

# The Lower Coast Gazette.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE LOWER COAST: AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, FISHERIES AND COMMERCE.

VOLUME I.

POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, LA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1909.

NUMBER 2.

## FEAR OF STARVATION AND DISEASE ADDS TO HORROR

### Thousands of Bodies Lie in Ruins While Numbers of Hungry Survivors of Earthquake Throng Streets in Vain Search for Food.

Rome.—South Italy and the island of Sicily have been visited by an appalling calamity, the extent of which cannot yet be grasped. An earthquake Monday wrecked city after city and obliterated smaller towns and villages without number.

Then a tidal wave swept along the Strait 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 wounded men, women and children were burned to death.

The finest palaces, churches and theaters of Messina are heaps of ruins. Countless dead bodies are scattered through the wreckage and their decomposition will doubtless bring pestilence to add to the horrors of the situation.

The devastation over the entire district was more or less complete. No part of the province of Reggio di Calabria escaped. The disturbance was most severe along the shores of the Straits of Messina, where the cities of Messina and Reggio are situated.

Rome.—Telegrams from Gerace Marina state that a squadron of warships has bombarded all that remains of Messina in order to stop fires.

As mankind can do nothing against the work of nature, it only remains to raze Messina to the ground in which the bodies of the dead will be forever buried. So the place where Messina once stood will thus become a huge cemetery.

Rome.—Although graphic stories are coming into Rome of the horrors in Southern Italy and Sicily, these are but repetitions of individual tragedies already recorded. What chiefly concerns the government and people is the progress that is being made toward the relief of those who have suffered by the dreadful visitation. Considerable advance in this respect has been made at Messina, where, according to official reports received here, the supply service is beginning to work satisfactorily.

Signor Chimirri, a leading Calabrian deputy, in an interview advises the concentration of the injured at Naples and at Rome on the ground of the impossibility of accommodating them, as in 1905, near their own homes. It is the government's intention to remove all the survivors possible to the various ports of Italy.

As an instance of his quick grasp of the situation, the king, soon after his arrival at Messina, wired to Premier Gioiello: "Send ships and men; above all, send ships loaded with quicklime."

So far as has been possible quicklime is used on the dead; many bodies have been burned and other buried.

One feature of the disaster at Reggio is the large number of homeless children. In some cases little babies were found creeping about in the ruins, and it seems impossible to restore them to their parents, even if the parents were alive. A sailor who went ashore at Reggio relates that during his work of rescue he was attracted by a sound of infant voices. Looking under a fallen beam, he found twins about a year old in a basket.

In many cases survivors recovered consciousness to find themselves far away from the scene of the disaster. Large numbers of survivors have become insane. What has taken place at Reggio has been a repetition of the scenes at Messina, but the proportion of the population to perish at the former place is higher. Today the conditions at Reggio are worse than at Messina, owing to danger of epidemic from decomposing bodies.

It has been proposed in small villages where not a house remains standing to set the debris on fire as a means of purification.

Messina.—The city is absolutely destroyed. The spectacle is a terrifying one. The ruins are now the prey of roaring flames. A great conflagration broke out immediately after the earthquake and devoured all that the earth shocks had spared. Nearly the entire population is buried in the debris. The latest calculations place the total number of survivors at only 10,000. The dead at Messina alone reach the stupendous figures of nearly 100,000.

Help from the outer world is at last beginning to reach the stricken city. The British cruiser Sutlej steamed in Wednesday from Malta and was followed by the Russian battleships Slava and Czarewitch and the cruiser Admiral Makarouf. The officers and men of the two navies are giving every possible aid, yet their task is a fearful one.

Under the pelting rain, in open air, hospitals are being installed in what were once the streets of the town. The sights on every hand are so moving, so tragic, that it is almost impossible to describe them adequately. The utmost depths of anguish and suffering seem to have been sounded.

The entire garrison of Messina has perished in the ruins, and people who survive unhurt cannot escape from the vast smouldering tomb in which their kinsmen, wives, husbands, parents and children lie. The sea is closed to them from want of ships, and they are suffering the cruel extremities of hunger and thirst. Here and there they can be seen searching eagerly in the debris and universal ruin for some morsel to eat or for water to drink, but the heaps of dust and debris yield them nothing.

At every turn some lamentable scene meets the eyes. Men and women half naked and terribly injured are imploring relief. The hospitals and chemists' shops have disappeared, and there are neither drugs nor surgical instruments at hand.

In more than one town the shocks caused gas meters to explode, and disastrous fires resulted. The flames helped from time to time to swell the death list.

The configuration of the Straits of Messina has been materially altered. The tidal wave that completed the destructive work of the earthquake was thirty-two feet high.

### GRAPHIC STORY IS TOLD BY WOMAN REFUGEE.

Catania.—The following graphic story is told by a woman who arrived here from Messina Tuesday morning, badly injured:

"Infernal is the only word that will adequately describe the fearful and terrifying scene," she said. "When the first shock came, most of the city was fast asleep. I was awakened by the rocking of the house. Windows swayed and rattled, and crockery and glass crashed to the floor.

"The next moment I was violently thrown out of my bed to the floor. I was half stunned, but knew that the only thing to do was to make my way out doors.

"The streets were filled; everybody had rushed out in their night clothes, heedless of the rain, which was falling in torrents. Terrified shrieks arose from all sides, and we heard heartrending appeals for help from the unfortunate pinned beneath the ruins.

"Walls were tottering all around us, and not one of our little party expected to escape alive. My brothers and sisters were with me, and in a frenzy of terror we groped our way through the streets, holding our own against the panic-stricken people, clambering over piles of ruins until we finally reached a place of comparative safety.

"Well along the road we were jostled by scores of fleeing people, half-clad like ourselves. The houses seemed to be crashing into the crowd in whatever direction we turned.

"Suddenly the sea began to pour into the town. It seemed to me that this must mean the end of everything. The oncoming waters rolled in a huge wave, accompanied by a terrifying roar.

"Men and women prayed, groaned and shrieked. I saw one of the big buildings fronting on the square collapse. It seemed to me that scores of persons were buried beneath the ruins. Then I lost consciousness and I remember no more."

### QUEEN GOES WITH EMANUEL TO SCENE.

Rome.—Queen Helena has refused to allow her husband, the King, to go alone to the scene of the disaster. She said she would not give up her privilege of sharing her husband's dangers, and consequently both King and Queen left Rome this afternoon on a special train for the south.

The royal couple arrived earlier in the day from Naples. The Queen explained to a member of her entourage that she considered it her duty to do all in her power to comfort and help her afflicted subjects.

It was announced here this afternoon that the Pope will inaugurate the establishment of an international committee of Roman Catholics the world over, to assist the survivors of the catastrophe. The Pope heads the subscription list with \$200,000.

## PENSIONS BREAK ALL RECORD

### Names Added to Rolls.

Washington.—Expenditures by the United States last year for pensions broke all records since 1893, according to the report of James R. Garfield, secretary of the interior, made public Monday. To 1,005,053 pensioners there was paid \$155,894,049.63.

In consequence of the act of February 6, 1907, which extended the pension limit, the pension office has been besieged by an army of 413,133 applicants, of whom 338,341 succeeded in getting their names on the pay roll. Death wiped off 54,366 names and at the close of the year there were 951,687 dependent upon the government's bounty.

Only two names remain on the pension list as a sequel of the Revolutionary war. They are the two daughters of the sole Revolutionary widow, who died November 11, 1906. The last pensioned soldier of the war of 1812 died May 13, 1905, but the roll still contains the names of 471 "1812" widows.

## ARE LIVING AS JESUS WOULD

### 1,000 Young Clevelanders Have Undertaken the Task.

Cleveland, O.—For the next two weeks 11,000 young people of the city will endeavor to live as they believe Jesus would live were he on earth. Sunday night at Epworth Memorial Church 1,500 delegates from the Christian Endeavor Society and the Baptist Young People's Union gathered, and stirred by impassioned appeal by the Rev. W. B. Wallace, leader in the movement, pledged their services and their organizations to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

In his address Rev. Mr. Wallace pointed the way for the young people to follow. In making the experiment they must lead a joyous life. They will quit kicking and will go to work in a cheerful frame of mind. They will also endeavor to be honest in business. They may find this task rather hard, as one business man already has declared that his clerks, most of whom are members of one of the two societies, will be immediately fired if they try to keep their pledges around his establishment.

## EARTHQUAKE FOR THE SOUTH

### Prediction That Little Rock and Hot Springs Will Be Hit.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Geological researches indicate that portions of Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas will one day be visited by an earthquake more far-reaching in its area and more destructive in its effects than that from which Italy recently has suffered, according to Prof. Charles N. Gould, a member of the faculty of the Oklahoma State University and director of the State geological survey. He says that Tishomingo and Atkioia, Okla., Denison, Waco and Texarkana, Tex., and Little Rock and Hot Springs, Ark., will be in the center line of disturbances. Prof. Gould claims that the cause of the recent disturbance was the sliding of subterranean layers of rock accelerated by the tidal wave. He predicts that eventually a series of disturbances will bring the quake center beneath the central part of the United States and toward the South. He makes no prediction as to the date.

## BAPTIZED UNDER ICE.

### Cold Water of Lake Used to Wash Away Sins.

St. Joseph, Mich.—In the presence of 1,000 persons grouped on the snow and ice-clad shore of Lake Michigan, a class of Church of God converts were Sunday afternoon baptized by Rev. August F. Schmittz, head of the local church. Descending into the chilled water by means of a ladder, through a hole in the ice, ten persons, ranging in age from a small child to a frail woman 72 years old, were thus immersed. A cold, raw wind swept in from the lake. Clad in the robes of his church, the Rev. Schmittz solemnly led the religious procession across the ice to the open water a hundred feet from the shore, where the ceremony was to take place. After offering up a prayer he entered the water, which came up to his chest. Floating ice interfered somewhat with the rapidly with which the pastor apparently desired to work, but each candidate successfully entered the lake and quickly afterward scrambled out again. They were clad in ordinary clothing. Three of the women were barefooted.

## \$20,000 LID IN GEORGIA.

### Milledgeville Council Goes Limit on "Near Beer."

Atlanta, Ga.—News of the method adopted by Milledgeville, Ga., to remain dry reached here Sunday. The town council has just imposed a license of \$20,000 upon the sale of "near beer." The town has been experimenting with a \$10,000 license on locker clubs, and its unequalled success led to the "near beer" regulation.

## Monument for Confederates.

Washington.—A monument is to be erected to the Confederate prisoners of war buried at Green Lawn Cemetery, Indianapolis. The work is to be conducted under the war department. It is proposed to have this monument of marble or granite and bear the name, rank of other than a private, company and regiment of 1,620 soldiers, together with an appropriate description setting forth the resting place of the officers and men of the Confederate forces who died as prisoners of war at Camp Morton, Indiana, between 1862 and 1865.

## SCORE OF OWN LAID LOW.

### Immensity of the Disaster Can Hardly Be Estimated.

Rome.—The immensity of the disaster in Southern Italy and Sicily can only be measured by the fact that it is now estimated that 110,000 people perished in Messina and Reggio alone. A score of other towns have been devastated and thousands of victims in these places must be added to the roll. In the face of these awful totals Italy stands appalled.

## LATEST NEWS IN LOUISIANA

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### More Stringent Oil Inspection Regulations and New Health Rules Are Adopted—Other State Events.

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## Electric Road Almost Complete.

Mandeville.—The electric railroad between Mandeville, Abita Springs and Covington is now completed almost to the corporate limits of Mandeville, and the pile driver has been put in position on Main street, only a thousand feet from the lake shore. Some piling will be driven there to bridge a small natural drain, and work will then be started on the slip for the boat landing.

## Shreveport is Dry.

Shreveport.—For the first time in more than a decade, even long before Shreveport was recognized as a city, there has not been a licensed saloon in Shreveport since 12 o'clock New Year's Eve. All of the saloon men, proprietors, bartenders, beer wagon drivers and brewery representatives do not look at the prohibition law in the same light. Some of them believe the law will be repealed before it has been in effect two years, while others seem to think a year's experience will cause it to be voted back.

## Cupid at Teachers' Institute.

Amite City.—A feature of the Tangipahoa Parish Teachers' Institute, now in session, has been the marriage of three of the enrolled teachers since the beginning of the institute. Monday Miss Goldie Holden was married to Arthur Story; Tuesday, Miss Quin, of the Roseland school, married L. M. Hendry, and Tuesday afternoon Miss Lydia Warner was wedded to Thomas Morrison.

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## FISCAL AGENTS CHOSEN.

### Board of Liquidation's Program Goes Through.

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## MRS. MILLER FREE.

Exonerated for Killing Husband on Plea of Self-Defense. Floyd.—Charley Miller, from Lake Village, Ark., who was working at the Oakes camp, six miles west of here, was shot Christmas night by his wife, and died from the effects of the wound early Saturday morning. Miller was taking Christmas and had imbibed freely, and was trying to cut his wife's throat with a razor when she pulled a 38-caliber pistol and fired the fatal shot. Mrs. Miller was exonerated by the coroner's jury; and will leave for her parents' home in Mississippi in a few days. She has two children, a boy and a girl.

## TO SUCCEED DAVEY.

### Special Election Called to Elect Congressman.

Baton Rouge.—Governor Sanders has issued his proclamation fixing February 19 as the day for the holding of the special election to elect a successor to Robert C. Davey, as congressman from the second congressional district comprising part of the parish of Orleans and the parishes of St. James, Jefferson, St. John and St. Charles. The executive committee of the Democratic party for the second district will name the date for the primary. There are understood to be two candidates, City Attorney Gilmore, of New Orleans, and Henry C. McCarthy, former private secretary to Congressman Davey.

## AFTER LABOR AGENTS.

### Planters and Business Men Unite to Check Raid.

Lecompte.—A mass meeting of the planters and business men of this town and vicinity was held at the town hall for the purpose of taking action against the labor agents who have been coming here and carrying away labor to Oklahoma and Mississippi. Resolutions were adopted prohibiting any labor agent from enticing labor to leave under strenuous penalties. Committees were appointed to keep watch at the railroad stations. A similar meeting producing similar results was held at Zachary, as well as other points.

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