

# WORLD'S GREATEST DISASTER

SEARCHING FOR BODIES IN EARTHQUAKE RUINS AFTER THE 1905 SHOCK.



CITY OF PIZZIO BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE.



WOMEN WATCHING THE SEARCH FOR THE BODIES OF THEIR HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN

## ALL ITALY STUNNED BY EXTENT OF CALAMITY

Enormity of the Catastrophe Grows as Reports Come from the Devastated Provinces.

### HORROR FILES UPON HORROR.

Hundreds of Injured Imprisoned in Debris and Pestilence Now Confronts the People.

One hundred and fifty thousand persons of a population of 1,750,000 in the Italian departments of Calabria and Sicily devastated by the earthquake—one in every twelve inhabitants—are dead in the most disastrous catastrophe of modern times, in which Reggio, a city of 50,000, vanished from the face of the earth, leaving but five mad survivors. Another city was almost entirely washed into the sea and the whole face of a nation was changed in the space of thirty-two seconds. The measure of havoc cannot accurately be estimated. No accurate figures on the death list are obtainable, but apparently reliable estimates place the fatalities as high as 150,000. The calamity is the greatest in the history of the world.

From several towns near the center of the disturbance no word came, and there seemed reason

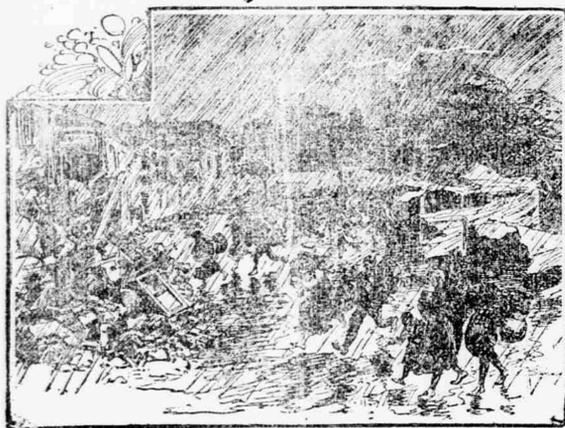
#### MAP OF DEVASTATED REGION.



to fear that there are no survivors to describe their fate. The destruction of property could not 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.

Face of Country Is Altered. 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 Seylla and Charybdis have changed the positions they have occupied since Aeneas' legendary voyage. The three provinces where the greatest damage was done were Messina and Catania.

#### SCENE DURING A FORMER QUAKE.



Terror stricken inhabitants of Monteleone, Calabria, rushing from their ruined houses in search of safety during the disaster of 1905.

in Sicily, and Reggio di Calabria, on the mainland. They comprise about 4,400 square miles. The rock of Charybdis now blocks the entrance to the strait of Messina. Several hundred persons perished and much damage was done outside of these provinces, but within them the devastation was so complete that scarcely a human habitation remains.

Upheaval Lasts 32 Seconds. All accounts agree that the time occupied by nature's gigantic spasms was but thirty-two seconds. Some minutes

later a great wave completed the havoc in the ill fated coast towns. The violence of the shock seems to have been unprecedented except by volcanic eruptions within a limited area. The buildings of Messina were not merely shaken down—their foundations literally were yanked from beneath them to one side or to the other, until they toppled from the perpendicular and fell in ruins alongside their original sites. That was the experience of Messina. That of Reggio, on the opposite side of the strait, must have been more violent, for scarcely one stone remains on another in that once flourishing city.

The ominous absence of details concerning Reggio proves to be due to the fact that not only the city itself but its whole population with the possible exception of a mere handful has disappeared.

Chaotic Rocks Replace City. Warships ordered to relieve the survivors were unable to approach the coast, owing to the changed configuration of the straits of Messina. Ultimately a torpedo boat ran close to the coast, but was unable to discover a trace of the city. Where a few days before stood the homes and works of men and busy streets there was found nothing but chaotic rocks and earth. The city had vanished as completely as Aladdin's palace under the magician's spell. Observations indicate that Reggio was completely swallowed by the earth's collapsing beneath it and the yawning site was filled by the sea which advanced in a huge wave there, as at Messina. Only five of the city's 50,000 inhabitants have been accounted for. These unhappy wretches reached Cattanzaro and Palmi half demented by fright. One of these was an army officer who telegraphed to Rome that the city had been entirely destroyed and that the dead were numberless.

They were scarcely able to talk intelligibly, but their incoherent stories were sufficient to confirm the fate of the city. One of them was mainly impressed by having seen the sea over the cathedral. Others were deafened by the roar of the sea and falling houses, which they compare to the roar of heavy artillery.

The ministry of marine at Rome received wireless reports of the obstruction of the strait of Messina, showing its safe navigation to be impossible until it is rechartered, while its future navigation is likely to be extremely difficult. The tidal wave wrecked the lighthouses in the strait, including no beacon, and they crashed into the

#### TOWNS WRECKED BY THE QUAKE

The towns in Sicily and southern Italy reported wrecked by the earthquake are as follows:

- Messina, Sicily—Population, 150,000; wrecked by earthquake and swept by tidal wave; loss of life enormous.
- Catania—Third largest town in Sicily; in ruins.
- Paterno, Sicily—Ten miles northwest of Catania, 15,000; a heap of smoldering ruins.
- Vittoria, Sicily—Town of 17,000, on the Camarina river; wrecked.
- Naro, Sicily—Population, 11,000; half destroyed.
- Alli—Fifteen miles southwest of Messina, one of the most ancient towns in island; population, 2,600; badly damaged.
- Mineo, Sicily—Ninety-six miles northwest of Catania; badly damaged.
- Patti—On the north coast of Sicily; wrecked.
- Castrolibero—Population, 7,000; twelve miles southwest of Milazzo; badly wrecked.
- Palmi, Calabria—On the southwest coast; population, 14,000; in ruins.
- Reggio, Calabria—Population, 4,500; across the Strait of Messina from the city of Messina; reported completely destroyed.
- Seylla, Calabria—Reported destroyed.
- Bagnara—Sixteen miles northeast of Reggio; population, 7,000; reported wiped out.

for they were cremated in the conflagration that raged between the earthquake and the tidal wave. Efforts to overcome the fire in Messina were fruitless, owing to the quantity of wood among the ruins. Many victims who were buried alive were burned to death.

#### Messina Warned Often.

Messina experienced a similar disaster in 1788. She had then the same preliminary warnings during the previous four or five years that she had recently in 1905 and 1907. Both Messina and Reggio are on the seismic line of contact or boundary between the primary and secondary formations which separate Mount Etna and Mount Vesuvius. It is a veritable storm center of earthquakes, yet Messina stayed for this last lesson in the light of modern scientific knowledge.

This last overwhelming calamity will alter the future history of Sicily and southern Italy. It will be regarded as certain that a considerable portion of the population of this fair land will bow before the wrath of the gods and seek homes elsewhere.

#### RED CROSS RELIEF STARTED.

Appeal Is Issued for Money for the Earthquake Sufferers. The American National Red Cross sent out telegraphic requests to all of its branches for relief funds to be applied to the sufferers from the earthquake in southern Italy. The Italian Red Cross Society, being so fully organized, it will not be necessary for the American society to do more than to send money contributions, which will be done as promptly as possible.

The Red Cross will have to wait until contributions are received in response to the appeal sent out as the balance remaining in the treasury is but \$2,000, which will be kept in reserve for emergencies within the United States. On the occasion of the eruption of Vesuvius \$12,000 was sent to Italy by the American society. There are no American naval vessels in the vicinity of southern Italy.

#### SEA SWALLOWS UP ISLANDS.

Entire Lipari Group in Mediterranean Is Engulfed.

A wireless message to Vita from the Strait of Messina reported that the Lipari Islands, a volcanic group in the Mediterranean near Sicily, have disappeared. The population of the group number 28,000, and all must inevitably have perished. The Liparian Islands lie to the north of the northeastern section of the Island of Sicily. The group consists of numerous islands, and is part of the Province of Messina.

The entire sea front of Reggio was swept away, the public buildings were laid in ruins and the whole lower town inundated by the tidal wave. Now what is left of the town on higher ground is steadily sinking and may be swallowed by the sea.

It was decided that when all hope of saving the wounded should disappear, warships would bombard Messina to bury the bodies under the ruins and prevent an epidemic. By this terrible act that scene of beauty and human activity which bore the name of Messina will have forever ceased to exist. Messina already looks like a town that has been bombed for hours by a great fleet. Not a house remains standing. Of the city's 100,000 inhabitants it is still impossible to say how many perished. In any case it is safe to say that 100,000 persons were buried beneath the wreckage.

In thirty seconds Italy lost more of her children than did Russia in a whole year of her war with Japan, which was the most sanguinary in history. It seems certain that all the small towns and villages that dotted the shore and hills near Reggio have been annihilated. Without counting the lesser centers of population, the following have been almost entirely destroyed: Messina, 100,000; Reggio, 50,000; Lamezia, 3,000; Seylla, 5,000; Bagnara, 10,000; Villa San Giovanni, 12,000; and Palmi, 14,000. Inland towns and villages, too, have suffered enormously. The Strait of Messina may, indeed, be said to have been the center of the cataclysm, which spread to the right and left, overwhelming cities and killing thousands upon thousands. King Victor Emmanuel has determined to urge the abandonment of the earthquake region as a place for human habitation.

#### TERRITORY OF CALABRIA.

Inhabitants Live in Primitive Way—Speak Queer Dialects.

Calabria has one and one-third million inhabitants. The inhabitants speak Grecian or Albanian dialects or an antique Italian. Many communities are isolated, without roads, schools or markets, whether of goods or of life. Bread is often unknown, and the people live on beans, peas, and potatoes. Stuffs lacking, they cover themselves partially with skins, like primitive savages. They tend flocks and herds in the immemorial way.

All who can do so emigrate to far countries and the rest hide away in the mountains. Their villages are built on the thin soil of the rocky hills that receive the full shock of the frequent earthquakes and are of the least stable and homogeneous geologic formation. The houses are built of small stones set in mud mortar and with steep roofs—just the architecture to suffer most from seismic shakings.

#### SOUTH "DRY"; WAR ON.

Alabama, North Carolina and Mississippi Are Now Prohibition.

The wave of temperance which has driven the saloons out of the States of the South became effective Friday. The law banning the saloons from Alabama, Mississippi and North Carolina went into effect at midnight. The morning of the new year found State-wide prohibition in these three States. Other Southern States are already dry or nearly so. The liquor men have retained an imposing array of counsel and will test the laws in the courts.

The Tennessee Legislature will certainly will certainly be asked to create prohibition in that commonwealth. Virginia is hewing nearer and nearer to the line of prohibition, and is at least 90 per cent prohibition now. In Louisiana the Gay-Shattuck saloon regulation law has closed many taverns and many parishes of the State have driven out the saloons by voting for prohibition under the local option law.

In Georgia many of the purveyors of "near-beer," the only intoxicant which can be sold in the State, are closing up, saying they cannot pay a \$200 license just imposed. The rural sections of Kentucky have been for some time largely "dry."

The loudest single step toward general prohibition in the South was taken Friday. Georgia is the only other State wherein statutory prohibition exists, the law having been in operation one year.

Having won their State-wide fights in four States, the anti-saloon forces have greatly enlarged the South's "dry" area, and they are now lining up for early campaigns in several other States where prohibition has assumed the magnitude of a political issue. In Texas and Arkansas the voters probably will be called upon this summer to decide a constitutional amendment for prohibition.

The Montgomery (Ala.) liquor men will test the law. This much has been decided upon. Leon Wolf of one of the largest law firms of the South will demand a license, and on being refused will join with Mobile in testing the legality of the act.

#### ROB SAFE; GET \$20,000.

Cracksmen in New York Astound Police by Boldness.

After wrenching twelve steel bars from a cellar window, expert cracksmen worked for a long time in plain sight of the street in an effort to pick the lock on the safe of Oscar C. Jackle, jeweler, 838 Third avenue, New York, finally accomplishing their purpose and made away with property valued at from \$5,000 to \$20,000. After vainly attempting to bore through the steel door of the safe, which stood under a lighted gas jet in plain view of the street, the burglars managed to pry the combination dial from the safe and through the small opening left manipulated the bolts and levers so as to release the lock.

The only theory on which the police can explain the successful consummation of the robbery is that the cracksmen had accomplices posted outside the store to signal to them when the policeman on the beat or late passers-by approached the store.

#### GRISCOM RETIRES ON MARCH 4.

Official Confirmation of Ambassador's Resignation Given Out.

The resignation of Lloyd C. Griscom, ambassador to Italy, reported in a dispatch from Rome, was authoritatively confirmed by the State Department in Washington. Ambassador Griscom's resignation takes effect March 4. Mr. Griscom has had a distinguished career in the diplomatic service of the United States. His first service in that field was as secretary to the ambassador to Great Britain in 1893. On July 24, 1899, he became secretary of the legation at Constantinople and two years later was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Persia. He was appointed United States minister to Japan Dec. 16, 1902, serving in that country until Jan. 29, 1906, when he was appointed ambassador to Brazil. President Roosevelt named him ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Italy Dec. 19, 1906.

#### PASTOR ENDS LIFE WITH RAZOR

Searching Party Finds Minister Dead in Apartments.

Failing to arrive at church where his congregation had assembled for worship, a searching party was formed to search for Rev. Robert C. Dougherty, pastor of the Congregational church at Buchanan, N. D. Visiting his apartments over the Buchanan State Bank, the minister was found lying in a pool of blood, with the razor with which he had cut his throat gripped in his hand. A rambling note was found on a table. This note was evidently written Dec. 23, on which day he borrowed a revolver from a neighbor, but his courage failed him then. Mr. Dougherty was formerly in Kansas City.



Two more Marathon races are being arranged for Madison Square Garden, New York.

The 2-year-old colt General Watts, 2:06 3/4, will not be raced next year, as intended by his owner.

Former Amateur Billiard Champion Fred Conklin defeated Calvin Demarest, present holder of the amateur championship, but who has recently become a professional, in the first of a six-game handicap contest, by a score of 350 to 414, in Chicago.

Mr. Geers, during his career on the turf, has driven twenty-four trotters to records of 2:10 or better, the fastest one being The Abbot, 2:03 1/4.

#### ISOLATION FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

Dr. Wiley Advises Radical Treatment for the Afflicted Who Travel.

It is estimated that 100,000 persons die annually in the United States from consumption, or tuberculosis, and from any way we look at it this is a dreadful figure to consider.

If this tremendous loss to the country occurred annually by the destruction of the population of some splendid city of 100,000 from some preventable cause,

all the strength and power of the government would be stretched forth to put a stop to the calamity; yet quietly and insidiously tuberculosis is yearly effecting this fearful loss of life and the government as well as individuals seems to be just getting awake to the great possibilities of the case.

In every city and considerable village in the United States there should be provided, under authority of law, an organization for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis under the supervision of medical men. These organizations should be provided with accommodations for the treatment of incident and advanced cases of the disease and should also have authority to safeguard those who are predisposed by enforcing hygienic conditions.

The advanced or incurables should be separated from the incipient or curable cases as they are the centers of infection and the greatest danger to the public.

The isolation of consumptives on railroad journeys, particularly on sleeping car trips across the continent, is urged by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the chemistry bureau of the Department of Agriculture. He points out that separate cars for those afflicted with tuberculosis are as necessary as detention camps.

The spread of the disease by consumptives traveling on the railroads is a well-known danger, explains Dr. Wiley, who states that he is arranging apparatus to take samples of the material breathed by people in sleeping cars. As soon as these are taken they will be analyzed, with the general object in view of supplying fresh air to those who travel.



Galveston (Texas) teamsters recently formed a union.

Musicians at Charleston, S. C., recently organized a union.

Postoffice clerks have chartered a new union at Atlanta, Ga.

Asbestos workers at Denver, Colo., are preparing to organize.

In October 241 work people in Canada were injured, and of these seventy-nine died.

The metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor is being formed in Augusta, Ga.

Leather workers on horse goods expect before 1910 to make a general demand for the eight-hour day in the trade.

Trade unionists at Little Rock, Ark., expect to bring up a number of labor measures at the next session of the Legislature.

Stationary firemen and stationary engineers at Fort Worth, Texas, have secured an eight-hour day and an increase of 40 cents a day.

An effort will be made at San Francisco to effect a permanent organization of all trades and industries that have a grievance against Asiatics.

The next biennial session of the grand division of the Order of Railway Conductors of America will be held in Boston in May of next year.

In Austria and France the provision of rescue apparatus in mines is made compulsory. In Germany it is optional, but has been voluntarily adopted.

The jurisdictional strife between the Freight Handlers' Union and the Order of Railway Clerks was adjusted by a joint agreement, each union giving way on some points and accepting a compromise on the membership.

Declaring the boycott to be unwise and of general menace to the public, the general assembly of the Knights of Labor at Washington recently went on record as opposing flatly the program of the American Federation of Labor.

As a result of a meeting of the sheet metal workers of Lowell, Mass., held recently, the employers voluntarily granted the eight-hour work day without reduction in pay from the amount paid for the previous nine-hour day.

The government plan of old-age pensions goes into effect in Australia and New Zealand on July 1, 1906. The plan provides that every person of 65 years of age, who is permanently incapacitated for work, will be qualified to receive a pension. By proclamation women of 60 years may be qualified.

In both England and Scotland several rescue stations have been organized in connection with experimental galleries devised for the purpose of training colliers in the methods of effective rescue work in the event of explosions, pit fires and other underground accidents.

Denver, Colo., will soon have a union labor hospital, costing \$200,000, and accommodating 350 to 400 patients. The city is now the headquarters for the National Union Labor Hospital Association, which will proceed with the building of hospitals for members of labor unions in all large cities of the country.