

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

ITALY'S KING REPORTS SITUATION NEARING NORMAL.

American Ambassador Wires Secretary Root, Presenting a Feasible Proposition of Meeting the Emergency in Italy.

Having done all that it was possible to do in the districts laid waste by the earthquake, the king and queen of Italy have returned to Rome. They passed four days among the ruins of Sicily and Calabria, the king directing the work of rescue and relief and the queen ministering to the injured. There is a feeling of relief in Italy that their majesties have returned.

The American ambassador, Lloyd C. Griscom, has appointed a committee of Americans to which will be entrusted the work of utilizing the money received from the United States to the best advantage of the earthquake sufferers.

Both at Messina and Reggio the guards are having difficulty in protecting the survivors and the vast treasury in these ruined buildings from the hands of thieves that are swarming everywhere. It is reported that six Russian sailors have been shot by lookers at Messina and that sixteen criminals have been killed at the same place within the last twenty-four hours. Six hundred persons engaged in pillaging have been arrested. In an engagement at Reggio between the police and bandits two of the police were killed.

Reports still reach Rome of the continuance of earth shocks, some sufficient to do further great damage.

According to these reports new shocks Saturday at Pellaro precipitated the entire population into the sea, including both the dead and the living victims of the first quake.

At Reggio the people are becoming more calm, and aid to that city is now being systematically forwarded. Military zones have been established throughout Calabria.

101 RANCH SHOW ROBBERED.

Safe Blown on Circus Train and \$15,000 Secured.

Undue haste to purchase a ticket to Chicago and the nervousness displayed by E. J. Berk, who gave St. Louis as his home, led to his arrest at Fort Worth, Tex., and to the discovery that the safe aboard a train conveying a wild west circus (known as the 101 Ranch) to Fort Worth had been blown during the night and robbed of \$15,000.

When asked to explain the possession of \$750 in silver coin, which he carried in a leather satchel, the man, formerly an attaché of the circus, told of the robbery, declaring that he had been made the tool of a professional safe blower who had escaped with the rest of the money. The robbery occurred as the train was nearing Fort Worth, and so quietly was the work performed that the circus proprietor knew nothing of the occurrence until told by the police of the arrest and statement of Berk. The police declare others are implicated, and other arrests will follow.

CHINESE ALLEGE CRUELTY.

Soldiers at Puget Sound Said to Have Mutilated Them.

Alleging that their race is being made the victim of unprovoked and brutal assaults at the hands of soldiers from the artillery forts of the Puget sound district, Chinese merchants and prominent members of the celestial colony at Port Townsend, Wash., have petitioned the Chinese consul general at San Francisco for relief. It is alleged that the war department officials be advised that a serious situation exists and that murder may result.

Finch Sentenced to Hang.

Judge Bronaugh, of the state circuit court at Portland, Ore., sentenced Jas. A. Finch, convicted of the murder of Ralph B. Fisher, late prosecutor for the Oregon Bar association, to be hanged February 5. Finch displayed little emotion while the sentence was being pronounced.

Milwaukee's Coast Extension.

Preliminary steps have been taken in New York toward the capitalization of the Pacific coast extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad company, which will provide for a total bonded debt of \$200,000,000, covering the extension, should that amount be found necessary.

Shoots His Sister's Betrayer.

With the accusation that he was responsible for his sister's downfall, and that he had abducted her from the Door of Hope, where she was sent to escape his wife, William Mitchell, of Los Angeles, Cal., an iron worker, shot and killed Cecil Trayer, a messenger, 19 years old.

Stoux City Live Stock Market.

Saturday's quotations on the Stoux City live stock market follow: Top beefs, \$5.50. Top hogs, \$5.85.

SCENES OF DEVASTATION.

Vivid Story Told by a Correspondent in Italy.

The special correspondent of the Paris Matin, who has just arrived at Messina after an adventurous journey on foot through the wasted Calabria region, sends a vivid story of the scenes of devastation. The dispatch was sent by special boat to Naples, from whence it was telegraphed to Paris.

"I arrived at last at Messina with my legs almost dropping off, after covering a distance of 67 kilometers (41 miles). My nerves will never recover from the atrocious impressions to which they were subjected, and my eyes will retain as long as they remain open the vision of death and destruction which oppressed them. A mournful silence covers the country like a funeral pall.

"I proceeded as far as Palmi by train, and thence afoot. Six or seven inhabitants accompanied me to Tropea, and I decided to reach Reggio at whatever cost. Two or three railroad firemen, cut off from home while at duty by the catastrophe, were returning to seek news of the fate of their families. They proceeded by brandishing resinous smoking torches. We proceeded Indian file through the tunnel from Palmi to Iagnara, holding hands and stumbling over ballast heaps. The roof of the tunnel was cracked everywhere and now and then rocks fell in the niches of the trackmen. Whole families were encamped around wood fires and smoking torches. Many of them were wounded. Men, women and children, tumbled by the catastrophe and crouching among the stones, looked at us with a vacant glare, as if their thoughts were wandering.

"Later we came upon families roasting sea birds which had been killed by the tempest and cast upon the beach. After two hours' march we saw Bagnaria, perched on the spur of a mountain overhanging the sea.

"The country house of the mayor on the summit of the rock was half tumbled into the sea, but the mayor was safe. He was giving orders for the installation of a telegraph wire in a freight car. How many dead? One thousand, 2,000, who knows?

"After eleven hours we had covered only 34 kilometers, every step at the cost of great exertion. Our clothes were soaked and the torches had burned out. At Scylla the whole countryside except the north was completely blotted out. The victims numbered between 150 and 1,000.

A PANIC AVERTED.

Cool Work of a Fireman Saves Many in a Theater Conflagration.

A fire broke out in the Park opera house at Erie, Pa., during the performance Friday night, but owing to the cool work of fireman Abraham Louch a panic was averted and all escaped.

Before the audience realized the situation, the house had been almost emptied. There were many narrow escapes and a dozen women fainted and had to be carried out, but no one was seriously injured and much of the building was saved from destruction. Every one of the 1,500 seats in the theater was occupied.

Louch saw smoke issuing from the floor of the gallery and sent in a still alarm. He reached the rear of the stage before the audience was advised of the danger, and speaking just loud enough for the actors to hear appealed to them to continue. Then he stepped to the front, asked the auditors to retire, giving them to understand that the fire was in an adjoining structure. No one tried to crowd until the smoke began to fill the building. Then a crush began. The department saved scores from jumping from the third story fire escapes by getting ladders up.

SEE A BURNING CRATER.

Phenomenon of Volcanic Nature Located in West Virginia.

Great anxiety is being shown by the inhabitants of Green bank, W. Va., over the steadily increasing appearance of a burning crater of seemingly volcanic nature on the side of a neighboring mountain.

Flames are distinctly visible at intervals, accompanied by rumbling noises as from internal disturbances. The air in the vicinity is strong with sulphur fumes. The area of the molten mass has spread until it now covers some fifty square yards.

Prof. Hough Dead.

George Washington Hough, professor of astronomy at Northwestern university and director of the Dearborn observatory, died suddenly at his home in Evanston, a suburb of Chicago. Prof. Hough, who was 72 years old, was one of the leading astronomers of the country.

To Convoke Cuban Congress.

As a result of a conference between Gov. Magood and Alfredo Zayas, vice president-elect, it was decided that Gov. Magoon should shortly issue a decree convoke the Cuban congress for January 12.

Canada's Contribution.

The Canadian government has granted \$100,000 for the sufferers of the earthquake. This will be supplemented by generous contributions from unofficial sources.

Gov. Hoch Issues an Appeal.

Gov. Hoch, of Kansas, has issued an appeal in the names of the state Red Cross society, of which he is president, for relief funds for the earthquake sufferers.

DEATH ROLL GROWS.

110,000 Perish at Messina and Reggio Alone.

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, all Italy stands appalled.

King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Elena were in Messina Wednesday. The king explored the ruins regardless of the danger to which he exposed himself. He was often moved to tears at the heartrending scenes he came upon at every turn. The king was loud in his praise of the splendid work accomplished by the Italian, Russian and English bluejackets, who saved many persons who otherwise would have inevitably perished. The queen spent the day in the wards of improvised hospitals visiting the wounded, many of whom have lost all that was dear to them. Her majesty did her best to cheer them with kindly words of consolation, often breaking into sobs as she listened to their dreadful tales of suffering. The king left for Reggio Wednesday night.

Catania, the largest city nearest to the scene of the disaster, is crowded with refugees, and the continuous stream of fugitives coming in, the sight of the wounded and repetition of real or imaginary quakes have so alarmed the population that they are becoming uncontrollable. There is no longer any place where the refugees may find shelter.

BIG CAR SIGN SWINDLE.

Fraud Order Issued Against Number of Companies.

The postmaster general at Washington, D. C., has issued a fraud order against Theo. Kharas and various movable car sign companies promoted by him, among them being the Omaha and Sioux City companies. The inspectors report Kharas has received probably at least \$50,000 from syndicates formed to promote movable street car signs, but that practically nothing has been done to put the device in operation, except at Alton, Ill. Kharas is charged with having falsely pretended to have patents and foreign rights he did not possess to induce investments in the enterprise. His one patent is declared of small value. Advertisements of his promotions stated his signs were in operation in street cars of Dayton, Muscatine, Clinton and Sioux City companies. The inspectors report none of the signs are used in the cities named.

Kharas is said to be chiefly interested now in promoting the Central Mobile Sign company, of Omaha, alleged to have millions of dollars capital, several officers of which are women stenographers and clerks in his office.

Since his arrest on an Omaha indictment Kharas is said to have admitted he was without financial backing and that he was once a magnetic healer. His companies are now barred from use of the mails.

MINE HORROR IN VIRGINIA.

Fifty Men Believed to Have Perished in Explosion.

The fatalities in the Lick branch mine at Emmit, W. Va., as the result of the explosion Tuesday probably will reach fifty. Twelve bodies have been taken out.

According to the mine foreman, there are thirty-eight men still in the mine, with little chance of recovery. The cause of the explosion is unknown. There is no excitement at the mine. Practically all the women and children of the victims are bearing their grief in silence at their homes.

To Preserve Its Forests.

A policy of managing its timber lands so that there will be a permanent growth of spruce timber was adopted by the board of directors of the International Paper company. The department in charge of the forests owned by the company was influenced to put into effect a plan of practical forestry.

Argues for Parole System.

As showing the success of the parole system in Canadian prisons it was announced by Inspector Archibald that since its inception nine years ago 2,000 prisoners, serving lengthy terms, secured their liberty and only thirty-nine of these went back to a life of crime.

Count Boni Loses Fight.

The petition of Count Boni de Castellane that the custody of his three sons be given to his mother was denied Wednesday at Paris. The court ruled the children remain in the custody of their mother, Princess de Sagan, and that they should not leave the continent without the count's permission.

Twenty-Five Men Held Up.

Two masked men held up twenty-five men in the outskirts of Tulsa, Okla., and secured about \$200 and a number of watches from them. Most of the victims were returning from the oil fields where they are employed.

Behands His Mother.

While in a fit of insanity, Arthur Trotter, 33 years old, killed his aged mother, Mrs. Ann Trotter, by behanding her with an ax and a knife, in her apartments in West Nineteenth street New York.

Supply Ship at Suez.

The American supply ship Culgoa, put in advance of the battleship fleet under Rear Admiral Sperry. The warships are expected January 2.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

EXPERTS TALK TO FARMERS.

Department Officials Discuss Good Roads and Agriculture.

An agriculture and good roads meeting of great importance was held at the court house in Tecumseh Wednesday afternoon, the attendance being good. The meetings, which are being held in each county of the first district, are under the auspices of Congressman E. M. Pollard, who has done a great work for the farming interests of his constituents in the national congress. Geo. T. Cook, of the National Good Roads congress spoke intelligently upon the subject of good roads and made some pertinent suggestions. George Zoake, of the national agricultural department spoke in an interesting and knowing way upon the subject of the improvement of grains. Some valuable advice was given the agriculturists.

Congressman Pollard outlined work along the lines suggested as advanced by the national department of agriculture. He informed his auditors that he had made arrangements for the coming into this district in the future of two expert plant men from Washington to work in connection with the local farmers in the improvements of grains. This without any expense to the county. He also said the department would send expert road engineers into counties, where they desired them to work in harmony with local road men in furthering that work. The congressman said it was the desire of the national officers to get in very close touch with the individual farmers and it would be greatly to the advantage of the latter when the harmony is completed. The work of Congressman Pollard has been of great benefit to the farmers and orchardists.

ELOPING COUPLE CAPTURED.

Man Given Jail Sentence and Girl Not Prosecuted.

After being pursued for nearly six months ex-City Electrician E. G. G'Fellers, of Hastings and his wife's niece, Miss Goldie Alexander, were found by the girl's mother in Grand Forks, N. D., last week and on the mother's complaint G'Fellers was sentenced to six months in the county jail. The girl was allowed to go free. It is understood that she will remain in Grand Forks or some North Dakota town until her lover finishes his sentence.

G'Fellers and Miss Alexander eloped in an automobile, while Mrs. Cecelia Alexander, the girl's mother, and Mrs. G'Fellers, who is Mrs. Alexander's sister, were attending the chautauqua. They went from here to Chapman and then boarded an eastbound Union Pacific train. G'Fellers left a note saying that he was going away and that he knew where Miss Goldie could be found. The authorities in Omaha were notified to watch eastbound trains, but they missed the couple. Mrs. Alexander at once instituted a search and traced the couple through several states. G'Fellers is 25 years old and Miss Alexander is 18.

Try to Hold Up Boy.

Two men driving a fagged-out team to a buggy tried to hold up William Linbeck's boy near Gibbon Wednesday. The boy was driving a horse hitched to a buggy. They ordered him to stop, but he whipped the horse to get away. One of the men fired at him. The men then whipped their horses into a run, going south towards Gibbon.

Huxtable Dies from Morphine.

Frank R. Huxtable, of Broken Bow, who swallowed an overdose of morphine with suicidal intent died from the effects after being worked with by physicians continually for ten hours. Disappointment over domestic affairs is supposed to have prompted him to kill himself.

Peculiar Accident at Geneva.

While alone in the postoffice at Geneva, Miss Addie Allen, one of the employes, came near having an ugly accident. She took hold of the telephone while the electric light wire was in her other hand, receiving a severe shock.

Beatrice Man Attempts Suicide.

Earl Fenlman, proprietor of the Elk restaurant at Beatrice, tried to end his life by shooting himself. Fenlman placed the revolver in his mouth and fired the bullet being deflected in such a way that it passed through his cheek.

Carbolic Acid for Medicine.

The 2-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Blair, of Aurora, died as the result of swallowing a dose of poison administered to it by its father under the impression that it was medicine.

Railroad Brakeman Killed.

O. W. Brandt, a brakeman on a southbound Burlington freight, was killed near the coal chute in the Burlington yards at Oakland shortly after 1 o'clock Tuesday afternoon while coupling cars.

Good Price for Land.

W. H. Brown sold seventy-six and one-half acres of land southeast of Arlington to B. H. J. Jungbluth, who resides nearby, for \$8,000, or better than \$100 per acre. There are no improvements upon the land except that it is fenced.

Young Farmer Dies Suddenly.

Winnard Wardlaw, a young farmer living near Pickrell, died suddenly in the barn at his home, where he was taken ill. Heart trouble was given as the cause.

OFFER OF NORMAL SCHOOL.

Wayne Willing to Donate Private Institution to the State.

The legislature is going to be asked to appropriate \$100,000 to purchase the property of the Nebraska Normal college at Wayne. The trustees of the college at a recent meeting decided to offer the property to the state. It is argued that northeast Nebraska has no state educational institution, and needs one.

Already the trustees are sending out circulars as follows: Wayne, Neb., Dec. 10, 1908.—Resolutions passed and signed by the board of trustees and president of Nebraska Normal college at a meeting held on above date in the office of J. T. Bressler, of Wayne:

Whereas, The Nebraska Normal college, of Wayne, Neb., has been in successful operation seven years and has a well equipped normal school plant, consisting of two recitation buildings, five dormitories, president's residence, central heating plant—all supplied with complete lines of appropriate apparatus—with a value of more than \$150,000 and could not be duplicated at present for that sum; and

Whereas, The trustees of said Nebraska college and educators of north Nebraska believe the educational interests of this section of the state would be advanced by establishing and maintaining a state normal school at Wayne, Neb.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the trustees and the president of the Nebraska Normal college tender to the state of Nebraska for \$100,000 the entire property of the college for the establishment and maintenance of a state normal school by the state.

This is second by President J. M. Fife and Trustees J. T. Bressler, H. C. Lay, S. R. Thibault, A. A. Welch, A. L. Tucker, H. P. Wilson, Dan Harrington, H. C. Henry and R. Hillard.

KIDNAP CRIPPLED SON.

Lincoln Father Then Commits Suicide and Dies in Ill Health.

Herman Weidburg, of Lincoln, a hack driver, 55 years old, killed his 15-year-old son, and then shot himself, dying almost instantly. The murdered child, who was a cripple, never having been able to walk, was taken with another brother. According to the story of the second son, the father came to the bed, lifted little Sidney out, placing him on the floor, and shot him twice through the heart. Satisfying himself that his boy was dead, the man turned the weapon on himself.

Weidburg has for some time been in poor health, and his condition lately became worse. He called a doctor, who gave him little encouragement. Brooding over his own ailment and that of the boy supposedly crippled, he acted as follows:

STRAIGHTEN ELKHORN RIVER.

Made Necessary by the Changes Made in Logan Creek. The plan of straightening the Elkhorn river by cutting channels across many of its numerous bends which has been talked of for a number of years by farmers owning lands adjoining it is likely to be realized. To accomplish this will require the co-operation of both Douglas and Sully counties and it is made practically necessary by the proposed straightening of Logan creek through Thurston, Bart and Adams counties. Logan creek is 165 miles in length, but if the cutoffs proposed by the federal government engineers are done it will be reduced to only about sixty miles, and during high water it will empty a larger flow into the Elkhorn than that crooked, snarl stream can carry. The plan proposed contemplates a new drainage district under the Knawels law.

BROKE THROUGH THE ICE.

H. T. Bowers Loses Life While Skating at Lincoln. Despite the efforts of his companion Miss Janet Ramsey, H. T. Bowers, 29 years of age, lost his life while skating at Lincoln park. He broke through the thin ice and drowned, more than a hundred skaters witnessing the tragedy.

Miss Ramsey screamed for help and at the same time skated out on the thin ice and attempted to reach Mr. Bowers with a branch that she had caught up. His body was recovered three-quarters of an hour after it sank. Bowers was prominent in society and his family is well known. His father being state secretary for the Gideons.

Death of West Point Woman.

Mrs. Amanda Herr, of West Point, is dead at an advanced age. She has been seriously ill for two years past with an incurable malady which terminated in a severe hemorrhage of the lungs, causing death. She leaves a husband and a family of grown children.

Escaped Prisoner Returns.

James B. Dawson, who was in an altercation with William Held at Millard last summer, in which Held was killed and who escaped from the county jail at Seward on the night of September 15, was returned to Seward county jail by Sheriff Gillan Thursday.

Man Dies at Police Station.

J. E. Forbes, who gave his residence as Council Bluffs, but about whom little is known, died at the police station in Omaha Saturday from heart failure brought on by chronic alcoholism.

Machinery for Light Plant.

The machinery for McCook's new electric light plant arrived last week on Wednesday. The new buildings are rapidly nearing completion.

Found for Diamond Thief.

Jutus Soudler of Grand Island, is awaiting trial at Hastings on the charge of larceny and forgery. He is accused of having stolen a diamond from the Sims jewelry store, while negotiating for its purchase with a forged check.

Poultry Show in Success.

The chicken and rabbit show which closed Saturday at St. Louis city, was a success in every way. There were over 200 entries and the attendance was very large.



Secretary W. R. Meador, of the state board of agriculture, has mailed out to members-elect of the legislature a statement of the needs of the state board and also what has been accomplished during the last few years at the state fair grounds in the way of permanent improvements, together with the appropriations made by the state legislatures. Among other things the statement says: There are three buildings which the state fair management cannot hope to erect on the state fair grounds without legislative help. They are a live stock pavilion such as other states enjoy; a steel and reinforced concrete grandstand to seat 10,000 people, and a mechanics hall. It is possible for the management to permanently erect, out of its profits from time to time, an agricultural hall, horticultural hall, industrial hall, poultry, bee and berry buildings, barns and such smaller structures which can be erected with less than \$20,000 to \$40,000 each, but it is entirely out of the question for the management to ever hope to erect a surplus necessary to erect any one of the first three mentioned structures. The appropriation to the state board of agriculture is but \$2,000 per annum and the printing of 5,000 reports at about 4,000 of which are distributed at our farmers' institutes and our own agency furnished by the state board of agriculture. This board, out of its funds, has also furnished pamphlets at its own expense for the promotion of the state board of agriculture, which has been used for all the early Nebraska promotion of the National Corn exposition at Omaha. This board has for years been an advertising agency for the promotion of the agricultural interests of Nebraska and in such capacity gives information to thousands outside as well as inside the state. It has initiated, fostered and proposed nearly every meritorious agricultural law on our statute books and its influence as a factor for Nebraska's public upbuilding has been without a peer.

The Commercial club of Alliance has appealed to the Interstate Commerce commission to compel the Burlington railroad to cease discriminating against that city in the matter of coal rates from Sheridan, Wyo. In its showing the Commercial club sets up that the rate from Sheridan to Alliance, 333 miles, on lump coal is \$3 a ton and other coal \$2.50; from Sheridan to Deadwood, 330 miles, the rate is \$2.25 on lump and \$2 on other coal; from Sheridan to Omaha, 749 miles, on lump the rate is \$3 and on other coal \$2.50. The Commercial club asks for 50 cents reduction on each ton in order to give it a rate like that of other cities of a like distance from Sheridan. A copy of the letter of the Commercial club sent to the interstate commerce commission was mailed to the Nebraska state railway commission. The hearing on Form 45 of the western classification of freight rates is set for February 2, instead of January 5, as announced. The hearing will be before the state railway commission and persons interested are requested to be present.

Gov. George L. Sheldon will carry away from the state house a beautiful mahogany office chair to which he has become very much attached, together with the "keys and respect" of his office force. The chair was presented to him by his office force, and a silver plate backed thereon says: "Honor, George L. Sheldon, executive chair, 1907-8; with love and respect from your office force." The chair has a little history. When the new furniture was placed in the executive office the chair for the use of the governor, belonging to the set, was not delivered, but another was sent in its place. The governor liked the old chair and used it while waiting for the one bought by the state. When the office chair was delivered the governor's office force bought the one the executive has been using, it having been merely loaned to the state, and made the governor a present of it.

The Douglas county commissioners Tuesday afternoon awarded the entire issue of court house bonds in the sum of \$1,000,000 to the state of Nebraska on its bid of par, the county to have the privilege to issue the bonds and collect money on them as needed. Four other bids were presented for the entire issue, all by Chicago firms. These bidders offered premiums, but the terms of the contracts offered made it mandatory on the county to issue bonds on demand of the company buying. Should the bonds be issued when the county did not need the money, money would be lost through interest payments. The commissioners therefore figured that the bid of the state was the best. The commissioners also hope to get a still lower bid from the state.

New licenses will be issued to every automobile owner in the state during 1909, and those who fail to come across and send their title 100 cents to the secretary of state are subject to a fine of \$25 to \$50 or imprisonment in a county jail for thirty days.

Henry Lehr, deputy state treasurer for the last two years, has tendered his resignation to State Treasurer Brian and it has been accepted, to take effect January 7.

Zelario Dominguez, of Mexico, one of the foremost agriculturists of that republic, was the guest of Gov. and Mrs. Sheldon Wednesday and Thursday. Senator DeWine has been attending the National Corn show in Omaha and for the last few days has been visiting various parts of the state.

January 15 is the date set for the hearing of petition against the putting into effect of the western classification of freight rates. No. 45 by the state railway commission.