

MOST APPALLING.

Disaster in Sicily Has Seldom if Ever Been Equaled.

Horror Added to Horror as Reports Come In.

HALF OF THEM DEAD

Other Half of the People in Eastern Sicily Weeping.

Wounded in Ruins Perish for Want of Aid.

NUMBER OF VICTIMS

Is Estimated From 100,000 Up to 200,000.

Ruined Cities Still Burning in Torrential Rain.

American Consul Cheney and Wife Among the Dead.

Rome, Dec. 30.—The details of one of the most appalling disasters recorded in the history of the world, are being unfolded in the dispatches coming in today from Calabria and Sicily. It is a story of indescribable horror and calamity. The earthquake of Monday morning wrought havoc and destruction that can not be estimated. Italy is stunned by a visitation described as the greatest disaster in the memory of living man. Yet the full measure of the catastrophe has not yet been taken. The calamity grows with the receipt of every fresh dispatch from the south. Calabria is dotted with small towns and villages and new localities are reporting almost hourly casualty lists that run from the hundreds into the thousands. It is still impossible to reach any accurate estimate of the dead, but the total number is placed anywhere between 100,000 and 150,000. In some quarters it is declared that the final number will be as high as 200,000 persons, one-half of the population of Calabria and eastern Sicily apparently has perished.

Countless thousands of wounded men, women and children, are lying in the ruins. It is impossible to succor all. Numberless wounded of the survivors who have made their way to other cities are being given but scant attention. The facilities for proper care even in the cities that did not suffer are inadequate. The devastated districts are still being visited by the survivors, starving and wandering aimlessly in the rain. The ruins are still burning. King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena arrived in Messina this morning. They both personally went to work to aid the injured. Their example has been a wonderful inspiration to the whole country. Every possible thing is being done to forward the work of relief, but the railroads into the afflicted sections have been put out of operation.

Bagnara, a town of 10,000 people, north of Reggio, is reported as annihilated. The entire population is said to have perished. Reggio, a city of 50,000 people, has been practically demolished. The detailed stories of the refugees only add horror upon horror to the calamities of the fateful day.

Fresh earth shocks were experienced last night at Pizzo, in Calabria and Palermo, Sicily, last evening. They were not serious.

Cable Is Broken.

Rome, Dec. 30.—Cable communication with the Aeolian islands 25 miles north of Sicily is interrupted. It is evident that the line is broken, and it is feared that the islands also have been devastated.

The largest of the group is the island of Lipari and the capital town has a population of 12,000.

Consul Cheney Among the Dead.

Washington, Dec. 30.—A dispatch received at the state department today from American Consul General McIntyre confirms the reported death of Consul Cheney and his wife at Messina. The bodies, the dispatch says, have not been recovered.

Greatest Tragedy in History.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—The Tribune today under a Rome date says: The earthquake which has devastated the Italian departments of Calabria and Sicily has brought the greatest tragedy which ever has befallen the Christian world. Its measure cannot yet be calculated. In general terms that out of a population of 1,750,000 in the devastated area, at least 125,000 perished. Latest reports received here state that 4,000 soldiers in various barracks at Messina were buried under the ruins. This makes no account of a dozen towns near the center of the disturbance, whence no word comes and where there is only too good a reason to fear that there are no survivors to describe their fate.

The destruction of property cannot be as great as at San Francisco, for Messina and Reggio, the two principal cities destroyed, were not rich or magnificent from the metropolitan point of view.

As a great cataclysm of nature, however, this disaster is on a far vaster scale than the California phenomenon. The whole face of the country and the coast line have been altered. Even Sicily and Charybdis have changed the positions they have occupied since Aeneas fled from the city.

Merchants Are Worried.

New York, Dec. 30.—Impressed not only from humanitarian reasons by the earthquake in Italy, merchants and importers in this city who had relations with the stricken districts are greatly worried at their inability to get into communication with correspondents there. It is estimated that of the \$50,000,000 worth of merchandise imported to this country from Italy, at least ten million dollars worth came from the district now practically in ruins. Messina is a great depot for olive oil and wines and a great variety of food stuffs comes from Calabria. The effect on food will evidently be far-reaching. As far as can be ascertained no steam-

THE TOLD HAINS

Former Servants in the Household of the Captain

Testify Regarding the Tales They Bore to Him.

FROTHED AT MOUTH

When Informed That the Children Went Without Food.

A Brother Testifies That Peter Pulled His Own Hair.

Flushing, N. Y., Dec. 30.—Further testimony regarding the marital troubles of Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr., in the trial of Thornton J. Hains, his brother, was heard today. This testimony was by servants in the captain's home, and was brought out by the defense to show the mental condition of the army officer's mind, when he learned of the alleged happenings in his home.

Minnie Rohne, the cook of Captain Hains' household, was recalled to the stand. She said she made a mistake last night when she said she told Captain Hains the night of his return from the west of the happenings of the household, that it was two days later. The witness said she overheard at 2 o'clock Sunday two days following Captain Hains' return from the west, a confession of Mrs. Hains to her husband. The witness further declared that Mrs. Hains told her of a trip to New York last spring, Captain Hains, she testified, returned from when told of the New York trip to see a physician. He wrung his hands and cried, "It can't be true."

RUEF GETS 14 YEARS.

Execution of Sentence Checked by Notice of Appeal.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—Abraham Ruef, former political boss of San Francisco, has been sentenced to 14 years in the state penitentiary at San Quentin prison. Sentence was pronounced by Judge William P. Lawlor, who presided over Ruef's trial on the charge of bribing a member of the Schmitz board of supervisors in the award of an overhauled trolley franchise to the defendant with a conviction on December 10, was one of the most celebrated in the history of the city.

The sentence was pronounced at the close of a day devoted to a legal battle, wherein the defense sought to introduce many reasons for a new trial. When Judge Lawlor had denied this and other motions involving delay, the defendant arose at the court's command and stood unmoved through the recital of judgment and the reading of the part of the spectators during the proceedings in the court room nor later when Ruef, having secured a deputy sheriff, started on his long ride to the county jail. Before the adjournment of court notice of appeal was given and the defendant signed a writ of habeas corpus, which will act as a stay of execution in the case.

A large majority of the members-elect of the next legislature have already taken an interest in the guarantee deposit law, square dealers and machine men alike, but the bankers and their friends are excited because they would like to see the law and the restrictions thrown out of the window. The conservative and radical are a long ways apart at present and the difficulty of reaching a compromise.

Real estate men in many sections of the state are now embracing the Torrens system of land registration and transfer and such a measure is sure to come before the next legislature. The Wichita Real Estate Exchange is especially taking an active part in this campaign for a change in the land laws and is mailing out circulars dealing with the subject to all the real estate men in the state. The law is said to have proved a success in Illinois.

The New York Tribune is responsible for the following joke on Governor-elect Stubbs: "W. R. Stubbs, a leading Republican of Kansas, took his little son to Washington, recently, and visited the senate gallery with him. Rev. Edward Everett Hale especially interested the boy. Mr. Stubbs explained that Mr. Hale was the chaplain of the senate. 'Oh, he prays for the senate, doesn't he?' asked the lad. 'No,' replied Stubbs; 'he gets up and takes a look at the senate, and then prays for the country.'"

GOLD SHIPPED IN.

Precaution Against Possible Invasion of Pacific Coast.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 30.—According to a story printed in this morning's Examiner, \$225,000 in gold has been shipped from the mint to the mint at Denver since last August. It is said that the shipment was made as a measure of precaution against a possible invasion of the Pacific coast by a hostile power. The shipment of the treasure was the work of the United States Marshal Elliott, assisted by a number of Wells Fargo special messengers.

HAS \$50,000 FOR SICILY

Red Cross Appropriates That Amount From Frisco Surplus.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The executive committee of the American National Red Cross today decided that as the California relief work of the society will terminate tomorrow \$50,000 from the surplus fund for that work now in the hands of the Red Cross be appropriated for relief of the sufferers in southern Italy. This money will be transferred to the Italian Red Cross department direct to the Italian Red Cross at Rome. It also was decided to request the governors of all states aiding in the collection of funds for the Italians to have such contributions transmitted through the regular American Red Cross organization, either at Washington or in the states, as the only recognized national relief agency for the distribution of such funds.

BLIZZARD IN NORTH.

Mercury Down to Zero in Minnesota and Going Lower.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 30.—A severe blizzard is raging all over western Canada today. Traffic in every direction is at a standstill.

Fergus Falls, Minn., Dec. 30.—A fierce snow storm is raging here today and the air is so thick with snow that it is almost impossible to face the wind. The mercury is down to zero and going lower every hour.

A NEW YEAR'S PRESENT.

Sharon Springs Will Become Union Pacific Division.

Sharon Springs, Kan., Dec. 30.—The change which will make this city a division point on the Union Pacific railroad will take place on New Year's day of the day following. The new brick roundhouse, the new coal chutes and the machine shops are receiving finishing touches. Charles Hall, who has been with the Union Pacific at Cheyenne Wells for some years, will be the first foreman, and he is now here. Thirty-five machinists will be employed in the machine shops. The new improvements are bringing many people to this city, and while there are dozens of dwellings going up, the new comers are having difficulty in getting places to live.

COLD WAVE BEHIND TIME.

Switched Off and Swept Through the North.

The cold wave which was advertised for this part of the state for today did not come up with the blizzards sent out by the eastern weather bureau press agents. There was a decided drop in the temperature reading during the night, however, and the promise is made that there will be an even greater drop during the next 12 or 18 hours when the mercury will drop to somewhere near 14 degrees above the zero mark.

The storm was headed in this direction all right but went to the north of Kansas and at 7 o'clock this morning the blizzards from Minnesota drove in the throes of a genuine blizzard. The mercury was below zero and snow falling while a fifty mile an hour wind prevailed. It has gradually risen since that time and the sun has been shining, but in spite of all of this the wind has been cold and biting. Fair weather with a rising temperature and clearing may be expected for Thursday. The following were the temperatures since 7 o'clock this morning:

8 o'clock.....29	11 o'clock.....40
9 o'clock.....30	12 o'clock.....40
10 o'clock.....34	1 o'clock.....40
11 o'clock.....36	2 o'clock.....40

GUARANTY LAW FOR KANSAS ALL IMPORTANT TOPIC.

Governor Hoch Says Plank Saved Kansas to Republicans.

POINTS TO NEBRASKA.

Attributes Sheldon's Defeat to Silence on This Question.

TORRENS SYSTEM IS ATTRACTING MORE OR LESS ATTENTION.

A couple of representatives and two or three other visitors were present in the reception room of the governor's offices today and the conversation turned to guarantee of bank deposits with the result that many interesting observations were made on this all important question in Kansas policies. Both representatives had made a careful study of the proposition and they went on record as standing for a law that will guarantee deposits and make the bankers to the mark. A law that "will be fair to the bankers" might only allow these bankers to form a giant corporation and be very unfair to the people and the smaller state banks.

A strict and effective guarantee law in the state would not be until there are now eight hundred of these institutions in the state as against some three hundred national banks. A strict and effective guarantee law will affect the national banks to a greater degree than it will the state banks.

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EVIDENCE ALL IN.

Taking of Testimony in Rate Cases Is Concluded.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 30.—All the evidence in the Missouri river rate and passenger rate cases involving 18 railroads has been submitted today. The court said that each side would be given ample time to present its argument. It is likely that Attorney General Herbert S. Hadley will lead for the state.

POLITICAL GOSSIP

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Weather Indications.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Forecast for Kansas: Fair tonight and Thursday. Colder tonight and rising temperature Thursday.

NOT WHITEWASH ANYBODY.

That you will get at the bottom of facts.

The Kansas members include Professor Frank Blackmar, F. D. Coburn, Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, Dr. S. J. Crumline and Frank Gilday, state mine inspector. They left here this morning and reached the prison at noon. They will be joined there by the Oklahoma members, appointed by Governor Haskell. What plan of organization will be made will not be known until the joint committee meets.

The indications are that each committee will effect an organization and that the two will then effect a joint organization to hear the testimony. Whether they will seek to simply make one joint report, or whether each will make a separate report to its respective state is a question also.

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Former Lieutenant Governor Warren G. Harding of Ohio

Enters Contest for the Foraker Senatorial Seat.

MACHINE FOR TAFT.

Senior Senator Views the Situation Complacently.

CONTENT TO LET THE OTHERS FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES.

Columbus, O., Dec. 30.—The senatorial fight which is being waged here with Representative Theodore E. Burton, of Cleveland; Charles P. Taft, of Cincinnati, brother of the president-elect and Senator Joseph B. Foraker, as the central figures, is in many ways one of the most interesting political struggles the country has ever witnessed. The complexities of the situation are such as to cause the oldest of the political leaders to hesitate about predicting the outcome. Mr. Taft and Mr. Burton are doing the bulk of the fighting, while Senator Foraker is looking on with no small degree of satisfaction over the active hostilities between the two men who are opposing his re-election. Senator Foraker hopes the fighting will continue for some time yet and is opposed to a caucus of the Republican members of the legislature prior to January 12, when the first ballot for senator will be taken at the state house. Mr. Burton has also announced himself as opposed to a caucus at this time, but Mr. Taft and his adherents are still hopeful of bringing matters to an early issue before a binding conference of the Republican state senators and representatives.

IN BLIZZARD'S GRIP.

Entire United Kingdom Under a Mantle of Snow.

London, Dec. 30.—The whole of the United Kingdom is in the grip of a blizzard of exceptional violence especially Scotland and the north of Ireland. It has raged for the past several hours, accompanied by very low temperature and a driving wind that has completely disorganized the northern railway service and caused suspension of day to all street car lines.

Many towns are isolated and numerous accidents and deaths from exposure have been reported. There also have been several shipping casualties but fortunately these were not attended by serious loss of life.

London is suffering severely from several inches in depth while in Scotland in the north there are snow drifts several feet in depth which have blocked roads and railways. The Scotch express passenger service and the telegraph and telephone lines in all directions have been suspended and all outdoor labor has ceased. Farmers are suffering from the loss of live stock. The Scotch express bound for London is snowed up 12 miles from Aberdeen and the passengers were forced to spend the night there on board. The London express for Aberdeen also had a similar experience.

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