000 had been oversubscribed.

The United States secret service on October 24 arrested a young man who called himself Robert Fay and declared that he was a Lieutenant in the German army and came to America to destroy merchant vessels of the Allies and American munition plants. Early in December the Washington Government demanded the recall of the German attaches Boy-Ed and Von Papen on the ground of pernicious activity.

The Civil War in Mexico.

Mexico has furnished still further proof that she is not yet able to adjust herself to a democratic form of government. Since the end of the firm dictatorship maintained for thirty-five years by the late Porfirio Diaz no successor masterful enough to curb all warring factions has been found. In the early part of the year it was evident that Francisco Villa had the ambition to become the political Warwick of the republic. On January 7 he deposed the provisional Governor, Gutierrez, and installed Gen. Garza in his place. He was still master of the situation at the city of Mexico, and Carranza still maintained his stand at Vera Cruz. Meantime the fighting went on uninterruptedly, with varying results, but none decisive.

In June the situation on the border and elsewhere became so irritating that the United States Government felt compelled to give official warning to the factional leaders that failure on their part to come to some agreement would necessitate intervention. Despite this intimation the forces of Villa and Carranza continued to keep revolution aflame, and by midsummer the Mexican situation seemed to be more inexplicable than ever. Villa's star waned perceptibly. A new military influence, Gen. Obregon, took the centre of the stage. He assumed the leadership of the Carranza faction and his military successes were considerable. In July Gen. Gonzales, another Carranza supporter, fought his way into Mexico city, displacing Gen. Zapata, who held the place in the Villa interest. Later Gonzales was driven out and the situation was so threatening to life and property in the capital that in August American battleships were ordered to Vera Cruz, but were not put into action. In this month also an appeal signed by Secretary of State Lansing and the representatives of South and Central American Governments asking all warring elements in Mexico to get together in an attempt at pacification was sent to the various leaders. During September the fighting on the Mexican border grew more desperate. There were many fatalities before United States troops gained control of the situation.

On October 19 nine of the principal Governments of the American hemisphere, headed by the United States, recognized the de facto government of Mexico of which Carranza is the chief. As a further aid to the restoration of peace conditions in the unhappy republic the United States put an embargo on the shipment of munitions of war from this country unless consigned to Carranza's government. Throughout the remainder of the year Villa and his supporters have kept up guerrilla warfare, but seem to have made little actual gain in strength. In November United States war vessels were sent to the Pacific coast of Mexico to deal with the bandits who were active there. It is announced that no elections will be held in the republic for at least a year. Early in December it was reported that Villa had been driven insane by his reverses. Later in the month the fighting seemed to be in favor of the Carranza faction.

Our Lawmakers—National and State.

The Sixty-third Congress came to a close on March 4, its final act of special importance being the adoption of a resolution to strengthen the powers of the President in the enforcement of neutrality laws. Both branches agreed to the conference report on the naval appropriation bill calling for two new battleships, six destroyers and eighteen submarines. The President's nominations for the promotion of army and navy officers connected with the building of the Panama Canal were confirmed by the Senate, so that Col. Goethals and Brig-Gen. Gorgas became Major-Generals.

In New York the abolition of the ancient office of Coroner was recommended by a special commissioner after an investigation which revealed many scandals. The same day, January 14, both houses of the Alabama Legislature passed a prohibition bill by large majorities. On January 26 the West Virginia Legislature decided to submit a woman suffrage amendment at the 1916 election. Two days later in Tennessee the house passed a bill for a referendum vote on woman suffrage, already passed by the upper house. During the month of February New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Arkansas and Iowa legislated in favor of submitting woman suffrage to the voters. Arkansas declared for prohibition. The Interstate Commerce Commission receded from its earlier ruling and permitted railroads to arrange rates favorable to the Pacific coast expositions. In Iowa prohibition again becomes effective on January 1, 1916. Both Idaho and Utah adopted prohibition bills.

March 5 the North Dakota Legislature passed a bill abolishing capital punishment. South Dakota had taken similar action January 30. March 10 Rear Admirals Fletcher, Howard and Cowles were made Admirals, a new naval grade established by the last Congress. March 18 Gov. Spry of Utah vetoed the statewide prohibition bill. April 7 the Alaska House passed a measure submitting prohibition to the voters. A week later it agreed to the Senate bill abolishing capital punishment. April 14 Gov. Whitman signed the bill abolishing the office of Coroner in New York State. June 3 the Government plea to have the United States Steel Corporation dissolved was denied by the United States Circuit Court for New Jersey and the defendant was held to be a lawful enterprise.

June 8 William J. Bryan resigned the office of Secretary of State, declaring himself out of sympathy with the President's policy toward the European war. On the following day President Wilson appointed Robert Lansing, counsellor for the State Department, to take charge of the office. Mr. Lansing was made Secretary of State June 23. Statewide prohibition became operative in Alabama on July 1. On July 22 the Interstate Commerce Commission permitted advances in express rates and on August 11 it allowed increases in carload freight rates on forty-one railroads in the middle West. On the following day it ordered reductions in freight rates on anthracite coal. August 24 the Eastman Kodak Company was declared to be an illegal combination and ordered dissolved. September 10 the members of the Constitutional Convention of New York State adopted the proposed constitution, but it was overwhelmingly defeated at the polls November 2. Statewide prohibition triumphed in South Carolina September 14 by a decisive majority.

President Wilson announced, October 6, his intention to vote for woman suffrage at the special election in New Jersey on October 19. At that election the proposed constitutional amendment was defeated by a majority of 50,000. November elections were held in eight States. Four of these—Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts and Mississippi—chose Governors. In three States—Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania—woman suffrage was rejected by large majorities. In Ohio a statewide prohibition measure was defeated by a majority of 35,000. Changes in the national House of Representatives reduced the Democratic majority to twenty-five. The Sixty-fourth Congress opened December 6. Senator Clarke of Arkansas was elected President pro tem. of the Senate and Champ Clark was reelected Speaker. The keynotes of the President's message were national defence and loyalty.

Its Annals Show Collapse of Peace Theories and Wanton Disregard of Human Life and Rights

Foreign and International Political Activity.

Early in January the important announcement was made by the Treasury authorities in Great Britain and Washington that the balance of international exchange, in favor of London, had adjusted itself and would not require special arrangement by the two countries. The embargo against the exportation of petroleum from the Tampico district laid by the Carranza Government, which had called out an emphatic protest from Great Britain, was raised through the mediation of the Washington Government. February 12 the protocol of the anti-opium convention was signed at The Hague by representatives of the United States, China and Holland. March 5 Gen. Vilbrun G. Sam, leader of the revolution which overthrew Davilmar Theodor, was elected President of Hayti. March 7 the popular Minister of Greece, Eulutherios Venizelos, resigned, his policy of active participation in the war on the side of the Allies not meeting the approval of King Constantine. A new Ministry was formed with Demetrios Ghounaris at its head and the King prorogued the Chamber of Deputies for a month to avoid further dispute.

April 23 the Danish Diet passed a constitutional amendment giving the ballot to women. Before it can become law this measure must also pass the next Diet. May 4 Italy repudiated her alliance with Germany and Austria, declaring that Austria's invasion of Serbia constituted a sufficient cause. May 25 the British Liberal Ministry was reorganized on a coalition basis. Ex-Premier Balfour, Bonar Law, six other Unionists and a Labor party man accepted portfolios. May 29 Theophile Braga was elected President of Portugal. June 5 the new Danish constitution was signed by King Christian. One of its most important features is the extension of the suffrage to women. June 13 the Greek elections resulted in a triumph for Venizelos, the popular ex-Premier. July 21 the voters of Alberta, western Canada, carried prohibition by a large majority. In the latter part of the month a new revolutionary movement broke out in Hayti and the President, Gen. Sam, was killed. The United States cruiser Washington landed marines to stop further carnage. Juan Luis San Fuentes was elected President of Chile on July 25, and Dr. Jose Pardo was inaugurated as President of Peru on August 18.

September 16 a treaty between the United States and Hayti was signed at Port au Prince providing for American supervision of the finances and police regulation of that republic. September 26 there occurred a skirmish between United States marines and Haytian guerrillas in which fifty of the latter were killed; two Americans lost their lives.

In November it was announced that a majority of the Chinese provinces had voted unanimously for the restoration of the monarchical form of government with President Yuan Shih-k'ai as Emperor. It was declared officially, however, that there would be no immediate change in the form of government. The Japanese Mikado, Yoshihito was crowned at Kioto November 10 with great ceremony and merrymaking.

Industrial Agitation at Home and Abroad.

Early in the year the meetings of the Industrial Relations Committee, held in New York city, attracted much attention on account of the prominence of some of those who were called to testify. The chief purpose of the investigation was to obtain the opinions of well known capitalists and employers on the present relations of capital and labor. January 19 guards in a factory near Roosevelt, N. J., fired on a group of striking workmen, killing one man and wounding several others. April 16, in Chicago, 1,600 carpenters went on strike for an increase in wages. June 14 motormen and conductors on the surface and elevated railways of Chicago, 14,000 in all, struck for higher wages and a complete tieup resulted. The dispute, however, was settled by arbitration after two days of business paralysis. The carpenters' strike in that city, which had crippled the building industry for several months, was ended by a compromise wage agreement July 10. Ten days later a strike of 60,000 garment makers in New York city was averted by a wage increase of from 12 to 15 per cent.

In July the employees of the Standard Oil plant at Bayonne, N. J., went on strike and serious rioting followed. During the lawlessness which prevailed two strikers were killed and many policemen and onlookers were injured. After a week of disorder a wage increase was obtained and the strikers resumed work. July 22 a strike for higher wages and shorter hours at the Remington Arms Works, Bridgeport, Conn., resulted in a victory for the employees. August 4 a threatened strike involving 60,000 workers on women's garments in New York city was prevented by an increase in wages.

In September the long and not infrequently violent dispute over industrial conditions at the mines of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company was brought to an end. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., made an extended visit of investigation to the property, and as an outcome suggested a plan for adjusting differences which was accepted by the miners in a formal referendum vote. An agreement was signed to maintain the present wage scale and the eight hour day until January 1, 1918. The demand for union recognition made by the miners was not granted, but many concessions were made by the company in favor of the employees.

In July a miners' strike practically put a stop to the great Welsh coal industry, thereby causing much anxiety in British official quarters. The coal supply on hand was estimated to be wholly inadequate to meet the needs of the makers of munitions of war or even those of the fleet. After several earnest conferences between Mr. Lloyd George, the British Minister of Munitions, and other Cabinet members with the colliery owners and representatives of the miners the trouble was settled July 29 and the men went back to work. Further strikes and lockouts were prohibited by law.

As early as June 30 the state of American foreign trade showed a balance of exports over imports of more than $1,000,000,000. This was a new experience for the United States.

The yield of wheat for the year, according to the latest reports, exceeds 1,000,000,000 bushels, the largest on record. A corn crop of 3,000,000,000 bushels, at current prices, makes it the most valuable ever harvested in the country. The American oats crop is also one of the most bountiful on record.

Record of Horrors on Land and Sea.

A seismic horror which recalled the Messina earthquake of seven years ago occurred January 13. A large district in central Italy, east of Rome, was laid waste and nearly 30,000 lives were lost. In times of worldwide peace such a natural catastrophe would have held the attention of civilized mankind for many days, but the great war so eclipsed the Avezzano affair that little notice was taken of it outside of Italy. King Victor Emmanuel personally directed the work of rescue and relief. At Avezzano 95 per cent. of the population was destroyed and the property loss was more than $100,000,000.

February 10 earthquake, hurricane and an accompanying tidal wave visited the American Samoan group and caused great destruction on the Manua Islands. In the latter part of June severe earth shocks were felt through the Imperial Valley, in southern California. July 7 a violent storm swept over Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana and left wide destruction in its wake. July 14 southern China floods destroyed 80,000 persons. Some parts of Canton were ten feet under water. August 3 a cloudburst at Erie, Pa., flooded a large area of the city, drowned twenty-five persons and caused great damage to property. August 11 an earthquake shock was felt in Italy, and Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli became active. August 16 a tropical storm which developed into a hurricane struck the Texas coast and raged violently for two days. Nearly 200 persons were the victims of its fury and the property loss was computed in millions. September 29 a hurricane dashed over the lower Mississippi Valley and Gulf coast, destroying 300 persons and a great amount of property.

The most appalling accident in the ten year history of the New York subway occurred January 6. Poisonous gases and smoke from a fire in the underground structure so nearly asphyxiated the passengers of a train that one woman was suffocated and 172 persons were taken to hospitals for treatment. January 21 a boiler explosion on the armored cruiser San Diego off the west coast of Mexico resulted in the death of six American sailors. March 22 an attempt was made by an anarchist to wreck St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York city. On the same day there was an explosion of gas in a mine at Leyland, W. Va., and over 100 men were killed outright. March 25 was the date of the shocking submarine accident which resulted in the sinking of the United States boat F-4 during manoeuvres in Honolulu harbor. Her entire crew of twenty-one was drowned. It was not until August 29 that the sunken submarine was refloated. April 3 a Dutch steamer, the Prins Mauritz, foundered off the Virginia coast and fifty-nine persons lost their lives.

On the last day of April a big fire at Colon, Panama, destroyed twenty-two blocks, killed eleven persons and entailed a property loss of $3,500,000. May 22 England experienced the most considerable wreck in the history of its railway system. More than 150 persons, mostly soldiers going into quarters, were killed near Carlisle.

The most conspicuous horror of the year for Americans was the overturning of the excursion steamer Eastland at her pier on the Chicago River, July 24. In broad daylight a few feet from the shore 852 persons, largely women and children out for a holiday, were drowned. September 22 in New York city a section of a street undermined by subway construction collapsed and caused the death of seven persons and injured many others. Three days later a similar cave-in occurred on Broadway, killing one person and injuring several others.

A tornado of huge proportions swept over parts of Nebraska, South Dakota,

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