

20,000 PEOPLE DEAD, 70 TOWNS IN RUINS

Italian Catastrophe Grows More Awful With the Hours.

One Million Are Homeless—The Country's Geography Changed.

Rome Cable—Twenty thousand lives lost, thirty thousand persons injured, a million homeless and in need of relief, seventy-eight towns and villages wholly or partly destroyed, a territory 200 miles long and extending from the Adriatic to the Tyrrhenian Sea devastated, irreplaceable works of art ruined—this is measure of the catastrophe caused by the earthquake which held Central Italy in a merciless grip for thirty seconds yesterday morning.

As the hours go by and communication with the outlying districts is restored, appeals for aid from every section are pouring into Rome, and are being answered instantly by every means at the disposal of the Government, the people and the clergy. The King, the Pope and Premier Salandra are among the leaders in the great work of relief, and trains are being sent as fast as possible with doctors, nurses and supplies to every part of the shaken area.

The greatest damage done was at Avezzano, fifty miles east of Rome, which was totally destroyed, with a total loss of life of more than 8,000. In this district the scenes parallel those of Messina in 1908, when 78,000 persons perished.

SEVENTY TOWNS DESTROYED.

The Cabinet met this afternoon and adopted measures of relief on a large scale. Fifty thousand dollars has already been appropriated for the work, and more will be spent as needed. The military authorities have sent out 5,000 soldiers to prevent looting and to preserve order in the seventy towns which have been wholly or partially destroyed.

The opening of partial communication throughout the district from Ferrara, north of Bologna, to Naples, brings somewhat more reassuring news, but also gives the information that the track of the quake was greater than at first believed. The shaken area extends north and south a distance of more than 300 miles, and embraces central and part of southern Italy from coast to coast.

The Italian Red Cross has entered actively into the relief work with the assistance of the military and various agencies of Government.

With the meteorological institute, the army and the navy, the headquarters of the military and naval forces are at the disposal of the Government. A number of people rushed from their homes and a panic threatened when the police took a hand.

For a time it seemed likely that one of the effects of the catastrophe, because of its effect upon the minds of the people, would be a change in Italy's foreign policy. To-night, however, the statement is made unofficially at the Foreign Office that such an idea is preposterous.

THOUSANDS KILLED HERE.

Unquestionably the city of Avezzano has virtually ceased to exist. Of a population of nearly 14,000 persons, only 1,000 are known to have escaped entirely. The number of dead is placed at 8,200, but it is thought that this figure will be reduced as order is restored and accurate investigation of the casualties is made.

In this district of the province of the Abruzzi the destruction parallels the worst scenes of Messina. Hundreds upon hundreds of men, women and children were crushed to death by the walls of their dwellings, scores were swallowed into the earth, and many were killed in wild rushes for safety.

The dead in Avezzano include, it is reported, the sub-prefect and the members of his family, the whole staff of the prefecture, the Mayor and the members of the Municipal Council. Of the 100 soldiers in the local garrison there only a few escaped, and most of the police and Customs officials also perished.

One Avezzano refugee tells of hearing from the ruins of the College for Young Women a pitiful cry for help. As soon as possible it was given, and 140 women were found to be still alive, although many were badly hurt. The town is described as an immense cemetery, with dwelling houses serving as sepulchres for hundreds.

ROME PRACTICALLY ESCAPED.

In Rome itself the damage was not great. At first it seemed as if many must have been killed, but when the soldiers and police investigated it was found that not a single life had been lost, and this is in the face of the fact that the walls of many buildings fell, heavy objects were toppled into the streets, and panic-stricken throngs rushed wildly about for hours.

Naples was not badly disturbed, but still the tremor was perceptible there, as well as at Florence and to the north. In these two cities and in Rome much damage has been done to works of art and historic buildings. One hundred and fifty windows were cracked in the dome of St. Peter's here, the statue of the Redeemer was damaged, and the cupola was slightly cracked.

In the smaller towns, many of which possessed rare antiques and statuary, much harm has been done. The Madonna Diante in the Cathedral of Fermo is destroyed, and the Cathedral in Todi is in danger of falling. At Aquino the tower in honor of Cicero, who was born there, collapsed.

Towns reported totally destroyed—Avezzano, Frosinone, Cassino, Pignone, Terracina, Fondi, Ardea, Cerveteri, Ladispoli, Formello, Bracciano, Viterbo, Ferentino, Fregene, Minturno, Cervinara, Roccamare, and many others.

Poligna, Prezza, Roccapa, Pottorano, Anversa, Scano, Villaio, Capelle, Magliano, Marsa, Massafano, Collarome, Lelli, Paterno, San Felice, Giosamari, Scurolo, Castrella, Antronaris, San Benedetto, Ortocheco, Cocullo, Bisegna, Batorano, Fracati, Canistro, Civilladante, Castel Fiumi, Pagliotta, Sorbo, Tagliacozzo, Ovuedelli, Cappadocia, Santi Maria, Poggio, Filippo, San Donato, San Stefano, Rocacero, Carsoli, Peraoluco, Trasacco, Aquila, Pulmona, Poppe Penina, Isulaltri, Rignavo, Zagorolo, Ponzano, Mentana, Anguillara, Chieti, Ceccano, Sora, 450 killed and injured, minimum estimate: Tagliacozzo, San Maris, Frosinone, Belmonte, Castello, Alivito, San Donato Roccaecca, Mignano, Aielli, Scurolo, Arce.

The area shaken extends from Ferrara in the north to below Naples in the south, a distance of slightly more than 300 miles, from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Adriatic, taking in the districts of Tuscany, Latium Umbria, the Abruzzi, and part of the Campania. The quake rolled the waters of the Yellow Tiber, shook the crests of the "purple Apennines," and heaped up the sands on the eastern shores. Great waves rolled up in the Adriatic, giant trees careened violently in the mountains, and everywhere was pertinent evidence of a cataclysm of nature.

Perhaps the greatest loss of life was in the isolated districts of the province of the Abruzzi, where thousands of mountaineers live in lonely solitude, far from towns and villages. Communication under the most favorable conditions is wretched in that region, and at this season of the year when the hills are clad in snow, the difficulty of hearing from the sufferers is incalculable. The situation is rendered still worse by the fact that the geography of all Central and Southern Italy has been altered in 20 seconds so that the most astute geographers would scarcely know it. Where hollows once were declivities now stand, where hills reared there are valleys. Proud rocks have toppled down, rivers and streams have been put between the new banks, and new land has been created from hopeless morasses.

WOMEN IN DISTANT AREAS.

It is reported that there is every reason to believe that it is worse in the distant areas, where, it is reported, whole faces of the earth, with no trace left of any human being. It will take months, in all probability, to take full toll of the upheaval.

As telephone, telegraphic and traffic communications are gradually restored the tales of horror are rolling in upon the authorities here in such measure that even the most ardent relief activity can scarcely cope with the situation. It seems now that the effect of the shock in Rome, great though it was, was slight in comparison with the result in the province to the north, the east and the south. Naples felt the blow of the quake, and far to the north Florence and Bologna quivered in their turn.

In the district surrounding Sulmona, south-east of Aulla, there was extensive damage done, and numerous victims are reported. The towns of Popoli, Roccasassa, Ralano, Vittorio, Pentina, Partola, Polina, Prezza, Roccapa, Pottorano, Anversa and other places are in ruins. Scano sends word of 20 dead and many hurt, with the probability of the casualties increasing. Villano has been almost leveled and Frattura is scarcely in existence now.

In every town the lists of dead and injured are incomplete because there is no telling as yet how many men, women and children are lifeless beneath the wreckage. The work of relief is proceeding as speedily as possible, but it cannot cope with the actualities and will not be able to do so for many days.

CROWDED TRAIN MISSING.

A train which left Aquila yesterday morning just before the earth upturned had not been heard from. It was crowded with people going to Rome for the religious festivals, and it is feared a mountain slide may have crushed many of the passengers. Ragano, Zagarolo, Ponzano, Mentana and Anguillara are badly damaged. The hospital at Aquila was shaken down and a number of the helpless patients were buried in the ruins. Eight have been taken from the ruins so far. Most of the houses in Chieti collapsed and the barracks at Sulmona fell in, injuring a number of soldiers. St. Dominic's Church in Sulmona and the cathedral at Ceccano were wrecked and many dead and injured are believed to be still underneath, the rescue parties working frantically.

Efforts to send relief trains from Rome, Naples and other large cities have been impeded by the total destruction of parts of the road bed, tunnels and bridges. In a sense, the vastness of the happening has disorganized the rescue work, for the authorities scarcely know in which direction to turn.

A rescue train from Rome for Avezzano reached Tagliacozzo, nearby, despite the precarious going, and the members of the party are making their way forward on foot. Medicines and surgical treatment are the first imperative demands from some sections, while from others comes the cry for food. The crops have been

reaped and the planting has been cast up; the cattle have been killed and the harvests destroyed, so that those who have saved their lives sometimes despair of continued existence.

Avezzano has been shaken to the ground, and there are many dead and injured in Belmonte, Castello, Alivito, Sandonato, Roccaecca, Marone and Arce.

AVEZZANO DESTROYED.

The complete destruction of Avezzano, a city of 14,000 inhabitants, is confirmed in the latest information received. The city has been razed, all the public buildings have collapsed, and of the entire population there are only 800 survivors. The neighboring towns and villages suffered in proportion, and it is thought that 15,000 have been killed in that region alone. The number of bodies still in the ruins cannot be estimated. In almost every town the local authorities have been injured or killed and the work of rescue is rendered the more difficult because responsible heads to direct it are lacking until the men come from Rome.

SORA'S PLIGHT.

Sora, in the Province of Caserta, a town of 6,000 inhabitants, has been one of the severest sufferers. Four thousand persons are homeless and in distress there, and the casualties, on incomplete reports, are estimated at 500. Two-thirds of the houses are in ruins and many are damaged so that they will have to be razed.

In every quarter where the Government programme of constructing new buildings of concrete and steel has been adhered to the loss of life has not been possible to adopt modern methods, and hundreds have been buried in masses of ill put together stones and timbers. Most of the large factories in the stricken area are built according to recent ideas, and the loss to the creative industries will be small in proportion as a consequence.

In many of the big plants the employees had just gone to work when the shock came and drove all into the open. It will be many days before the machinery of manufacture is running smoothly again. In the region of Lago Fuscina (Avezzano) the wine makers have been thrown out of work temporarily and the same is the case with other industries.

TURKISH TERMS FOR PERSIANS

Will Leave Azerbaijan Province When Russians Do.

Meanwhile They Are Advancing to the Interior.

London, Cable—The Turkish

country, according to a news despatch from Teheran to the Reuters Telegram Company. The message follows:

It is reported that the Turks who occupied Tabriz, in Azerbaijan province, a few days ago, shot the Persian Governors of the towns of Soujbouk, Maragha and Burat, through which they passed in making their way to Tabriz.

The small Turkish force, which went into Tabriz is now moving in the direction of Isfahan, in Central Persia, 200 miles south of Teheran. It is supported by other Turkish contingents.

OFFER TERMS TO PERSIA.

A cable to Teheran, Persia, via London Cable, says—The Turkish Ambassador here has notified the Persian Government that the Porte is ready to evacuate the province of Azerbaijan as soon as the Russians definitely move out of this territory, and after the heir to the throne reaches Tabriz, to assume control. The heir to the throne is to leave Teheran for Tabriz in a few days.

Turkey's note to Persia is a reply to a Persian ultimatum recently forwarded to Constantinople, demanding that Turkish invading forces withdraw from Persian territory. It is in accordance with Persia's announced intention of maintaining her neutrality in the war.

Several towns in the province of Azerbaijan have been occupied by Ottoman troops in the present Turkish campaign in northwestern Persia against the Russians. On Wednesday Tabriz, the capital of the province, was occupied by the Turks, following the evacuation of the town by a Russian force, which had garrisoned it.

GERMAN CONTROL

Of Austria-Hungary Shown by Choice of Burian.

London, Cable—The Mail's Venice correspondent telegraphs:

"The choice of Baron Burian as Count Von Berchtold's successor indicates that Germany is supreme in Austria-Hungary, and this may explain why Count Tiziano was regarded as the probable successor to the post and the only man of the empire capable of supporting Austro-Hungarian rights against the Kaiser, was not chosen."

A despatch from Geneva says Swiss banks are receiving large sums of money on deposit from members of the Hapsburg family and from the Austrian aristocracy. This bank also received orders to buy shares in British and American concerns. Recently one Austrian archduke sold a large estate in the Tyrol at virtually half its value for cash.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Montclair, N. J., Report—James Hutchins, of Pittsburg, shot and mortally wounded his wife, Ida, then blew out his own brains, early to-day. He had followed her from Pittsburg, where she rejoined him a month ago after a reconciliation, having notified her, it was said, that he was coming to kill her because she refused to live with him.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Rev. R. M. Benson, Founder of the Cowley Fathers, Dead in England.

CANADIAN KILLED

Record Registration This Year at Queen's University, Kingston.

Manitoba Legislature will convene on Feb. 2.

United States Secretary Bryan acknowledged the receipt of Sir Edward Grey's first reply.

Ex-Mayor Taylor was elected Mayor of Vancouver by a majority of 674 over his nearest opponent.

Peter Dempsey, eight years of age, was fatally hurt when trying to get a ride on a lorry in London.

George Carr, a veteran railwayman from Brockville, dropped dead at the home of his son, in Toronto.

It is probable that all war scenes will be banished from moving picture films displayed in Toronto.

One million dollars' worth of dyestuffs from Germany was the cargo of the steamer Matanzas, which arrived at New York Thursday night from Rotterdam.

Queen's University has a record registration of 1,949, and an actual attendance equal to last year's.

Mr. A. J. Russell Snow, K. C., is now registrar of aliens at Toronto, Judge Coatsworth having resigned.

The Russian Slovo, Berlin, reports that a serious economic crisis has arisen in Japan. The price of rice has risen 50 per cent.

The Government has commuted the sentence in the case of Mariano Montari, who was to have been hanged in Vancouver for murder.

Dr. Forbes Godfrey, M. P. P., protested against the retention of Dean Fernow of the faculty of forestry on the University staff.

That Rev. Mr. G. G. G., an eight-year-old child, was seriously injured by a stray bullet from target practice in the basement of Kent School, Toronto.

The Rev. Richard Meux Benson, founder and first superior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, commonly called the Cowley Fathers, died Thursday at Oxford.

Manitoba and Ontario are in a deadlock over the Government's action in closing the bars earlier.

News has been received in London that Lionel Mackinder, a favorite comedian with London audiences, had been killed at the front. He had appeared with success in many plays at the Gaiety Theatre.

Fire Wednesday afternoon destroyed a double tenement on Bishop street south, Alexandria, Ont., occupied by the families of Peter Robinson and Jos. St. John, causing the death of Rochon's eight-month-old baby, who was asleep in his cradle upstairs.

Traffic was held up on the T. & N. O. Railway for several hours Thursday due to a freight wreck near Uno Park. Five cars were thrown in the ditch. Both the southbound and northbound express trains were delayed as a result.

CAN HOME FRUIT

Niagara Growers Urge Canadians to Be Patriotic.

St. Catharines Report—At the annual meeting of the Niagara Peninsula United Fruit Growers' Association at Grimsby this afternoon it was shown in the report of retiring President Brown that the membership had decreased 100 since 1912. It was decided to hold a series of open-air meetings in the district to stimulate interest in the association. The President's report recommended the growing of fruit to a larger extent, and advised householders to can greater quantities of home-grown fruit instead of purchasing imported fruits later from the south, thus practicing true Canadian spirit and adding to the strength of the Empire.

The question of losses in transit of shipment was taken up, and growers were advised to send specific cases to the Railway Commission at Ottawa. The association decided to hold a banquet this year, devoting the funds instead to patriotic purposes.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Robt. H. Dewar, Fruitland; Vice-Presidents, J. H. Broderick of St. Catharines, H. Fleming, of Grimsby, S. H. Rittenhouse of Jordan Harbor and D. Allan of Grimsby; Secretary-Treasurer, Carl E. Fisher, St. Catharines, and a large board of directors.

PROBING FLOUR PRICES.

Chicago Report—Members of the Board of Trade, millers, grain dealers, speculators and elevator operators will be questioned in the Federal investigation into the prevailing high prices for flour and wheat, Charles F. Chase, United States District Attorney, announced to-day.

The inquiry, which was temporarily halted, was resumed to-day. The threatened advances in the price of bread was among the subjects taken up by the district attorney.

FEAR FAMINE

Germany is Becoming Alarmed at the Outlook.

London, Cable—The Daily News correspondent at Copenhagen telegraphs: All the German papers without exception have suddenly awakened to the seriousness of the food question. Under the heading "Mobilizing the housewives," the "Deutsche Tages Zeitung," among others, calls attention to the increasing economic difficulties. The National Women's Service in Berlin is taking special measures to instruct housewives in economy in the kitchen.

On Tuesday in huge meetings were held in Berlin to impress upon housewives the seriousness of the situation and their responsibilities in the matter. At the same time, the University of the commercial high school, the Prussian Diet, the patent office, the Charlottenburg city hall, and the public schools were insufficient to accommodate the enormous crowd of women anxious to be instructed in a way to face the coming terrors in the home. Famous professors and society ladies spoke on the coming dangers, and gave advice and recipes for meatless soups and foods were announced from the platform.

Many public appeals to housewives in German papers have created a feeling of alarm. It is realized that the authorities are not hiding the fact that the pinch is beginning to be felt. The mobilizing of housewives for economic instructions will continue daily.

THE U. S. NOTE AND THE DACIA

London Papers Discuss Points of Friction With America.

Opinion Differs in the Case of the Latter.

London Cable—The Times, in an editorial to-day, thinks that the Government has no reason, on the whole, to be dissatisfied with the impression made in the United States by the interim reply made by Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, to the note from the United States regarding British interference with American shipping.

"But looking at the many influences at work," it adds, "and the fact that on questions of foreign policy the whole American public may generally be counted upon to support the President, without distinction of party, the situation still demands prompt and straightforward treatment, and that the discussions between the two Governments be confined to essentials."

"Among these problems the question of manifest on the American side is clearly a matter capable of improvement, and, similarly, the perfecting of arrangements with neutral countries to prevent the re-exportation of contraband is emphatically within Great Britain's province. If these essential matters are satisfactorily adjusted, not much would be left of any difficulty over contraband between the two countries."

The Times also discusses the transfer of the German steamship Dacia to American ownership, and declares there can be but one solution, namely, if she sails, she must be stopped, and the novel points of international law which she threatens to raise must be brought to a definite decision.

The Daily Graphic similarly declares that the only course open to the British Government will be to arrest the Dacia, and test the validity of her transfer in the Admiralty Court.

The Adly News editorially takes a different view, and contends that article 35 of the Declaration of London is so vague that it is impossible to predict how a British prize court might interpret it.

It proceeds to argue the question raised by the Dacia as rather one of expediency for the United States Government. It says that it is impossible that such ships, purchased by the Americans, should ever become converted into German cruisers. If they were, besides precipitating a nice quarrel between Germany and America, they would be shut up in German instead of American harbors.

The question of the purchase price reaching Germany is not of great account, according to the Daily News. In fact, it says, it might be urged that, of all ways of raising credit in America one of the most convenient to the British would be the sailing of German ships. The whole world, it declares, is suffering from a famine of tonnage and anything which brings more ships into activity is a relief from the terrible exploitation of the shipping rings and a State-owned American line, charging reasonable freight rates, might be a very considerable relief.

THE END IN SIGHT

French Expert Sees in Battle Germany's Final Victory.

Paris, Cable—The Journal des Debats registers its opinion that hostilities are rapidly emerging from a "guerre de siege" to a new phase of semi-independent and furious battles between heavy masses on narrow fronts.

"This," says the newspaper critic, "is the consequence of the successful French offensive against various minor points. As the recent fighting north of Soissons shows, the Germans perceive, from the line of territory reoccupied, our main objectives, and immediately counter with heavy reinforcements, which are sufficient to block the French advance, if not to regain the lost positions. To continue their movement the French must also reinforce."

"Thus I foresee a series of battles of extreme bloodiness and desperation, owing to the narrowness of the front, wherein victory will rest with the side most enduring and able to bring up the greatest numbers. Surely the Russian successes, coupled with the improvement of our reserves and the approaching utilization of the new British armies, ought to ensure the final supremacy of the allies. The new phase brings the end of the war into sight."

SECOND FORCE WELL TRAINED

Toronto Ex. Camp Soldiers Nearly Ready for the Front.

Major-Gen. Leonard to Be Quarantined To-night.

Toronto Report—Details of the training given the men for overseas are contained in a report submitted by Major H. S. Bickford, G. S. O., to the officer commanding, the report, after covering the various branches of the work carried on by the troops, concluding with the following words: "Presently the troops under training here should be able to take their places in the firing line, confident of themselves, and with the assurance that they will be a credit to Canada."

The men undergo instruction for at least six and a half hours each day, the day commencing as a rule with physical drill for both officers and men. Musketry instruction occupied a large part of the time of all units, the men first learning care of arms, and the different parts of the rifle, and following this with aiming on tripods, and lecture on fire control. After this theoretical work they are given practice at the indoor miniature range, and later at the short range, situated in the grounds near the lake where machine gun practice is also carried on.

Bayonet fighting is also receiving great attention, in addition to the drill movements, the men being given practice with spring bayonets, masks and padded jackets. Both infantry battalions are quite efficient in the use of the bayonet.

The report deals with the question of discipline, it being stated that the necessity for this has been most strongly impressed on all ranks, as it is now generally recognized that no troops will be allowed at the front until discipline is fully established. While a little weeding out was necessary in establishing the present satisfactory state of discipline, the report declares that this weeding out had a decided strengthening effect on the remainder, and the spirit of officers and men is excellent.

The attack exercises and tactical schemes are also referred to, and it is stated that night operations will be undertaken at a future date.

The officers of the 2nd Canadian expeditionary force are tendering a banquet to Major-General F. L. Leonard to-night at the King Edward Hotel, the banquet being on the occasion of his relinquishing the command of the second divisional area.

NO SHORTAGE

Mervey a Precaution.

New York, Report—A cable from London to the Tribune says:

Despite the great emphasis placed on the shortage of copper in Germany, it was asserted to-day by an American, who had just returned to London after more than a month, that there is absolutely no copper famine now facing Germany. To the contrary, he asserted that it was the German forecast for such a possible contingency which is bringing about the confiscation of copper objects in Belgium. He said:

"In a number of Belgian cities it is now positive that door knobs, chandeliers and bronze fixtures of all kinds have been confiscated. This is particularly so regarding Antwerp, where I personally saw doors from which knobs had been removed, and places where bronze gates had been commandeered. Germany is taking no chances of losing any copper she can get, but it is more in the nature of creating an enormous reserve."

"From what knowledge I could gain from authoritative sources, she is acting just the same regarding the conservation of foodstuffs. She intends creating reserves of foodstuffs, and the allies are leaving nothing undone to starve out Germany, and the Germans, just as determined, are making such a contingency impossible."

LEVY EXCHANGE

Detroit Banks Will Make Charge On Canadian Bills.

Detroit Report—Upon the recommendation of a committee appointed by the Detroit Clearing House Association to investigate the matter of Canadian exchange, representatives of Detroit banks voted at a meeting held yesterday afternoon to recommend that the rate prevailing against United States currency in Canadian cities, shall also be charged by Detroit banks. While the action is not binding on all banks that are members of the Clearing House, it is thought that the recommendation will be generally observed.

Detroit bankers feel compelled to charge for exchange because of similar action on the part of Canadian bankers. While the Canadian correspondents of some of the Detroit banks have not as yet been charging exchange, the practice is considered certain to become universal with all banks in Canada. Detroit bankers profess to believe that the arrangements will be of a very temporary nature, but as long as it continues in Canada, Detroit banks will charge the same as do the banking houses in the Dominion.

The action is unprecedented, and will result in driving Canadian bills out of circulation in Detroit, says the banker. It is not thought that the rate will effect the circulation of Canadian coin. The rate has been considerably higher, being down to 100 yesterday, after having