

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING JANUARY 6, 1909—TWELVE PAGES.

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SHOCKS AT REGGIO

Quake at Noon Causes 1 of Damaged Walls to Fall
CITY IS ALMOST ABANDONED
Few Persons Remain Except Troops and British Marines.
FEVER FOLLOWS THE FAMINE
Typhoid Threatens to Become Epidemic at Messina.

FEW FOREIGNERS ARE KILLED

Nearly All the Victims Are Italians—Escape of United States Vice Consul Lupton Almost Miraculous.

BULLETIN.

REGGIO, Jan. 5.—Earthquakes have occurred here today at intervals of twenty minutes. At noon a earthquake stronger than the others caused a number of the standing walls to collapse and created a condition of panic among the survivors. It is not thought there were any casualties.

ROME, Jan. 5.—The prompt dispatch of a part of the American blue ships with the fleet commander, Rear Admiral Sperry, to offer aid in the earthquake relief work, has added to the public feeling of appreciation and gratitude. Word has come that Admiral Sperry has opened a fund for the sufferers and that the men of the fleet are contributing generously.

Dispatches received today from Messina and Reggio indicate that although the situation is in some respect better, fresh complications have arisen. Typhoid fever has broken out at Messina. The lack of pure water and the increasing pollution of the air causes the physicians in charge of the Red Cross work to fear an epidemic. The medical administration, in conference with the government authorities, are considering the compulsory removal of the living in the destroyed cities. The work of searching under the ruins had almost ceased because there is no expectation of finding any one alive. The earth tremors continue, causing fresh apprehensions among the already painfully affected survivors and the workers from outside.

Few Foreigners Are Killed.

The catastrophe is almost wholly Italian, few foreigners being among the dead. The American embassy and Americans who have gone to the scene, either as volunteers in relief work or as correspondents, have not found any further Americans among the victims.

Signor Rava, the Italian minister of public instruction, has received a telegram from Messina saying that the university there has been completely destroyed. The library, famous for its collection of manuscripts, may be recovered, but the authorities have not thought it proper to make any attempt in that direction while human suffering remains unrelieved. The celebrated Museum of Natural History is lost.

Reggio Almost Abandoned.

Reggio has been practically evacuated except for the troops, and the marines from two British warships are causing the populace to evacuate Villa San Giovanni, which is considered to have been the center of the earthquake. The bay of Reggio still is strewn with broken boats and other articles.

Numerous persons still living, were taken today from beneath the ruins, while the voices of others could be distinctly heard appealing for aid. Within a few days the rescue work at Reggio will have ceased. Then the tottering buildings will be razed and the bodies that have not been buried will be burned.

Ruin at Messina.

The Associated Press had the first correspondent on the scene at Messina. He found a condition of utter confusion existing. The first shock of earthquake virtually had thrown down the entire city. The Italian soldiers were overwhelmed and in a state of bewilderment wandered over the ruins in squads, numbering from three to fifty men. Little work was done until the arrival of the crews from the Russian and British warships, which worked valiantly, especially was this true of the Russians.

Large numbers of the survivors were trampled by grief, and panic seemed to have laid hold of all. In the camp of the refugees pitiful scenes were witnessed. Many persons threw themselves upon their knees begging for bread, while five minutes walk beyond were orange groves rich with ripe fruit. The fear for their safety seemed to them, they trembled in this small haven of refuge.

Escape of Vice Consul Lupton.

Stuart K. Lupton, the American vice consul, was in his room at the Hotel Victoria when that building was demolished. His escape was miraculous. Wearing only his trousers and carrying his shoes and his eyeglass in his hands, he groped his way along the quay, gave deep in water, toward the American consulate. On the way he met a woman and a man, both quite naked, and instinctively laid his overcoat over the shoulders of the woman. Clambering over the ruins of the consulate he became conscious of the fact that his feet were bruised and bleeding. The wonder why he had carried his shoes in his hands. He continued in a state of bewilderment until he established himself on a British ship in the harbor. Later he again came ashore and raised the American flag over the new consulate. In a damaged condition, but one of the few remaining buildings in the outskirts of the city. That Mr. Lupton began an industrial search for Americans. All of the Americans who have not been heard from may be considered safe. Probably all are in the south of Sicily. "Those who are known to have suffered from the earthquake have been reported. The telegraph and telephone wires have been placed at the service of the government and personal messages will be delayed indefinitely.

The Associated Press correspondent found amid the ruins of the Hotel Victoria, the blackboard with the full list of the guests of the hotel clearly written upon it, on the night of the disaster. It bore, besides the name of Mr. Lupton, one two other English names.

PORT SAID, Jan. 5.—The American coast cruiser Yankton left here this morning for Messina with medical supplies and provisions on board for the earthquake sufferers. It carries also a number of doctors. The Connecticut, the flagship of Rear Admiral Sperry; the Vermont, the Kansas and the Minnesota arrived here from Suez last night. They will sail for

SUMMARY OF THE BEE

Wednesday, January 6, 1909.

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THE WEATHER.

FOR OMAHA: COUNCIL BLUFFS AND VICTORIA—Rising temperature Wednesday. FOR NEBRASKA—Snow Wednesday; the temperature below zero.

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