200,000 PEOPLE PERISHED

The Greatest Tragedy That Has Ever Befallen the Christian World.

A despatch from Rome says: The measure of the greatest tragedy which has ever befallen the Christian world cannot yet be calculated. It is known in general terms that out of a population of 1,750,000 in the devastated area of Italy at least 125,000 perished. This makes no account of dozens of towns near the centre of the disturbance whence no word has come, and of which there is only good reason to fear 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 a metropolitan point of view. As a great cataclysm of nature, however, this disaster is on a far greater scale than the California phenomenon. The whole face of the country and the coast line have been altered. Even Scylla and Charybdis have changed the position they occupied since Aeneas' legendary voyage.

REFUGEES AT NAPLES.

A despatch from Naples says: Time only confirms the unspeakable horrors of the overpowering catastrophe in southern Italy, for earth and sea ruthlessly claimed thousands of human beings, and the flames mercilessly completed the unfinished devastation.

Naples, vibrant with the memory of Vesuvius, is prostrated anew by the misery and woe from Messina confided to her care. The hospitals, hotels and homes are crowded with refugees, and the people are vieing with one another in aiding the stricken.

CENTRE OF VOLCANIC ZONE.

Those who have expert knowledge on the subject agree that the centre of the cataclysm was the Strait of Messina, which also is the centre of the volcanic zone, the highest peak of which, Mount Aetna, is now silent. From this base, the telluric disturbance extended, abating little by little, northerly as far as Cape Vaticano and southerly as far as the Bay of Catania, ravaging the western region of Calabria and the eastern coast of Sicily for a distance of nearly 100 miles. It is impossible to accurately ascertain the extent of the movement east and west in the inland regions, but it is certain that the beauty of one of the most charming sections of southern Italy has been irrevocably despoiled.

Vineyards are no more; waving rows of lemon, orange and olive trees have been torn up and the enchanting coastline, with its soft and fragrant foliage, has been converted into a hideous desert. Reggio, whose gay aspect set off the severity of the mountains, and Balmi, perched jauntily amid orange and olive trees, have become mere blots.

OVERRUN WITH FUGITIVES

Catania, the largest city nearest to the scene of the disaster, is crowded with refugees, and the continuous stream of fugitives coming, the sight of the wounded and repetition of real and imaginary earth shocks, has so alarmed the population that they are becoming uncontrollable. There is no longer place there where the refugees may find shelter, Cardinal Franciia Nava di Bontife, Archbishop of Catania, has employed all the money in his possession to provide bread for the fugitives, but the people of Cantania, also, are in great need, as the ordinary business pursuits have been entirely interrupted.

FATE OF FOREIGNERS.

The government is finding difficulty in ascertaining the fate of many foreigners who were in the earthquake zone at the time of the catastrophe, enquiries concerning whom are coming from all parts of the globe. The commander of the battleship Makharoff, which arrived with fugitives at Naples on Wednesday, confirms the report of the death of the American consul at Messina, Arthur S. Cheney, and his wife, who were buried in the ruins of the consulate. The number of Americans in Sicily and southern Italy is believed to be small, and several of them are reported to have been staying at Toarmina, which is on the east coast, about 30 miles southwest of Messina. According to the latest reports, this place suffered no harm from the earthquake.

WORSE THAN WAR.

The minister of war, in despatching orders to the military authorities who have practically taken over the absolute power throughout the zone of the earthquake, explained:

"This disaster has resulted in a greater loss of life than any of our wars for independence. Indeed, the s'tuation is much worse, as while war always is preceded by a period of preparation, this has happened within 40 seconds. While war only affects the young and strong among the people, the present calamity has mowed down women and children, old men and youths."

UNIVERSAL SYMPATHY.

All the sovereigns and the heads of states of the foreign governments have sent expressions of warmest sympathy and deepest condolence. France's message was especially warm, and she is despatching five warships from Toulon to Messina, which is hailed as a token of love from a sister race.

The minister of marine on Wednesday night received word that the steamships Taormina and Campania, with 45,000 beds and a large supply of provisions aboard, had left Genoa bound for Messina. Other steamers also bountifully stocked are on their way to the stricken cities from various ports.

The despatches from the stricken zone say that a large army would be required to cope with even the pressing needs of the unfortunate people, who are roaming about half clad and starving, some of them dragging articles of clothing from the smouldering ruins to protect themselves from the piercing winds. Terrible suffering is inevitable before the much-needed relief can arrive.

SCENES AT NAPLES.

A despatch from London says: William Maxwell, the well-known correspondent of the London Daily Mail, who was ordered from the Balkans to the devastated districts of Italy, arrived at Naples, whence he telegraphs as follows:—"Naples is like a city receiving her dead and wounded after a great battle. The approaches to the quays are crowded with sympathetic spectators, many of whom come laden with bread and wine as offerings to the victims as they arrive.

"Motor cars, ambulances and stretchers hurry through the streets escorted by soldiers. As they pass one catches glimpses of the agonized faces of men, women and children on whom are the wounds and terror of the awful catastrophe.

"Churches, schools and hospitals fail to meet the demands for accommodation, and private houses are opened to receive the sufferers.

"Funeral processions with all the sumptuous ritual of the Roman Catholic Church show that many have reached Naples only to die. Three thousand injured have already arrived, and two ships are now discharging their cargoes of pain."

NEW SHOCKS ALARM PEOPLE

A despatch from Rome says: There were slight shocks felt in the earthquake zone on Friday, completing the ruin of the crumbling buildings. These shocks are contributing to the keeping up of the alarm of the population. One quite severe shock was felt at 3 o'clock in the morning and another at 9. Fires are still burning, although much rain has fallen. The latest investigations on both sides of the straits make it certain that many more than half the population of the coast towns and villages have been killed. Professor Ricco, director of the observatory at Mount Etna, estimates that the victims of the earthquake exceed 200,000.

Hundreds of dangerous criminals have been arrested and are under close guard.

A despatch from Rome says: The correspondent of the Corriere D'Italia, now at Messina, has succeeded in sending via Naples a graph'c description of the pathetic sights seen on the streets there. Four carabineers, with a handcuffed man, whom they had evidently arrested during the night, were all killed while returning to their barracks. A peasant and two oxen were smashed into a shapeless heap. High up in the window of a house, only one wall of which was standing, was a boy hanging head down, being held by the legs by a fallen rafter. Sitting on a doorstep was a lady cuddling a headless baby, calling it endearing names and kissing it. Her face was red with the child's blood. Four Russian sailors strove to persuade her to allow them to bury the child and convey her to one of the ships, but she indignantly refused, saying she would not be parted from her only child, all that was left to her in the wide world. Her husband, an officer, had been killed, she said, but she insisted that the child was alive. The sailors persisted in their requests, whereupon the mother insisted they leave her. The sailors were so affecttd that they wept.

BOR EDOWN AND SEE.

French Scientist Suggests Drilling to Earth's Centre.

A despatch from Paris says: M. Camille Flammarion, the famous astronomer, who attributes the disaster in Italy to volcanic action, suggests again as he did forty years ago that an attempt be made to find out with certainty the internal composition of the terrestrial globe. The only means of doing this would be to bore a gigantic well several kilometres deep. Such a work would not be beyond the power of present day engineering. This well would be a source of inexhaustible heat for humanity. "If the various Governments would agree to direct toward this object all the soldiers of Europe, each employed in accordance with his special trade or occupation, they would win a victory superior to all past and future wars of extermination by bringing to light the mystery which is hidden beneath our surface, and as while this work was being executed the habit of fighting would be lost, humanity would have gained by it a double process, both scientific and social."

BEHEADED HIS MOTHER.

Horrible Crime of a Demented New York Man.

A despatch from New York says: In a fit of insanity on Wednesday, Arthur Trotter killed his aged mother, Mrs. Ann Trotter, by beheading her with an axe and a knife in her apartments on West Eighteenth street. Trotter jumped from a second story window as the police broke in the door, but was found outside practically uninjured and then did not resist arrest. He declared that the end of the world was coming, and that he had been divinely inspired to commit the crime. Trotter is said to have quarrelled frequently with his mother, who was a woman of seventy years and of reputed means, and only on Tuesday, the police say, he finished a six months' term for beating her.

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE.

Montreal's Sorrowful Record for Last Year.

A despatch from Montreal says: Montreal's morgue statistics for 1908 form rather a gruesome record. In all, 850 violent deaths or deaths under suspicious circumstances occurred. Of these twenty-three died from foul play and ten by Italian stilettoes. There were twenty-nine suicides, nineteen from gas inhalation; seventy-nine were drowned in the St. Lawrence, fifty were killed on the railways, twenty-two by the street railway; fifteen by explosions, ten of which were due to the Ile Perrot accident. There were 218 sudden deaths recorded, fifty-seven were burned and six scalded to death. One fireman was killed on duty.

THE OKLAHOMA STYLE.

Robbers Built Barbed Wire Fence About Bank.

A despatch from Muskogee, Okla., says: Five robbers dynamited the bank at Wellston, Okla., early on Wednesday and escaped with $5,000. The robbers erected a barbed-wire barricade around the bank, and while some members of the gang went to work on the bank safe others stood guard. The pickets for two hours kept the townspeople at bay while their confederates worked on the vault, and when finally the robbers succeeded in getting the money it containued the five men rode off, covering their departure with a heavy fire. No one was injured.

ALABAMA A DRY STATE.

Prohibition Becomes Effective With New Year.

A despatch from Mobile, Ala., says: With the passing of the midnight hour on Thursday night prohibition became effective throughout Alabama. A number of social clubs have been opened and charters for these places will now be in great demand. In these clubs drinks will be dispensed to "members only." Before the doors of the saloons were closed on Thursday night whiskey and beer were given away in large quantities, and during the day drinks of all kinds were sold at nominal prices.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Jan 5.—Flour—Ontario wheat 90 per cent. patents quoted at $3.70 to-day in buyers' sacks outside for export. Manitoba flour, first patents, $5.80 on track, Toronto; second patents, $5.30, and strong bakers', $5.10 to $5.20.

Wheat—Manitoba wheat is higher at $1.09½ for No. 1 Northern, at $1.06½ for No. 2 Northern, and at $1.04 for No. 3 Northern, Georgian Bay ports. No. 1 Northern is quoted at $1.13½. North Bay freights, and No. 2 Northern at $1.10½.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 white 94 to 94½c outside; No. 2 red Winter at 95c outside, and No. 2 mixed at 94c outside.

Oats—Ontario No. 2 white, 38 to 38½c outside, and at 41 to 41½c on track, Toronto; No. 2 Western Canada oats quoted at 43c, lake ports, and No. 1 feed, 41c, lake ports.

Rye—No. 2 quoted at 69 to 70c outside.

Barley—No. 2, 54c outside; No. 3 extra at 52c, and No. 3 at 50c.

Buckwheat—56 to 56½c outside.

Peas—No. 2 quoted at 85½ to 86c outside.

Corn—No. 2 American yellow nominal at 68c on track, Toronto; new No. 3 yellow quoted at 65½c, Toronto.

Bran—Cars, $19 in bulk outside. Shorts, $22.50 in bulk outside.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Winter stock, $3 to $4 per barrel for good qualities, and at $2 to $2.50 for cooking apples.

Beans—Prime, $1.70 to $1.75, and hand-picked, $1.80 to $1.85 per bush.

Honey—Combs, $2 to $2.75 per dozen; and strained, 10 to 11c per pound.

Hay—No. 1 timothy, $10.50 to $11 a ton on track here, and No. 2 at $7 to $8.

Straw—$7 to $7.50 on track.

Potatoes—Ontarios, 60c per bag. Delawares, 75 to 80c per bag on track.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 10 to 11c per pound; fowl, 8 to 9c; ducks, 11 to 12c; geese, 10 to 11c per pound; turkeys, 17 to 18c per pound.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 25 to 27c; tubs, 22 to 24c; inferior, 20 to 21c. Creamery rolls, 28 to 29c, and solids 27c.

Eggs—Case lots of cold storage, 25 to 26c per dozen; selections, 28 to 30c, and new laid 35 to 40c per dozen.

Cheese—Large cheese, 13¼c per pound, and twins, 13¾c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 10¾ to 11c per pound in case lots; mess pork, $19 to $19.50; short cut, $22 to $22.50.

Hams—Light to medium, 13 to 13½c; do., heavy, 12c; rolls, 10½c; shoulders, 10 to 10¼c; backs, 16 to 16½c; breakfast bacon, 14½ to 15c.

Lard—Tierces, 12c; tubs, 12¼c; pails, 12½c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Jan. 5.—Grain—Canadian Western No. 2 white oats at 46½c, extra No. 1 feed oats at 45½c, and No. 1 feed at 45c per bushel, in car lots, ex store. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts at $6, seconds at $5.50, Winter wheat patents, $5 to $5.25; straight rollers, $4.60 to $4.70; do., in bags, $2.15 to $2.25; extra, $1.75 to $1.85. Feed—Manitoba bran, $21; shorts, $24; Ontario bran, $21 to $21.50; middlings, $24.50 to $25.50; shorts, $24.50 to $25 per ton, including bags; pure grain mouille, $30 to $32; milled grades, $25 to $28 per ton. Cheese—The local market is quiet and steady, with westerns quoted at 12¼ to 12c and easterns at 11¾ to 12. Butter—Creamery quoted at 25½c, and September make at 26½c. Eggs—New laid at 35c, selected stock at 27½ to 28c, and No. 1 stock at 23½ to 24c per dozen.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 5. — Wheat—Spring stronger; No. 1 Northern, carloads store, $1.15⅛; Winter firmer; No. 2 red, $1.07½; No. 3 extra red, $1.06; No. 2 white, $1.06½; No. 2 mixed, $1.06½. Corn—Higher; No. 3 yellow, 63c; No. 4 yellow, 62½c; No. 3 corn, 62 to 62½c; No. 4 corn, 61½ to 62c; No. 3 white, 64¼c. Oats—Strong. Barley—Feed to malting, 62 to 70c. Rye—No. 2 on track, 81c.

Milwaukee, Jan. 5.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.10½; No. 2 Northern, $1.09; May, $1.08⅝ asked. Rye—No. 1, 74½c. Corn—May, 61¾c; early standard, 66c; samples, 58½ to 66c; Nov., 58½ to 60½c.

Minneapolis, Jan. 5.—Wheat—Dec., $1.08⅞; May, $1.11; cash, No. 1 hard, $1.12; No. 1 Northern, $1.11; No. 2 Northern, $1.08¾ to $1.09; No. 3 Northern, $1.04¼ to $1.06¾. Bran—$19 to $19.25. Flour—First patents, $5.30 to $5.65; second patents, $5.10 to $5.20, first clears, $4 to $4.10; second clears, $2.95 to $3.05.

WANDERING IN THE WILDS

Hardships Endured by Aged Mexican Woman and Child.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Wandering about in the wilds of the north, among the haunts of innumerable timber wolves, Margaret Romaro, a Mexican woman, old and frail, together with her daughter, a child of thirteen, have been found by Indians in a starving condition, almost frozen and desperate from hunger. The place where the two were found was at Calling Lake, seventy-five miles west of Athabasca Landing. The pitiful story came to the immigration offices of Mr. J. Bruce Walker on Wednesday. The place is uninhabited, and only wolves and big game abound in the bush and swamps, which in winter are buried in mountains of snow. Evidently the victims have endured unknown hardships for a l ng time. Both have been driven from Canada into the United States, and from the States into Canada again.

FIREMEN'S MANY RISKS.

Four Were Nearly Asphyxiated at Vancouver.

A despatch from Vancouver, B. C., says: Tht Smith Company's furniture store on Granville street caught fire on Saturday night. J. Degraves, Robert Souden, Frank Gurney and Captain Mitchell, firemen, were overcome by smoke and narrowly escaped asphyxiation. Gurney and Souden are in the hospital. Captain Duncan fell down an elevator shaft, but was able to walk home. The fire was confined to the basement and first floor.

SUICIDE AT OTTAWA.

Mr. Hilmer Shoots Himself Near Golf Grounds.

A despatch from Ottawa says: K. A. I. Hilmer, a draughtsman in the City Engineer's department, committed suicide on Saturday afternoon by shooting himself with a revolver near the grounds of the Ottawa Golf Club. He had not been at his office for several days, but no reason is given for his ending his life. He was about forty years of age and leaves a wife and two children.

O'BRIEN MINE SOLD.

Report That English Company Has Paid $8,000,000.

A despatch from Montreal says: It is stated that the O'Brien mine has been sold to an English company for $8,000,000. The report is made by several men who have just arrived in the city from Cobalt.

UNITED STATES.

Burglars at New York looted the police station in the Criminal Courts building.

Thirteen persons were shot, none of them dangerously, on New Year's Eve, in New York.

Sir Horace Plunkett, speaking at New York, prophesied the disappearance of landlordism in Ireland.

Abraham Reuf, formerly boss of San Francisco, has been sentenced to fourteen years in prison.

The United States Treasury Department has transferred $225,000,000 in gold coin from San Francisco to Denver.

Andrew Carnegie in a magazine article tells that profit-sharing will bring about the final solution of the labor question.

Burglars in New York cracked the safe in a Third avenue jewellery store and carried off $5,000 in cash and jewellery valued at $25,000.

W. L. Mathews, former State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, who had been sentenced to prison for his connection with the Capitol frauds, is dead.

Silas H. Pearson of Peterboro, Ont., confessed at Pittsburg that he had shot Jacob Knoedler of Wilcock Station while attempting to rob Knoedler's store.