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THE DEATH ROLL GROWS BIGGER.

Eye-Witnesses of Italian Horror Tell of the Awful Scenes They Saw.

The Survivors Dying For Lack of Food and Water—Rescuers at Work.

(The Globe.)
Rome Cable.—Such scanty additional details as reached the authorities to-day only served to accentuate the horror and immensity of the catastrophe which has fallen upon southern Italy. Messina, where the King and Queen have arrived, is covered by a pall of smoke from the numerous fires that have broken out among the ruins, and add to the horrors of the calamity. While it is impossible to estimate the death roll—and there is possibly a tendency to exaggerate the figures, as was the case at Martini and in the previous Calabrian earthquake—still there seems every reason to fear that the present disaster will prove the greatest in European history.

MESSINA'S DEAD NUMBER 90,000.
All the resources of modern civilization have practically been set at naught, and the measures of relief which so far it has been possible to carry out have been altogether inadequate to the tremendous requirements of the situation. Messina, Reggio and a dozen small towns and villages were annihilated. Out of Messina's total population of 120,000, it is believed to-day that about 90,000 perished. The official estimate is 50,000, but another report says that there are only 10,000 survivors, and the plight of these is deplorable.

STARVING AND THIRSTY.
Despatches say the distress at Messina and elsewhere is appalling. The people are starving and there is practically no water to drink. The survivors wander about half clad or clad in nondescript garments dragging out from the smouldering ruins.

FLAMES DEVOURED RUINS.
London Cable.—The Marquis Di Ruspolo telegraphs as follows to the Daily Mail:

"I have just returned from Messina, which city was absolutely destroyed. The spectacle is a terrifying one. The ruins are a prey to the roaring flames. A great conflagration broke out immediately after the earthquake and devoured all that the shocks spared. "Nearly the entire population is buried in the debris, and calculations place the total number of survivors at only 10,000—thus the dead at Messina alone will reach the stupendous figure of nearly 100,000."

EXTENT OF DISASTER.
Rome Cable.—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, members of the municipal council of Messina survived the disaster.

The bluejackets from the Russian warships at Messina have performed valiant service. They risked their lives on board the steamer Reina Margherita, but they already are killed.

SAW ALL CHILDREN KILLED.
A survivor from Messina tells how he and his wife, fleeing with their three children, saw all the latter killed, one after the other, by falling masonry. The wife, maddened by grief, committed suicide by dashing her head against a wall. Another says that a fissure sixty feet deep opened near the Church of Santa Maria, and houses fell bodily into it.

CATANIA FILLED WITH REFUGEES.
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 or imaginary earthquakes has so alarmed the population that they are becoming uncontrollable. There is no longer any place there where the refugees may find shelter.

MESSINA UTTERLY DESTROYED.
Naples Cable.—Lily Wolfsohn, an English woman, who arrived in Naples to-day aboard the steamer Therapia, which was crowded with refugees from Messina, collected some graphic stories from some of the survivors. One man, who was employed by a German cotton firm in Messina, said:

"Messina was utterly destroyed. Nothing remained when I left but a part of the citadel, where a few soldiers were the bare survivors of the whole garrison. Here and there a house is still found standing erect. I was asleep when the first shock woke me. I lit my lamp, but all was quiet and I returned to sleep again. Suddenly fresh shocks occurred which were more violent and terrific.

ESCAPED WITH AID OF ROPE.
"At the repetition I rose, but the house was swaying and my door jammed in. I tore the sheets from my bed and made a rope, with which I lowered myself from the window to the street. An Italian family of five persons also escaped from the house with the aid of my rope.

"No sooner were we in the street than the house collapsed. I tried to

help in the work of rescue, but it was useless. The horror and confusion were indescribable. All day I wandered in the wrecked streets but could get no food. I had only a few nuts to eat. The head of my firm, who lost his brother, had to go through the streets begging for a little bread for his wife and children. There was no organization in the work of rescue.

FINGERS OF DEAD CUT OFF.
"The Messina prison was destroyed and the wardens killed, but most of the convicts escaped. They prowled among the ruins, robbing and murdering. They cut off the fingers of the dead and wounded to take the rings. Some of them were singing songs of liberty as they applied the knife.

"A Russian vessel which was lying in the harbor was thrown into the street by the great wave from the sea that followed the shocks. Another vessel foundered. The railway line sank into the ground.

"The square known as Campo Santo collapsed and sank. Only the summits of a few of the ruined buildings still emerge from the wreck.

"The fugitive population, when I left, was camping near the harbor. Signora Tira Marini, the well-known singer, escaped on the Therapia. "I know not how," she declared, "carrying a cage with her canary in it."

"People wept from emotion when they saw the King and Queen of Italy come ashore. The women threw kisses to His Majesty. Both were practically carried up the pier in the arms of their subjects. The presence of the King has acted as a general inspiration. Even the wounded found fresh strength when they learned His Majesty had come among them. An old man who had been abandoned under a beam, which apparently had crushed out his life, revived for a moment at the shouts of greeting to the royal pair. He stretched out his hand and raised his head long enough to call out: "Now I can die happy. Long live the King." He then fell back and expired.

The rescuers at Messina are rapidly becoming exhausted. The fires have not yet been put out, and there is no water with which to combat the flames. Many of the people still refuse to leave the ruins of their houses. Force often is necessary to get them to the ships in the harbor. There are, however, large numbers of persons in the suburbs of Messina who will not come back into the city for fear of a recurrence of the shocks. A request for food and a squadron of volunteers has been received from Deputy Police of Messina. Many are dying of hunger, he says. Members of our party were knocked down by the falling wreckage from time to time, sometimes one, and sometimes half a dozen together, until we were reduced to a dozen, and by the time we reached the open country only four remained.

RANGE OF THE DISTURBANCE.
Naples Cable.—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.

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 Etna, is now silent. From this base the 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 reported from Palermo that Minister of Public Works Bertolini has arrested the Christian world which has ever believed 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 where no word has come, and of which there is only good reason to fear there are no survivors.

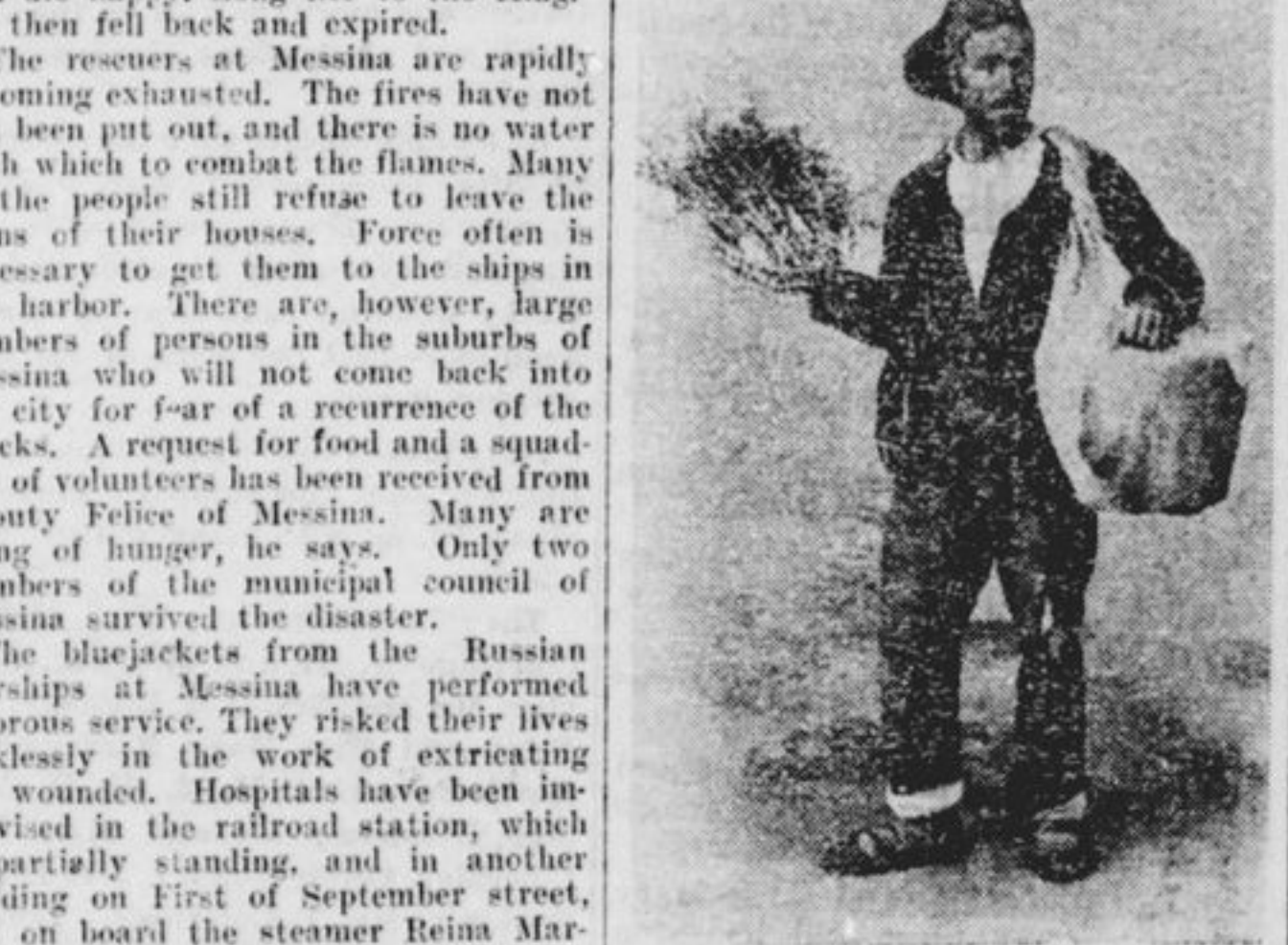
Even Sicily and Calabria have changed the positions they occupied since Aeneas' legendary voyage. The two provinces where the greatest damage was done are Messina and Catania in Sicily, and Reggio on the mainland. They comprise about 4,400 square miles. Several hundred persons perished and much damage was done outside these provinces, but within them



Main street in Catania, the finest city in Sicily. The cathedral, of which the dome is shown, was partly wrecked. The loss of life at Catania was not heavy. Just beyond the cathedral dome the faint outline of Mount Aetna is seen in the distance.

ONLY TWO ESCAPED.
The Mayor of Brescia, one of the few who escaped from the Hotel Trimeria, says that he occupied a room on the third floor. When the hotel collapsed he was buried in the ruins, but was protected by a beam from being crushed. He worked for four hours trying to make an opening through which to escape. When he cried for help, a man began to assist him, but another earthquake drove him away. The terror-stricken Mayor eventually struggled out, and helped to rescue four soldiers. He is covered with bruises. He believes that only one person was saved from the hotel besides himself.

Mr. Ogston, the British Vice-Consul, has arrived at Palermo, uninjured, with his little daughter. He was thrown out of bed by the first shock. His wife rushed to the cot where their child was sleeping, and snatched her up. They then ran downstairs and found the street door blocked by wreckage. Escape by that way was impossible, so they clambered on a bal-



Typical Street Vendor of Messina, Sicily.

cony, which gave way, precipitating them to the street. Mrs. Ogston was killed instantly. The child was unhurt. Mr. Ogston picked up his daughter and ran at top speed to the city square. Mr. Ogston added, "We quickly decided to make for the open country. We tore along the street, while balconies, chimneys and walls toppled about us. Members of our party were knocked down by the falling wreckage from time to time, sometimes one, and sometimes half a dozen together, until we were reduced to a dozen, and by the time we reached the open country only four remained."

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.
The first official telegram was received this morning from the Prefect of Messina. He says:

"The disaster surpasses all that can be imagined. The corpses in Messina number tens of thousands. It is impossible to make even an approximate estimate of the exact number.

"It is equally impossible to describe the general consternation and disorder which prevails in the city. No aid or assistance will be effective. The principal necessity is haste. Provisions especially must be had at once."

The Prefect says that the spectacle of fire, which cannot be mastered is a terrible one. In describing the destruction of the prisons at Messina the Prefect says that they were situated on a high hill, and that the walls collapsed on the first shock. The buildings contained 650 convicts, 350 of whom were women. It is not known how many of these were killed. All who are uninjured escaped.

THE GREATEST TRAGEDY.
Rome, Cable.—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 where no word has come, and of which there is only good reason to fear there are no survivors.

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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, with the exception of a mere handful, has disappeared. The warships which were ordered to relieve the survivors were unable to approach the coast owing to the changed configuration of the Strait of Messina. Ultimately a torpedo boat ran close to the coast, but was unable to discover any trace of the city. Where, two days ago, stood an aggregation of buildings and busy streets, there was nothing but rocks and earth. The city had vanished as completely as Aladdin's palace under the magician's spell. It is impossible, of course, as yet to speak certainly of what happened, but such observation as is possible indicates that Reggio was completely swallowed by the earth 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 yet been accounted for. These unhappy wretches reached Cattanzaro and Palmi half-drowned by fright. They were scarcely able to talk intelligibly, but their incoherent stories are sufficient to confirm the horrible fate of the city. One of them was mainly inebriated by having seen the sea ever the cathedral. The others were deafened by the roar of the sea and the falling houses, which they compare with the roar of heavy artillery.

The Government is withholding the news concerning Reggio for the present, hesitating to publish the appalling tale until it is fully confirmed. In view of the latest development of the catastrophe the death roll may well reach 125,000.

Messina probably will not rise again from her ruins and ashes. This last overwhelming calamity will alter the future history of Sicily and Southern Italy. It may be regarded as certain that a considerable portion of the population of this fair land will have been the wrath of the gods, and seek homes elsewhere. Next to Italy itself, America will feel the effect of this calamity more than any other country, for a large portion of the stricken population will seek refuge there as soon as the means of flight can be secured.

THE RUINED CITIES.
Messina and Catania, in Sicily, are the two largest cities that have suffered in the earthquake. Messina has a population of about 100,000, while Catania has about 140,000 people. Messina is on the west side of the Strait of Messina, near the narrowest part. Catania is south of Messina, on the east coast above the sea level. Some of the ruins along the waterfront were swept from their foundations and dragged out to sea. Twelve miles of the railroad near Reggio were destroyed. A temporary road to the town of the scene.

It is said that Messina was blotted out to an accompaniment of wails of anguish, but Reggio disappeared in silence and without a cry. A despatch received here from Tripoli says that a few Reggio survivors are wandering nude and demented about the ruins of the city searching aimlessly for food.

CASTRO SAFE.
He Cannot be Extradited from Germany.

A Berlin despatch: Senor Castro left the hospital and returned to the Hotel de la Plaza this morning. He granted an interview to the Associated Press correspondent to-night. He was asked if there was any truth in the statement published in various newspapers to the effect that he had Venezuela's moving what was going to happen. Senor Castro, who was already greatly irritated over untold reports concerning his movements and affairs, at first refused to discuss the matter, and then calmly made the following reply:

"No, for if I had even suspected such a thing I would have remained in Venezuela, even had my life been imperilled through ill-health, because I have always been and am now the slave to honor and duty. The only fear I have is the fear of God."

"It is rumored that the Venezuelan Government will request your extradition from Germany in order to indict you," Castro was informed.

"I do not consider that possible," replied Castro, "since any such indictment is in existence between Venezuela and Germany. The only convention between the two countries relates to trade matters."

BLIND PIGS RAIDED.
Fines Collected in Cobalt to Amount of \$1,975.

Toronto, Jan. 4.—Another raid on the blind pigs of Cobalt has been made by the officers of the Ontario License Department in pursuance of the policy of rigorous enforcement of the liquor license law. As a result twenty-nine convictions for breaches of the law were secured and fines were imposed to the amount of \$1,975. Four of the offenders were committed to the jail at North Bay. In two instances this was the punishment for second offenses, and in a like number for default of payment of fines. The cases were in charge of Mr. C. E. Morrison, the special officer of the Department.

Some days ago a like raid in Keewauk and its environs resulted in the collection of \$1,650 in fines.

14 YEARS FOR REUF.
San Francisco Boss Sentenced for Extensive Bribery.

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—Ae Reuf was sentenced late this afternoon to 14 years imprisonment for the bribery of Supervisor Finney in connection with the overhauling of the city's street-cleaning system. Reuf had denied motions of Attorney Dozier for continuance, in order to get other affidavits, he ordered Reuf to get, and then in slow tones he sentenced him to 14 years. He indulged in no speech, and there were only a few persons besides court attaches who witnessed the end of Reuf's long fight.

OIL PROSECUTION.
Criminal Proceedings Against Manitoba Merchant.

Alexander Man, Jan. 4.—The Department of Inland Revenue to-day instituted criminal proceedings against D. McHughan a coal oil dealer here, who sold to J. Raymond, which ended and caused the death of his daughter. The case will be followed with interest, in view of the fact that nineteen other deaths are due to the same quality of oil sold in the Province. Other cases may depend on the result.

TWO MEN KILLED.
Accident at the C.N.R. Excavation at Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Jan. 4.—Joseph Panko, aged 41, married, and a man whose name is believed to be Matak, also married, aged 28 years, were instantly killed, while Nakooag Moga, aged 33 years, was painfully injured when a large cube of frozen earth caved in on them at 4:30 this afternoon, while they were working in a sewer trench at the new C. N. R. shops here. Moga will recover.

DRASTIC LICENSE LAW.
New Bill Before South Australian Assembly.

Melbourne, Jan. 4.—A correspondent of The Chronicle writes that temperance reform in Australia is at a floodtide. The South Australian Legislative Assembly has just adopted a most drastic licensed victuallers' bill. Some idea of the changes which the measure legalizes may be gathered from the following facts: It closes all hotels on Parliamentary election days, Federal or State, Christmas Day and Good Friday. It renders it illegal for single women to hold licenses unless they are present do so.

It abolishes duplicate barrooms unless special permission is given by Magistrates, and requires travellers to journey ten miles from their homes before they become bona fide travellers. It tightens the provisions of the existing law with respect to closing at 11 p. m. If the bill passes the Legislative Council South Australia will have in operation the most advanced liquor law in the whole Commonwealth.

A PETITION TO ROOSEVELT.
Union Men Ask That Labor Leaders be Pardoned.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 4.—A petition was to-day sent by the representatives of twenty thousand iron and steel workers in this vicinity to President Roosevelt asking him to pardon Messrs. Compers, Mitchell and Morrison, who were last week sentenced to prison by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for contempt in the Bucks stove case. The petition is sent through the Central Labor Union of Pittston.

HUNDREDS CONVERTED.
Remarkable Missionary Movement in China Led by Knox Graduate.

Toronto, Jan. 4.—Rev. Dr. R. P. McKay, secretary of the Presbyterian Foreign Missions, has received a letter from Honan announcing a great evangelistic movement. It is being led by Rev. Jonathan Goforth, of Knox College. Hundreds of Chinese have publicly announced their conversion, and the missionaries are rejoicing over the great quickening of the history of Christian missions in China.

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