

3,500 DEAD IN EARTHQUAKE

Sicily and Southern Italy Devastated.

RUIN AT MESSINA.

Hundreds of Houses Are Wrecked, Inmates Buried.

TOWN OF CATANIA INUNDATED.

King Victor Emmanuel, Who Was on a Hunting Trip, Goes to the Scene, and the Italian Government Takes Steps to Give Relief—Upheaval of the Land Followed by an Inrush of the Waters of the Gulf—Ships Driven Ashore and Sunk—Many Towns Cut Off From Communication.

Rome, Dec. 29.—Violent shocks of earthquake continued today in southern Italy and Sicily, causing enormous loss of life and property.

At least 3,500 persons have been killed, and the damage to buildings will mount up into tens of millions.

King Victor Emmanuel, who was on a shooting trip near Naples when the first news of the disaster arrived, has started in person for the scene.

The three provinces of Cosenza, Catanzaro and Reggio di Calabria, comprising the department of Calabria, which forms the southwestern extremity of Italy, or "the toe of the boot," were devastated.

The town of Messina, in Sicily, was two-thirds destroyed, and Catania was inundated.

The fate of entire regions within the zone of the earthquake is unknown, but reports received here up to noon today indicate that the destruction to life and property has been more terrible than Italy has ever experienced.

All reports show that the present catastrophe embraces a larger area than the earthquake in 1905. A tidal



KING VICTOR EMMANUEL.

wave, which followed the earth shocks, on the eastern coast of Sicily sunk vessels and inundated the lower part of Catania.

Scores of people were killed at that place, and the rushing waters carried everything before them.

A dispatch from Messina this afternoon stated that the situation was desperate and after summarizing the immensity of the catastrophe ended with the announcement that Captain Passino, commander of the local station of torpedo boats, was buried under the debris after having with other officials performed heroic work in trying to save others.

The Italian government proceeded energetically to relieve the far spread distress, concentrating at the points of greatest need troops and engineers. Members of the Red Cross were dispatched to various places, and camps and provisions were immediately prepared, all available railway lines and warships being used for their transport.

The city of Messina suffered more than any other place, the latest information being that several thousand persons were killed.

The steamers Washington and Montebello, which were in that harbor, later proceeded to Catania, loaded with

injured, who were so stupefied by terror that they seemed unable to realize what had happened, simply saying that it looked as though the end of the world had come.

Five steamers left Catania for Messina to assist in removing the injured from that place, who are reported to number thousands.

At Catania the panic stricken people, fearing new shocks, absolutely refused to re-enter their houses and are camping in the squares, which are free from water, and the surrounding country. The tidal wave sunk 500 boats there and did great damage to several large vessels and steamers, including the Austrian steamer Buda.

Not only did Catania suffer from the effects of a tidal wave, but a similar body of water inundated the handsome streets of Messina which flank the harbor, covering them with a thick layer of mud, which rendered more difficult the succoring of the wounded, many of whom could be seen lying under the wreckage.

It is reported that the villages of Faro and Ganziri, adjoining Messina, have disappeared. The effects of the earthquake were aggravated by fire through an explosion of gas, the flames, which swept along several of the streets, adding terror upon terror.

In Calabria the region around Monteleone was most affected. The village of Stefanacoli, the inhabitants of which number 2,300, was practically destroyed. Five persons were killed and many were injured.

Mr. Morabito, the bishop of Mileto, who distinguished himself in the



CARRYING STATUE OF ST. MICHAEL IN PROCESSION AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE.

earthquake of 1905, did valiant work again. He rushed into places where the ruin was the greatest and brought aid and encouragement to all.

Thousands of people abandoned their homes, although a terrific rainstorm prevailed, and filled the air with lamentations and prayers. In some places, such as Prizzo, Cotrone, Santa Severina and Piscopio, the people had the courage to enter the churches almost while they were falling and carry out the saints. They bore these in procession through the open country, invoking the mercy of God.

In several of the towns where troops were stationed guarding convicts the latter mutinied, and a number of them escaped.

Along the coast extensive areas of low lying land sank into the sea.

Heavy damage is reported from Mileto, in Reggio di Calabria, a town of about 4,000 population; from Borgis, which was totally destroyed by earthquake in 1783; from San Vito and from Nicotera, an important market village near the gulf of Gioja.

Telegraphic communication is completely shut off with Pizzo, on the gulf of Santa Eufemia, a town of nearly 10,000, which was wrecked by the earthquake of 1905, and it is feared that the damage there is very large.

Reports from villages not far from Pizzo are to the effect that there was a considerable loss of life there and that the old Pizzo castle, a spot of great historic interest as the scene of the execution of Murat, was destroyed. The castle has for a long time been little more than a ruin, however.

Those killed and injured were for the most part persons who were asleep in their homes when the shock came. Their houses collapsed, burying them in the ruins.

Kentucky Has Earthquake.
Louisville, Ky., Dec. 29.—The western end of Kentucky has been visited by earthquake shocks. A ball of fire was seen in Hopkinsville, and, following the phenomenon, seismic shocks were felt throughout that and adjoining counties.

USING DR. WILEY'S WEAPON.

California Fruit Driers to Feed Their Own "Poison Squad."

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Experiments to show that sulphur dioxide used in dried fruit is not harmful to the human system have been started here.

A "poison squad" has been selected to eat sulphur dried fruit, and it is proposed to use his own weapons against Dr. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry.

KEIRAN HEARING.

Receiver Says Funding Co. Owes \$6,174,805.

TOTAL ASSETS OF \$24,000.

Federal Receiver Applied For by Representatives of Catholic Seminaries and Churches That Are Heavy Losers.

New York, Dec. 29.—Referee Peter B. Olney held another hearing today on the application by representatives of Catholic colleges, seminaries and churches for a federal receiver for the Fidelity Funding company instead of Thomas F. Gilroy, the state receiver.

The Fidelity Funding company, of which Patrick J. Keiran was the head, is alleged to have swindled various priests and nuns and Catholic institutions throughout the country. The creditors hold dishonored drafts on the company executed by the St. Mary's academy of Nauvoo, Ill., and indorsed by Keiran, and they want a federal receiver.

Mr. Gilroy said that the total obligations of the defunct company, as they appeared in the books, were \$6,174,805, including \$1,713,218 in notes outstanding, of which the company was either the indorser or the maker.

Mr. Gilroy said also that additional liabilities might develop later in the shape of possible claims of customers whose notes had been used by the company without authority.

"What assets do the company's books show?" asked Frank Crocker, attorney for the petitioners.

"I should say about \$24,000," Frank J. Van Orten, a clerk employed by the Windsor Trust company, testified that the Fidelity Funding company owed the Windsor Trust company \$200,000 through notes of third parties given to the Windsor and the Empire Trust company, aggregating about \$700,000.

Myron Brown, assistant secretary of the Empire Trust company, told of the transactions between his company and the Keiran company.

Mr. Brown said that the Empire Trust company paid over to Keiran for the Fidelity company about \$500,000 for collateral notes, made out by a third party to the Fidelity company. The Windsor Trust company, the witness said, was a participant in the transactions between the Empire and Fidelity companies to the amount of about \$143,000.

Receiver Gilroy explained that the company would take up notes and get other notes for renewals; then, the receiver said, the notes taken up would be misused and the money for them applied to personal use by Keiran.

It appeared from his testimony that a large number of trust companies and other financial concerns in New York had fallen victims to the funding company's methods.

OIL TRUST IS DAZED.

Does Not Know What to Do to Parry Missouri's Move.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 29.—Alfred D. Eddy, general attorney of the Standard Oil company in the west, on his arrival here went in conference with Frank Hagerman, the local manager. He said later:

This is the first time we were ever ousted from a state. This is the first time any government in the world ever ordered a Standard Oil company to get out and said that our goods were contraband and that we had no rights. Consequently we are not prepared for the next move. We may go to the United States supreme court if there is a federal question involved or we may go into the federal court in connection with some future action in the enforcement of the order. If the Missouri law is constitutional we have no right to operate our property and no power to sell it.

HISTORIANS MEET TODAY.

Annual Gathering of American Historical Association in Richmond, Va. Richmond, Va., Dec. 29.—In this city, in and around which so much American history has been made, the members of the American Historical association assembled today for their annual meeting. Various papers of interest to students of American history will be read at the meeting.

The object of the association is the promotion of historical studies. The president of the association is George B. Adams, professor of history in Yale university.

Tossed and Killed by a Bull.
Rockville, Conn., Dec. 29.—Horace S. Lyman, a farmer, was tossed and killed by a bull which turned on him and trampled on him.

Weather Probabilities.
Snow; moderate temperature; variable winds.

SISTERS ON TRIAL

Charged With Compassing the Death of Captain Erb.

PLEA OF "NOT GUILTY" BY EACH

Victim of Shooting Was Militia Officer, Republican Politician and Intimate Friend of Late Senator Quay.

Media, Pa., Dec. 29.—In a crowded courtroom here today the unusual spectacle was presented of two sisters called upon to plead to the charge of compassing the death of the husband of the one and the brother-in-law of the other. Both of the women pleaded not guilty.

Owing to the prominence of the victim in the case, Captain J. Clayton Erb, who was a well known politician, national guardsman, intimate friend of the late Senator Quay and lieutenant to Israel W. Durham, the Republican leader, interest throughout Pennsylvania is focused on the trial. One of the defendants in the case is Mrs. Florence Erb, and the other is her sister, Mrs. Catherine Beisel. They are each charged with voluntary and in-



MRS. J. CLAYTON ERB.

voluntary manslaughter, the charges growing out of the death by shooting on Oct. 6 of Captain Erb at his country home, Red Gables, at Village Green, Delaware county. Media is the county seat of Delaware county.

It is charged by the prosecution that Captain Erb was shot by Mrs. Beisel after a bitter family quarrel at Red Gables following a long series of domestic dissensions. Captain Erb had forbidden his sister-in-law to visit the house, but she was admitted by Mrs. Erb. Returning to his home unexpectedly, Captain Erb found his sister-in-law there and ordered her from the house. A quarrel and the shooting followed. The charge against Mrs. Erb is that of being an accessory to the shooting.

Mrs. Beisel's plea is self defense, and Mrs. Erb denies any complicity in the shooting. Servants will be called upon to testify to the relations of the deceased and the two defendants and to the occurrences on the day of the shooting.

TRAIN WRECKER CONFESSES.

Negro Placed Spikes and Piled Cross Ties on Rails.

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 29.—West Grubb, a negro, arrested for attempting to wreck passenger trains on the Norfolk and Western road on three different occasions within the past three weeks, confessed today.

Grubb told how he had placed spikes on the rails on two other nights and returned a fourth time to wreck the same train, the Chattanooga and Washington limited.

Grubb said he tried to destroy the trains because of a grudge he held against a section foreman on the road.

Sentenced For Smuggling Chinese.
Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 29.—Salvador Armenta, Ygnacio Barrios and Francisco Charves, convicted of smuggling Chinese into this country from Mexico, were sentenced to nine months' imprisonment.

Boy of Seventeen Hangs Himself.
Wellsville, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Warren Metcalf, a seventeen-year-old boy, committed suicide by hanging here because he failed in his studies.

NOTABLE ATHLETIC MEET.

Assemblage of Stars For Contests at Pittsburg Today and Tonight.

Pittsburg, Dec. 29.—Some of the best men in the world on the track and with the weights are gathered here today to take part in the athletic events to be contested in the Exposition rink this afternoon and evening. It is asserted by the managers of the meet that never before has there been seen in the United States so great an assemblage of athletes with records.

Heading the list are Martin Sheridan, the world's all round champion; Melvin Sheppard, best of all runners in both the half mile and mile; Eddie Cook, who is second only to Sheridan as an all round athlete and was Olympic champion in the pole vault. Harry A. Porter, another entry, is the winner of this event at the Olympic games in London and in the recent indoor championship meet in Madison Square Garden, in New York city. Bobby Cloughan, the United States indoor champion sprinter, will also compete in a handicap affair. Others of national reputation appearing at the meet are Claud Allen, the best pole vaulter in the city of New York; Harry Hillman, one of the best quarter milers this country ever saw; Branham, the western flier, who is considered by authorities as one of the "fastest sprinters at 50, 100 and 220 yards in the United States, and Moore, the ex-Princeton pole vaulter.

One of the principal events of the meet this afternoon will be a fifteen mile Marathon race. The participants will run the last few miles inside the Exposition rink in order that the spectators may witness the finish.

BURGLARS DEFEY CAPTURE.

No Clue to Men Who Got \$35,000 From Jeweler's Store.

New York, Dec. 29.—The burglars who blew open the safe in Oscar C. Jackle's jewelry store and escaped with \$35,000 in money and jewelry have got clear away, and the police have no clue.

It evidently required several hours for the thieves to carry out their plans, but in that time they were not molested by the police and worked at the safe, which stood in the middle of the store, plainly visible from the street.

In the safe the men found \$30,000 worth of jewelry, all of it in small articles and no piece worth more than \$350. This they packed away in suit cases which belonged to the store and also took along \$5,000 in cash.

The stolen jewelry consists of watches, brooches, rings, fobs, chains and a suit case packed with silverware.

NIGHT RIDERS SWEAR ALIBI.

All Defendants Go on the Stand and Deny Their Guilt.

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 29.—When the trial of the eight Night Riders charged with the murder of Captain Quentin Rankin was resumed today the defense opened.

The state had completed its testimony and had rested. The defense first put Bud Morris and Sam Applewhite, defendants, on the stand. Both men denied any connection with the Night Riders and gave a circumstantial account of their whereabouts on the night of the murder of Captain Rankin.

Having laid the foundation for a complete alibi, each of the other defendants went on the stand and denied their guilt. They will be corroborated by members of their families.

CANADA WILL CO-OPERATE.

Dominion Will Accept Invitation of President Roosevelt to Conference.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 29.—The Canadian government will heartily co-operate with the United States in the plan proposed by President Roosevelt for an international conference for joint action for the conservation of the natural resources of North America.

The president's invitation to send representatives from Canada to the conference in Washington next February will be accepted, and the provinces of the Dominion which have jurisdiction over the timber, minerals and fisheries within their own borders will be asked to name representatives to accompany those appointed direct by the federal government as delegates to the conference.

MEAT TRUST PROBE AGAIN.

Federal Grand Jury in Chicago Hears Many Witnesses.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—The federal grand jury has begun the hearing of evidence in the investigation of the packing house industry.

District Attorney Sims, who was engaged the greater part of last week in arranging preliminaries, declined to say before going into the jury room whether the inquiry would be confined to the railroads and alleged rebating or whether it was directed chiefly to ascertain what combination, if any, existed in regard to the packing industry.

A Big Blaze.

The Plant of the Owanda Cut Glass Company, Inc., Destroyed.

Shortly before three o'clock on Sunday morning parties "watching" with the remains of a member of a family living on River street, directly over the Lackawaxen from the foot of Seventh street, discovered flames issuing from the northeast rear corner of the Owanda Cut Glass factory at the corner of 7th and Court streets. An alarm was given which soon brought out the different branches of the fire department, but before any effective work could be done, the fire, which had made considerable progress before it was first noticed, had gained such headway that the buildings were doomed, and but little could be accomplished in the way of saving their contents.

The factory occupied two originally distinct buildings which had been connected for the convenience of the glass cutting business. The frames occupied the larger of the two, a three story frame structure, and the steam heating plant, the acid dipping room and the packing and shipping department the other. It was in the corner where the steam boiler and furnace were located that the flames were first discovered; but the real origin of the fire is a mystery and is variously attributed to the furnace, electric wiring, and other possible causes. So far as known no person was in the building after Saturday afternoon, when everything appeared to be in proper condition.

The losses appear to be well nigh total, both to the Owanda Cut Glass Co., which conducted the business, and Geo. Rickert, who owned the building, having purchased it a few years ago of John A. Gale. The company's loss is estimated at \$10,000 on which there was insurance in J. Ben. Robinson's, Kraft & Conger's and W. P. Schenck's agencies amounting to \$6,500. Mr. Rickert figures his loss on the building at \$2,500. His insurance in Robinson's agency is \$2,000.

The Owanda Co. had recently finished a fine stock of expensive samples for the use of their traveling salesmen, and stored a large supply of blanks. The dwelling house of Mrs. S. A. Wilsea, located within a few feet of the burned factory, was thought at times to be in great danger, but by dint of hard work, aided by the coating of snow which covered the roof, escaped with slight damage. Directly across Court street from the fire, stands the ruins of "The Gale" boarding house, and when that structure was destroyed many articles of furniture, saved in a more or less damaged condition, were stored in the Owanda building. Fortunately they were removed a day or so before Sunday's blaze, or Mrs. Wood, their owner, would have been forced to face another loss.

The Owanda is an incorporated company, the stock of which is principally, if not entirely, owned by Charles E. Dodge, William H. Krantz, Frederick Leibig, Charles Cade and Henry Wagner. The books and papers were saved. The company first commenced manufacturing a few years ago on Spring street, but removed to their Court street location a few months ago, when the Herbeck-Demer Co., the former tenants, transferred their plant to the army building.

HYMENEAL.

A Christmas day wedding was solemnized at Glen Cottage, the residence of Reuben Lancaster, South Sterling, Dreher township, when his daughter, Mary Frances, was united in marriage to Allen Price Utt, of Scranton, Pa. The house was decorated with evergreens, palms and ferns and the bridal party entered the parlor to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, played by D. McLeod Cobb. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. H. N. Sebring, of LaAnna, Pa., an uncle of the groom. Miss Emma Bates, of South Sterling was maid of honor and A. H. Price, of Scranton, best man. The bride was attired in white silk and carried bridal roses and the maid of honor wore pink silk and carried pink carnations. After the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the dining room, where a dainty repast was served by girl friends of the bride. About seventy-five guests were present. The places represented were Scranton, Honesdale, LaAnna, Tobyhanna, Greentown and South Sterling, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Utt left for a ten days' wedding trip.

"DENNIS," inquired Mr. Hogan, glancing up over the door of the post-office building, "what is the meaning of them letters, 'MDCCCXCVIII'?"

"They mean 'eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.'"

"Dennis, don't it strike you that they are carrying this 'shpellin' reform entirely too far?"

A lot of Ladies' cloth capes to close out at MENNER & Co.'s at very low prices. 41e7