

SEVEN AND THOUSAND PEOPLE DEAD IN ITALY.

Victims of the Earthquake and Tidal Wave that Visited Southern Italy—Messina Reports 12,000 Dead and Wounded—Great Wave that Swept Inland Was 32 Feet High—Whole Religious Communities Wiped Out—Vandalism of Worst Kind Has Broken Out—Severe Measures Taken to Repress It—Robbers and Looters Shot on Sight.

Rome, Dec. 29.—South Italy and the island of Sicily have been visited by an appalling calamity, the extent of which cannot yet be grasped. An earthquake yesterday morning wrecked city after city and obliterated smaller towns and villages without number. Then a tidal wave swept along the Straits of Messina and added to the horror, drowning the people in their helplessness and panic. Fire came to complete the work of destruction. Flames broke out in the devastated cities and countless numbers of injured men, women and children were burned to death.

Any adequate estimate of the total casualties is as yet quite impossible, but the Rome Tribune places the number at between 60,000 and 70,000.

The horror and destructiveness of this visitation probably will exceed that of any earthquake in Italy since 1783, when 40,000 persons perished at Messina alone.

Reports of heavy loss of life are coming in every hour from city and town and nearly every village in the stricken zone, and the story in its detail has only begun to be told. The horror grows as further reports come in.

Messina has been fire-swept. The dead there alone will run into the tens of thousands. Reggio is a sepulchral city of the dead. Catania suffered heavily.

Mount Etna, the volcano on the island of Sicily, is active. The detonations are reverberating over Catania and add to the terror. Volumes of smoke are pouring from the crater.

The work of rescue is being pushed forward with all the energy troops are being poured into the zone, but the efforts at succor are as yet utterly inadequate. France, Great Britain and Russia are hurrying warships to the scene.

King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena have left Rome for the south. His majesty will superintend in person the work of relief. The queen, regent, let her husband go alone, insisted upon sharing his dangers.

The pope has made an appeal to Roman Catholics the world over. He has implored the relief subscription list with a donation of \$200,000.

There is consternation in Rome. The telegraph and newspaper offices are besieged by weeping crowds demanding news. Every fresh telegram tells the same story of death, destruction and desolation.

Assessor Palmason has telegraphed to Messina and Palermo inquiring as to fate of Arthur S. Cheney of Connecticut, the American consul, and Joseph H. Plevins, the American vice-consul at Messina. Up to 2 o'clock this afternoon no answer had been received.

Rome, Dec. 29.—A special dispatch received here from Messina as the result of the earthquake and tidal wave of yesterday are estimated at 12,000. Scores still are alive beneath the ruins of the city. On account of the inadequacy of the means of rescue at hand, it will be impossible to bring these people out alive. Other dispatches received here report the death at Messina of more appalling figures. The Tribune publishes a telegram saying the casualties will reach a total of 75,000 persons. This report has not been substantiated. The Tribune estimates the total casualties in Calabria and Sicily at between 60,000 and 70,000.

DISASTER IS STAGGERING.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The disaster in the province of Calabria and the island of Sicily has today assumed staggering proportions. The death tolls received from the stricken region makes it more apparent that the first stories of the widespread destruction were little more than a prelude. Messina alone reports 12,000 victims but it is feared that this is only a partial list of the dead and wounded. Reports are coming in from other towns giving estimates of dead therein from 500 up to several thousand. Reggio still remains in its isolation. It is impossible to get word of the world-wide ravaging. The silence gives rise to the most fearful apprehensions.

News has come from Messina, eight miles north of Reggio, that the bodies of the dead there has been made.

VANDALISM.

Vandalism of the worst kind has broken out and the government has taken the most severe measures for its repression. Robbers and looters are being shot on sight.

The prison at Messina collapsed some of the prisoners were killed, but the survivors made their escape and fled to the mountains. The confusion reigned that the robbers met with no resistance. The local chief of police lies dead in the ruins of his office. The barracks at Messina were demolished. The commander of the troops was killed outright and there are many victims among the enlisted men.

The government last night sent Gen. Ferrara Di Cossato, an army corps commander, to take full charge of the troops in the devastated territory. One of the first moves will be to declare martial law. The robbers pillaging the ruins of shattered buildings even stole clothing and valuables from the corpses of the victims.

Many courageous acts were performed by soldiers and citizens alike and in some cases the rescuers themselves lost their lives in trying to help others. Toward morning several of the worst fires had been extinguished, the

STATE AND COUNTY PLUMS RIPENING

Nearly Ready to Drop Into the Basket of Political Reward.

BIG CROP OF APPOINTMENTS.

Roster of the Governor's Staff Will Probably Be the First Named—Unauthorized Guesses Today.

"No appointments will be announced until in the session," said Governor-elect William Spry this morning, when asked if he had made up his mind on any of the state appointive offices under his control.

"And with the exception of a few of the state boards, most of the appointments will not be announced until late in February."

Governor Spry will have his hands full in figuring out the numerous appointments to be made in the different state positions and two months is evidently not too much time in which to select the fittest persons for the places.

Among the positions to be filled are those of state engineer, state coal mine inspector, state bank examiner, fish and game commissioner, state chemist, and state food and dairy examiner.

Then there are the various state boards, some of the members which are appointive, and some already provided for by statute.

Among these boards are five members of the state board of pardons; three members of the state board of examiners; three members of the board of loan commissioners; three members of the insanity board; three members of the state board of corrections; five members of the state board of land commissioners; five members of the state board of education; four members of the state board of equalization; nine members of the board of regents of the state university; some of whom hold over seven members of the Agricultural college board, some of whom hold over three trustees of the state industrial school; five trustees of the school for deaf and dumb; four members of the state board of horticulture; seven members board of health and vital statistics; five members state board of pharmacy; five members of the state board of medical examiners; five members state dental examiners; three members state board of land conciliation and arbitration; 12 members state fair association; seven members state board of agricultural mechanics; three members state board of sheep commissioners; and three members of state board of veterinary examiners.

Governor Spry has completed the list of appointments on his staff, but has not received acceptances from all the gentlemen named. These are expected, however, in time for the opening of the inaugural ball, to be held next month.

Another position which is being hotly contested is that of state fish and game commissioner. Candidates are in the number of three, but the present incumbent, Mr. Cronan, who is willing to accept reappointment, it is understood.

COUNTY OFFICES.

Mrs. Margaret Zane Witchee, county clerk-elect, stated this morning that the announcements made in some of the morning papers of appointments made in her office were wholly untrue and incorrect.

"The story of a clash between the clerk's office and the county commissioners in the matter of appointments," said Mrs. Witchee, "was absolutely without foundation."

"I will further state," continued Mrs. Witchee, "that the appointments for my office have not yet been completed, and I am not yet prepared to announce them."

The appointments to be made in the office of county clerk consist of a chief clerk of probate and chief deputy of civil division, and four court bailiffs; four jailers, three deputies for Bingham Junction; one deputy for Garfield, one deputy for Lark, one deputy for Alta, a stenographer for the office, and one license collector.

No changes have been announced in the force of the county treasurer, and none up to date in the county recorder's office. Every important city in the state will have a meeting and the

SHERIFF'S LIST.

Sheriff-elect Joseph Sharp, when asked if he had completed the list of 26 deputies and assistants under his jurisdiction, but expected to have them ready for approval by the commissioners by the time of the meeting of the new board.

Joseph Sharp, if the present force is maintained and not increased, will name one chief deputy; five deputies for the criminal division; two deputies for the civil division; four court bailiffs; four jailers, three deputies for Bingham Junction; one deputy for Garfield, one deputy for Lark, one deputy for Alta, a stenographer for the office, and one license collector.

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PROTEST AGAINST RAISE IN TRANSCONTINENTAL RATES

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—One hundred mass meetings will be held at various points throughout the state today to protest against the proposed increase in transcontinental freight rates which are scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1.

The organized remonstrance against the proposed increase in transcontinental freight rates has been headed by an executive committee appointed by the shippers of the state who have joined in the movement and the day of the meetings has been designated as "Rate Day."

According to the estimates made by the committees in charge of the meetings, a general attendance of between 50,000 and 100,000 persons is expected. Every important city in the state will have a meeting and the

MOUNT ETNA SHOWS SIGNS OF ACTIVITY

Catania, Sicily, Dec. 29.—Mount Etna is this morning showing considerable activity and the detonations, which can be plainly heard in this city, together with the volume of smoke rolling out of the crater, have added to the panic of the people.

According to the director of the local observatory this activity is directly connected with the earthquake of yesterday which wrought such havoc in Calabria and Sicily but a great eruption is not expected. Such phenomena are, however, very common in volcanic districts.

COMBAT WITH A CAT IN THE REAR OF A BUTCHER SHOP OVER SOME MEAT SCRAP.

A boy in the shop hearing the cat's cries dashed out and caught the bird by throwing a sweater over its head. Followed by a cheering crowd of 200 children, he then carried his captive to a nearby police station. It will be given to the Central Park zoo.

A CHRISTMAS JOKE OR A HUGE SWINDLE?

Chicago, Dec. 29.—What is either a huge Christmas joke or a swindle of considerable dimensions, has come to light here. Secret agencies are trying to ascertain the whereabouts of a stranger of benevolent appearance who recently busied himself distributing "scholarships" in a Texas musical conservatory.

Whether the stranger is a new kind of Andrew Carnegie, a harmless crank or a dangerous forger, is a matter that is being investigated by the police.

CHICAGO GREATEST USER OF TELEPHONES IN WORLD

Chicago, Dec. 29.—According to the annual report of the Chicago telephone exchange more householders have telephones here than in any other city in the world. There is enough "live" telephone wire in the city to girdle the world 18 times.

COMMISSION TO TAKE ORCHARD'S TESTIMONY

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—By a ruling of the supreme court handed down yesterday, the issuance of a commission was granted authorizing the taking of the deposition of Harry Orchard, self confessed slayer of the late Gov. Steiwerer of Idaho, as to the circumstances surrounding the explosion in this city on Nov. 17, 1904, in the house of W. H. Linforth, then thought to have been caused by a leak in the gas main, but which resulted from the firing of a dynamite charge according to statements made in Orchard's confession.

The issuance of a commission follows the attempt of the gas company in this city to recover \$10,000 paid to Linforth for the damage done his house on the finding of a jury that the gas company was responsible for the explosion.

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KROHN, THE WALKER, Has Finished 4,500 Miles of a 9,000 Mile Trip.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—J. A. Krohn of Portland, Me., arrived in this city today on a walk of 9,000 miles which he is to make on a wager in 400 days. According to the conditions of the bet, Krohn, who is better known as "Colonial Jack," must push a wheelbarrow en route and cover the distance in the time allowed. He has already walked 4,680 miles, an average of 26 miles a day.

To complete the walk on schedule time he must walk a fraction of over 22 miles a day in spite of 11 days lost on account of illness he is far ahead of the requirements.

Mr. Krohn, the wheelbarrow, which the pedestrian trundles on his long walk is covered with the postmarks of 625 postoffices. It also has a speedometer attached, and registers the number of miles covered. The wager on the outcome of the walk is \$1,000 against 2,000 copies of the book which Krohn will write on the completion of his walk.

BOY CAPTURES EAGLE.

New York, Dec. 29.—A lusty young eagle, probably from the Catskill mountains, made its appearance in Harlem last evening where it engaged in a

NO HEIRS TO WALDEN ESTATE.

Los Angeles, Dec. 29.—No heirs to the estate of Mrs. Matilda Walden, who died in August last, were found, and Judge Rives has granted letters of administration to Frank Bryson, public administrator.

Mrs. Walden's property was valued at about \$10,000 at the time of her death, the greatest interest being real estate with a forty-foot frontage on Main street at the corner of First.

After her death a search extending through many states and reaching into England and Scotland, where she once lived, was made by the public administrator and the British vice-consul in order to save the state efforts were futile. Unless an heir presents himself or herself within a year, the property will be sold and the proceeds turned over to the state school fund.

YAQUIS RENEGADE REVOLT ABOUT OVER

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 29.—According to the latest advice from Yuma, the Yaqui renegades' revolt seems to be about over. That negotiations for peace have been on and are now before President Diaz is known. An answer is expected from him early in January when the truce existing will be up, but it is thought unlikely that hostilities will be resumed.

Of late a few Yaquis who were transported to Quintana Roo, the territory formed from the southern half of Yucatan, have succeeded in escaping and getting back to their tribe.

They have told stories of terrible hardships and from what they have learned of the government's power as seen in the country they have gone through, they have been convinced that further struggles are vain.

FIRE IN SILVER CITY, IDAHO.

Eight Business Buildings Destroyed. Loss \$40,000.

Eight business buildings in Silver City, the leading mining town in Idaho, were destroyed by fire at a dynamite early this morning. The fire originated in a Chinese restaurant, and quickly spread to the adjoining buildings. In order to save the town (War Eagle hotel), the general store of Charles N. Caldwell, the largest store in town, and two other buildings, were dynamited. The fire raged for four hours before it was brought under control. Three hundred miners did heroic work in fighting the fire. Chimney men caught leading goods removed from the burning buildings were driven away with six-shooters, and an armed guard placed around the goods. The fact that the town was saved is a great relief. The bigges- sold an excellent piece of property, one of four of the destroyed buildings.

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CASTRO AND GOMEZ ADHERENTS FIGHT

Partisans of New President Forced to Retire Temporarily But Returned to the Conflict.

BATTLE LASTED FOUR HOURS.

Engagement Was Between Followers of Castro and Crew of a Gomez Gunboat.

Casualties Not Very Heavy, Some 20 Being Killed and About 50 Wounded—May Resume Hostilities.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 29.—There has been fighting at Macuro, on the Venezuelan coast, between adherents of former President Castro and the crew of a gunboat working in the interests of the new president, Juan Vicente Gomez. About 20 men were killed and some 50 wounded. The Gomez party was obliged to withdraw temporarily, but later returned to resume the engagement.

This news was brought in here by the gunboat Miranda, which left Laguaira with men who are to take the places of the officials at Macuro. The Miranda arrived off Macuro yesterday morning. Gen. Torres meanwhile had gotten together about 500 men and was prepared to resist a landing. The Miranda cleared and went into action. Under cover of her battery the men on board tried unsuccessfully to land. The fighting lasted about four hours. When the captain of the Miranda saw the situation was impossible he withdrew and came to Port of Spain. The Miranda then took on coal. As soon as this activity became known here the office of the Venezuelan consul was besieged by men anxious to return to Macuro and fight. A number were accepted and went on board the gunboat which was at Macuro, where the engagement will be continued.

PALEOLITHIC MAN.

Prof. G. F. Wright Says Medina County, O., Was His Home.

Kron, O., Dec. 29.—The discovery of what is claimed to be a paleolithic stone man in Medina county, has led Prof. G. F. Wright, geologist and president of the state Archaeological society, to declare that Medina county was the home of the paleolithic man. Prof. Wright took the stone with him to Baltimore and will return to Wadsworth next spring, he says, with government geologists to continue his researches.

Prof. Wright and Prof. Bronson, of Oberlin college, declared that the finding of the paleolith at Wadsworth is one of the most important discoveries made in America in the past few years. It is Prof. Wright's belief that at one time the site of Wadsworth was covered with a large glacier which was a mile high and extended to Millersburg. The paleolithic stone found near Wadsworth is an elliptical shaped flint stone weighing about a half or three-quarters of a pound and is believed to be one of the instruments used by man during the glacial period.

PENETRATING POWER OF TORPEDOES INCREASED

Washington, Dec. 29.—The ordnance department is now experimenting with the device invented by Commander Cleveland Davis, United States navy, for improving the penetrating power of torpedoes. This device was tested some time ago and the test was witnessed by representatives of the department. The report on these tests has never been made public, but it was so favorable that Admiral Mason, chief of the bureau of ordnance, has authorized investigation into the merits of the device and this is now in progress at Newport. It is fully expected that these tests will lead to the adoption of an official device and if that is done, the adoption will probably follow in the near future.

MARY M. ADAMS DEAD.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Mrs. Mary M. Adams, one of the first pupils of Mrs. Cary Baker Eddy in Chicago, is dead in Highland Park, after an illness of several months. Mrs. Adams was born in Lowell, Mass.

A KIDNAPING CASE.

Italian Boy Only Returned to Parents On Payment of Money.

New York, Dec. 29.—The arrest of two men and a woman last night revealed the details of a rather remarkable kidnaping case in which a child was kept from his parents for a month but during which time the father, Giuseppe Randazzo, an Italian barber, was afraid to make any complaint to the authorities. The child was returned only after Randazzo had paid over \$500 in cash to the alleged abductors and transferred to them a half interest in his barber shop.

It was on Nov. 27 that the child was restored, but the father could by previous threats still kept the matter secret and the police knew nothing of the affair until yesterday when, after a long and costly investigation, Francesco Catarinich and his wife and another Italian. The woman is charged with kidnaping and Isadora Campisi, an alleged accomplice of the pair with kidnaping and extortion. The father has identified Campisi as the man to whom he had paid the \$500 and to whom he had transferred a part interest in his barber shop.

WORLD DIDN'T COME TO AN END LAST SUNDAY

New York, Dec. 29.—A special dispatch to the World from New York, Pa., says that "Prophet" Loe J. Spangler, who created a religious movement and an amusement at Nyack, N. Y., by declaring that the world would come to an end at high noon Sunday, last, then suddenly disappeared, has arrived here and is preparing to make more prophecies when he recovers. The dispatch adds that Spangler denies that he ran away from Nyack and said that if any warrant had been issued there for his arrest he was ignorant of it. He is credited with making the following statement with reference to the apparent general scepticism as regards his predictions: "It only serves to show how few people were watching when the time does come. God has only deferred the end a little longer. The real reason for this is that the New York ministers and people learned through my prophecies that the time had come and they all got down on their knees and prayed so hard that they saved the city like Ninevah, for the time being."

REASON RESTORED BY SURGICAL OPERATION

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 29.—George McCuskey of this city has been restored to reason by a surgical operation performed on his skull yesterday. Some years ago McCuskey suffered an accident in a machine shop, since which time he has been afflicted by periodical attacks of violent insanity. After the latest attack, which took place Christmas eve he was removed to a hospital, where an examination by physicians revealed the fact that a piece of bone was pressing against the brain. The bone was removed by a surgical operation of trepanning, which was successfully removed. According to the latest reports from the hospital the man will recover.

FISHERIES COMMISSION. Date for Meeting of International One Postponed to June 3.

Stanford University, Cal., Dec. 29.—By order of the state department and the foreign office of Great Britain, the date for the meeting of the international fisheries commission has been postponed from Jan. 1 to June 3. This postponement is rendered necessary by the resignation of S. T. Bastedo, the British member of the commission, who has been made a deputy minister. Prof. Edward T. Prince of the University of Toronto, his successor, has asked for more time to acquaint himself with the work of the commission.

DIED OF STARVATION.

But Dead Chinaman Had \$15,000 in His Pocket.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 29.—With a roll of \$15,000 in his pocket with which he intended to return to China, an unknown Chinese died of starvation on a Southern Pacific train yesterday shortly before the Arcade depot was reached.

The man has not been identified as yet, but railroad employees stated that he had worked a small vegetable ranch near Colton for several years. He had denied himself sufficient food to keep alive in order to have as large a sum as possible when he got back to his native country.