

## RAVAGES OF QUAKE ARE REPAIRED

Avezzano, Devastated Year Ago, is Rebuilt by Enterprise and Capital of Italian-Americans; Makes Record for Rapid Recovery

## IS GROWING FASTER THAN BOOM TOWN

Population Reaches 5,000 After Being Reduced from 13,000 to 1,200; New City is Fashioned After Western World Models

By HENRY WOOD, (United Press Staff Correspondent.)

AVEZZANO, Italy, Feb. 1.—(By Mail)—Thanks largely to Italian-Americans, Avezzano, which just a year ago today suffered one of the worst earthquake disasters in the history of the world, is today almost a completely restored city.

In just one year as much has been done towards rebuilding this city as has been accomplished at Messina in the ten years that have elapsed since it suffered a similar disaster. In both instances America played a large part in the work of restoration, but at Avezzano American spirit and American influences accomplished miracles which just plain American dollars could not do at Messina.

When a year ago the earthquake reduced Avezzano to a mere mass of ruins, from which only 1,200 people out of a total population of 13,000 escaped, the news struck a responsive chord in the hearts of a particular class of people in America. These were the Italians who themselves in years past had lived in and emigrated from Avezzano over the country immediately around it. Thousands of these persons still had relatives there, and the call of blood as well as the call of the city of their nativity proved stronger than the call of success they were meeting with in their new homes in America.

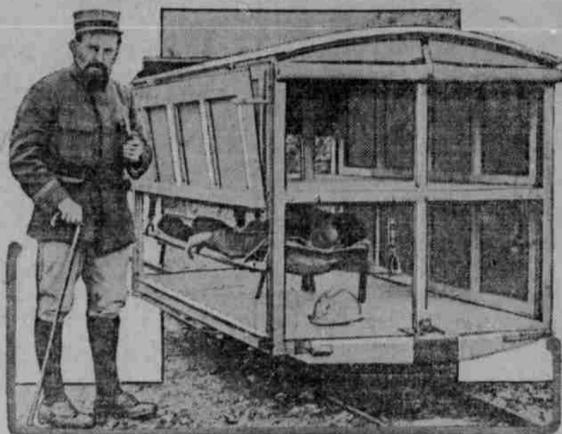
Almost without exception these former residents of Avezzano abandoned their prospects in America and returned to succor their relatives and help build up the city of their birth. But in coming back to Italy they brought with them more than the few hundred or few thousand dollars that the Italian immigrant accumulates in America before returning home. They brought with them also the American spirit, American hustle and American tradition. They brought with them especially the remembrance of how San Francisco had risen from its ruins—hundreds of them themselves had gone through the "Frisco" quake—and they set about doing at Avezzano what they had seen Americans do at "Frisco." The results have amazed all Italy, and especially Messina, which ten years after its disaster, hardly has begun to be its old self.

Avezzano, whose population was reduced from 13,000 to 1,200 by the quake today has 5,000 inhabitants. Aside from possibly 1,000 of the survivors who remain here, the great bulk of the remainder are returned Italian-Americans. That is why Avezzano is growing faster than a boom town in America.

The government extended the same help to Avezzano that was extended to Messina, but without the Italian-Americans the results would hardly be what they are today. These enterprising hyphenates of which both Italy and America have cause to be proud have carried out the demolition of 3,500 partially wrecked houses, braced up 7,700 tottering walls, constructed barracks and temporary houses that contain 11,800 rooms, while others containing 7,900 more rooms are being constructed; and have repaired 3,500 of the houses not entirely destroyed. They have got the water works and the electric light plant in full operation, made it possible for the schools to resume sessions, and are laying out new additions to Avezzano with straight streets and regular square blocks, quite after the American fashion of town building and quite contrary to Italian customs, where irregular, wandering street blocks are the rule.

The Italian-Americans are facing all the civic problems that confront every community in America, and are find-

## BEE-HIVE CAR FOR THE WOUNDED



For the expedient handling of seriously wounded soldiers there has been built a "bee-hive" carriage in which four wounded soldiers may at one time be taken to the field hospital. The light car is mounted on a railroad truck suspended from the roof and over each berth are four springlike carriers.

ing work for the unemployed, encouraging agriculture, providing credit, looking out for public sanitation and caring for the poor. They have in fact, even gone the American towns, where they got their ideas, one better, and when Italy declared war, sent her army a contribution of 280 men, 12 of whom have since been killed, and their places filled by fresh Avezzano recruits.

## HORSE DIES IN FLAMES

The central station was called to a fire in the rear of the Norris livery barn on Kansas avenue, near the corner of First street, at 2:15 this afternoon. The fire originated in a sheet iron structure, an annex of the brick livery barn, on the alley. The alarm was not turned in, according to statements obtained, until the building was a mass of flames.

## PENN. CRUDE ADVANCES

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 21.—The Seip Oil company agency today announced an increase of 5 cents in the prices of crude oils.

## MOTION DAY IN COUNTY COURT

County court opened in regular session this morning, Judge R. E. Davenport presiding. Approval of the bond, in the sum of \$500, Gus Williams was released pending the date set for his preliminary examination. Williams is the negro charged with receiving stolen property in connection with the car robbery in the Rock Island yards a few nights ago.

## BURGLARY AT ALEX.

Sheriff Hodge Bailey was called to Alex this morning to investigate the burglarizing of two stores in that city last night. The names of the merchants whose places of business had been broken in could not be learned.

## APPROVAL OF DEPART. RECORDED

Two Citizens are Granted Naturalization Papers and Win Good Word from Examiner for Work in Chickasha Night School

At the last term of district court, held in Grady county, among other matters attended to, the issuance of final naturalization papers to three foreign born citizens was taken up and disposed of. In two instances the final papers granted and in the third refused. A. Balk of Choctaw avenue, was one of the parties to whom final naturalization papers were issued.

When the signature of Mr. Balk was called for, he came forward and signed his name to the court's record and remarked at the time that two or three months ago he could neither read nor write. Mr. Balk stated that when night schools were opened in Chickasha he and his wife both became pupils, attending regularly each evening, after their days' work had been completed. "I can now read pretty good," said Mr. Balk, "and can write letters and sign my name and so on my wife. I know that I lack a whole lot of having yet secured an education, but I freely state that I would not take \$1,000 for what I have already learned."

Mrs. Edna T. Watkins, as deputy clerk in making her report to the United States department of labor (naturalization division), set out a statement of the above, in a brief and concise manner, in the body of the report.

Under date of February 14, N. R. Benington, chief naturalization examiner, wrote Mrs. Watkins from his office in St. Louis, regarding her report, as follows, in part: "I beg to thank you also for the notation made on the bottom of this report concerning the petition of Mr. Balk. It is my intention to make the contents of this note known to the commissioner of naturalization at Washington, D. C. No doubt he will be as highly gratified as this office has been to learn of the good work being done by the public schools of your city."

## JURISTS JOIN FIRE DEPART.

An alarm turned in at 3:12 Sunday afternoon, called the central station of the Chickasha fire department to the home of Judge Eugene Hamilton, 223 South Twelfth street.

Flames from burning grass had communicated with the stable and fencing along the alley and were extinguished before material damage had been done. The firemen were, to a great degree, anticipated and assisted by Judge Holding and Judge Bailey, who were passing the Hamilton home at the time the alarm was sounded.

Judge Bailey resolved himself into a broom brigade and fought and swiped the flames with a large house-cleaning, made of straws of the corn which has made Lindsay famous, while Judge Holding organized himself into a bucket brigade and joined Judge Hamilton in his efforts to drown the fiery element.

## SITUATION IS CALLED VERY GRAVE

State Department Admits that Relations with Germany Reach Point Where One or Two Things May Precipitate Crisis

## AMBASSADOR IS IN PERSONAL DISFAVOR

Publicity Methods Considered Unfair by Administration; Second Note Sent to British Asking Reply to Mail Seizure Protest

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 21.—The situation between Germany and the United States is as grave as it has been at any time since the Lusitania issue arose.

This was the positive declaration of the state department today. It was stated that two things may precipitate a crisis.

One of these things would be the loss of American lives by the inauguration of Germany's proposed submarine warfare on March 1. The other would be the failure of Germany to bring the Lusitania negotiations to a satisfactory close.

Inasmuch as the state department says the closing of these negotiations satisfactorily to the United States impossible while the new German decree remains in force, a serious situation is believed to be imminent.

No secret is made of the fact that the personal relations between Secretary Lansing and Ambassador Bernstorff are strained as a result of what the administration considers unfair publicity methods of the ambassador.

## Ask British to Reply.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 21.—Secretary Lansing has sent a second communication to the British foreign office asking for replies to the note of inquiry regarding the application of the British "trading with enemies act" to American firms.

## CONSUL IS EVICTED BY CARRANZA

LAREDO, Tex., Feb. 21.—Spanish Consul Liguera, of Monterey, who was evicted from Mexico because he refused to deport a Spanish priest, announced his arrival here.

The consul said he protested to Carranza against the deportation of the priest and was promptly informed that he himself would be given 24 hours in which to leave the country. Liguera assisted the American consul at Monterey during the last revolution and at times he was in charge of the American consulate.

The evicted consul refused to state whether he would protest directly to the Spanish government or take up the matter through the American state department.

## HOME WEDDING IS SOLEMNIZED

At the residence of the bride's father, W. W. Horn, 224 South Eleventh street, O. B. Hunter and Miss Amy Ellen Horn were united in marriage Saturday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, Rev. J. A. Old of the Epworth Methodist church, officiating.

The marriage was a very informal one, only the immediate family of the bride and Miss Alice Hunter, a sister of the bridegroom being present. Immediately after the serving of the wedding supper Mr. and Mrs. Hunter entrained for Oklahoma City. The newly married couple will spend the next week visiting relatives of Mr. Hunter at Butler, Sayre, Mangum and other Oklahoma cities.

## FRENCH SOLDIERS FIRING AT ZEPPELIN



These French soldiers are trying to drive away a German Zeppelin that is hovering over Nancy and dropping bombs on that city.

## CONVICTS TO WORK ON ROADS

Commissioners Order Camp Re-established South of Rush Springs; Lucile Road Declared Open; Several Small Bridges Will Be Built

At a special meeting of the board of county commissioners, held at the county court house Saturday afternoon, the matter of the Lucile road coming before the board an order was made declaring the road open from the intersections of section lines 32-34, range 7, 6 west to run south for a distance of five miles.

Three or four bridges across small water courses will be required along the route of this piece of road. No action, however, was taken in the matter of the bridges, same being deferred until the next regular meeting on the first Monday in March. The road was declared open following the acceptance of the road engineer's report.

An order was made reopening and re-establishing the county convict camp at a point about two miles south of Rush Springs. Nim Wyatt was appointed to have charge of the camp and of the road work to be done by the county prisoners.

Bedding, tents and commissary supplies were ordered shipped from Chickasha to Rush Springs. These supplies will be taken to the site of the camp, probably this afternoon.

County prisoners, serving jail sentences, will be taken, under guard, to the camp Tuesday and work will begin on the roads Wednesday.

Road Engineer Colby stated this morning that more funds than ever before would now be found available for road improvement work in this county. Information given out at the county jail this morning stated that some six or eight prisoners, under jail sentences, would be transferred to the road camp tomorrow.

## WORTHY FAMILY IS GIVEN HELP

The ladies of the United Charities have unearthed a case wherein the mother is confined to a bed of sickness and where the father was compelled for a time to give up all work that he might care for his invalid wife.

The wife and mother now being better, the husband and father has secured employment and is doing all he can to care for and clothe the four children, ranging in ages from 13 years down to 7 years.

However, during the time he has been out of employment the family have fallen into badly straightened circumstances. The children were forced to quit school some time since and, the father having spent all his meager earnings for medical assistance for the wife and mother, the little fellows, three boys and one girl, had neither shoes nor clothing nor books with which to re-enter school.

A committee of ladies of the United Charities, called upon County Clerk Bradley and Commissioner Jim Robinson this morning and asked temporary aid for the family. Temporary assistance in a reasonable amount was as-

## RUSS RUSH BIG DRIVE ON TURKS

Front Pierced in Two Places and Armies of Enemy Separated; Third Corps Isolated and in Danger of Being Captured

## BRITISH ASK TWO BILLION WAR CREDIT

Premier Introduces Measure Bringing Total Cost of Struggle Up to Over Eight Billion; Germans Report Results of Air Raid

PETROGRAD, Feb. 21.—The rapid western drive of the Russian army of the Caucasus has broken through the Turkish front in two places and separated the three Turkish army corps, according to dispatches received today.

It is reported that one Turkish army, forming the left wing of the enemy, is falling back rapidly on Trebizond. The eleventh Turkish corps is trying to reach Erzingan, while it is being pursued by the Slavs and the third corps on the right wing has been isolated and may be captured, it is claimed.

Amenians at the town of Pasur Akhestin, southwest of Mush, captured by the Russians, reported that the Turks had evacuated the Armonian city of Bitlis, southwest of Lake Van.

The grand duke's left wing is reported to be moving swiftly toward the mountains near the Bagdad railway. The vanguards of the Slav forces are said to be operating less than sixty miles east of Trebizond, along the Black sea coast.

War Cost Climbs Up. LONDON, Feb. 21.—Premier Asquith today introduced in the house of commons a bill providing new war credits to the amount of two billions.

It was stated that these credits will raise England's total war expenditures to eight billions six hundred and forty million dollars.

According to unofficial estimates, all belligerents have spent since the beginning of the war forty billions.

Steamer Embarked. BERLIN, Feb. 21.—The admiralty announced today that German aeroplanes bombarded two British tank steamers during yesterday's raid on the English coast.

It was stated that the main railway station and dock at Lowestoft were also hit several times.

## PRISONERS DISCHARGED.

Robert E. Lee and C. A. Downs were released from custody this morning, having completed the serving of the jail sentence imposed upon them by the county court for complicity, some months ago, in holding up and robbing the negro, Dr. Graham, at his place of business on South Second street.

## TWO ELECTROCUTED.

STATE COLLEGE, Pa., Feb. 21.—George H. Marsh and Roland S. Pennington were electrocuted early this morning in the western Pennsylvania penitentiary for murder. This was the first double electrocution in the state.

## WEATHER FORECAST.

For Oklahoma. Tonight and Tuesday, fair. Local Temperature. During twenty-four hours ending 8 a. m. today: Maximum, 73 degrees. Minimum, 36 degrees.

usual way of dwelling on the tithes and dollars and cents offerings, but with striking and beautiful illustrations proved that men rob God by withholding tithes and cherry dispositions, their influence and small service that the Christian world needs.