

25,000 MAY HAVE PERISHED IN ITALY, OFFICIALS ADMIT

Eleven More Towns Are Reported Destroyed by Earthquake—4000 Killed in One City, It is Said.

King in Charge of Relief Work—Troops Are Rushed to Aid of Sufferers in Stricken District.

Dead (estimated), 25,000. Injured (estimated), 35,000. Towns destroyed or damaged, 31. Homeless, 100,000.

ROME, Jan. 14.—Conflicting reports of the number of victims of yesterday's earthquake completely bewildered Government officials here today.

Officials reported that at least half of the population of 12,000 had been killed.

These eight earth tremors in central Italy today increased the terror caused yesterday's shocks.

Many killed in Avezzano. The Government today officially announced that Avezzano has been completely destroyed.

Concluded on Page Three.

THE WEATHER. FAIR. What do you think of this season's weather anyhow? Rain, wet, umbrellas one day; sun, clear skies, and other pleasant things the next, and then back the next thing to formula No. 1. Or maybe it is the next. But it has one virtue at least. It keeps us from getting too hot or too cold.

FLOODS DRIVE FRENCH BACK FROM NORTH AISNE SHORE

Line of Communications Menaced and Retirement Is Forced—Germans Attack Lines at Soissons With Fresh Troops, But Fail to Gain.

The French have been compelled to abandon several positions at Vregny, on the north side of the Aisne, and retire to the south bank of the river.

Berlin, however, reports that the French retirement across the Aisne resulted from a vigorous German attack, witnessed by the Kaiser himself.

The bombardment of Rheims has been resumed and further damage has been inflicted by German shells.

East Prussia is menaced both within and without. Russian forces have taken advantage of the frozen Mazurian Lakes to make a vigorous advance while a new drive is under way from northwest Poland.

Petrograd reports repulse of German assaults west of Warsaw. Rifle fire broke charging columns in four attacks at Samloc, and near Borjnow a new assault was beaten back.

FLOODS DRIVE FRENCH BACK ACROSS AISNE. Compelled to Retire When Bridges Are Swept Away.

PARIS, Jan. 14.—Admission was made today that the French troops holding positions north of the Aisne have been compelled to retire to the south of the river.

DELAWARE RIVER OVERFLOWS BOUNDS INTO CITY STREETS



This photograph shows how the swollen river, five feet above normal, ran over into Delaware avenue at Arch street today, virtually stopping vehicular traffic and giving merchants much uneasiness.

SUNDAY HURLS SHAFTS OF FIRE AT SIN'S SHAME

Evangelist Again Stirs Throgs in Attacks on Evils of Day—Hits at Ministers.

Members of the "Billy" Sunday congregation tonight can see the transit demonstration and then go to the tabernacle.

"There are some of you right here today who have the devil in you!" howled "Billy" Sunday, as he jumped to the edge of the platform in the tabernacle.

Another knock for booze. At the same time the evangelist took more shots at the booze business and urged the men who have left it alone or taken it moderately to keep their hands off it.

EVERY GERMAN SYMPATHIZER. should read the smashing story on Belgium to be printed Friday and Monday on the editorial page of The Evening Ledger.

James O'Donnell Bennett who replies to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's widely circulated story, "A Policy of Murder," and sets forth facts, incidents and proof which absolutely deny the stories of Prussian atrocities related by the famous English author.

Alabama House Passes Prohibition Bill, 75 to 26. MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 14.—The "prohibition" steam roller in the Alabama Legislature had high speed on today.

GOV. COLE BLEASE RESIGNS

South Carolina Executive Quits Five Days Before Term Ends. COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 14.—Governor Cole L. Blease, with but five more days to serve as Governor of South Carolina, resigned at noon today.

GIRL, 15, SUPPORT OF FAMILY, LEAPS FROM HER WINDOW

Crushed in Hospital, She Has Surrendered From Unremitting Labor. Little Rosie De Frons, of 57 Kenilworth street, found succor from the unremitting labor of the last year today.

MAY WHEAT LEAPS TO HIGHEST POINT IN YEARS; DIN IN PIT. Options Close at \$1.43 3/4 as Market Closes in Great Excitement—Record Figures Announced.

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—Wheat jumped to \$1.43 3/4 per bushel in the local pit today. It was the highest price reached here in many years for May options.

MOTHER AND CHILD BURNED

Victims Rushed by Train to Camden Hospital. A mother and child, both dying from burns, were brought 20 miles from Williamstown, N. J., to a Camden hospital by train today in a futile effort to save their lives.

Freak Laws

It's hard to get big, vital laws in a small, selfish village. Washington's mental attitude is responsible for much of the freak legislation of Congress. Seems funny, doesn't it, when you think of the dignity and overwhelming wisdom of our Senators and M. C.s?

MINE WORKERS FLEDGE AID

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 14.—The United Mine Workers of Ohio in annual convention here today unanimously adopted a resolution, declaring for the continuance of the coal strike in eastern Ohio.

RIISING WATERS OF DELAWARE FLOOD STREET

Delaware Avenue From Calowhill to Chestnut Street Covered—Merchants Move Their Goods.

Delaware River front activities were virtually paralyzed today by a rise in the stream, the like of which has not been seen before for 40 years.

CARRY GOODS TO SECOND FLOOR

In order that business may not be interrupted, many are carrying their office equipments to the second floor.

WATERS SURROUND WAREHOUSE

Profit was extracted from the situation by small boys, who spent the day salting timber washed down by the flood.

CONCLUDED ON PAGE THREE

CITY'S MIGHTY CALL FOR RAPID TRANSIT WILL RING TONIGHT

THREE BIG EVENTS IN RAPID TRANSIT FIGHT

The city-wide demonstration tonight in Broad street and the Academy of Music, which will be attended by determined citizens in every walk of life and distinguished representatives of the city, State and nation.

GEORGE W. ELKINS FAVORS TAYLOR'S HIGH-SPEED PLAN

Union Traction Director for Proposed System if Protection Is Provided for Stockholders.

George W. Elkins, a director of the Union Traction Company and a representative of a large number of stockholders, is in favor of Director Taylor's high-speed transit plan.

At present \$17.50 a share has been paid in on Union Traction and \$22.50 a share is being offered.

CONCLUDED ON PAGE TWO

Great Parade, Martial Music and Fireworks Will Emphasize Demand for High Speed.

Leaders of City in Church, Industry and Social Service Will Join in Support of Taylor Plans.

An aroused citizenship, backed by distinguished representatives of the city, State and nation, will make emphatic demands tonight at the Academy of Music for the high-speed transit system recommended by Director Taylor.

Before the meeting there will be a demonstration in Broad street, from Spruce to City Hall, in which thousands who have been enduring the chaotic transit conditions will participate to prove that the demand for 20th century street railways extends to every nook and corner of Philadelphia.

Staid business men and their employes, the bank president and the mechanic will march shoulder to shoulder to the accompaniment of martial music, provided by the police band and the navy yard band, and there will be a booming of cannon during the parade as a reminder of the sentiment of the people.

Fireworks will illuminate the entire route of the parade as a final illustration of the optimism of the people and their determination to keep the city space with progress. A representative of the Rapid Transit Company promised that adequate provision would be made for handling the crowd.

As the Director has brought the plans virtually to the door of every Councilman by addressing the residents in all sections of the city, the excuse of some local legislators that they are not familiar with the details of the proposed transit system will not be accepted.

NAVY YARD MEN'S PARADE

The parade preceding the meeting will be in charge of Grand Marshal Harvey A. Zahn, representing the employees of the League Island Navy Yard, and will form in four divisions, as follows:

CONCLUDED ON PAGE TWO

Other classified advertisements on page 14.