

BRITISH CONSUL ESCAPES FROM MESSINA

A. J. Ogston Loses Wife, But the Baby Is Uninjured.

SPECTACLE WAS HORRIFYING

Buildings Were Falling About Them as They Made Their Way to Safety.

Rome.—A dispatch from Palermo describes the experiences of A. J. Ogston, British vice consul in Messina, who arrived with his daughter in Palermo, he himself being injured. "At the first shock," he said, "my wife rushed to a cot and snatched up the child. We ran downstairs and found the door blocked with wreckage. We clambered through a window, but as we were passing a building a balcony fell and killed my wife instantly. By a miracle the child escaped unhurt. I rushed to the municipal square, where 50 people had gathered, and we ran madly for the open country, balconies, columns and chimneys falling around us in a terrifying manner. The members of our party were struck down half a dozen at a time, and when we reached a place of safety only four of the party remained. The others undoubtedly were killed.

The Marquis Ruvolito, who visited Messina and then returned to Catania, declared that the spectacle was horrifying. He estimated that there were not more than 10,000 survivors of the entire population. Thousands, he said, are buried under the wreckage and some of the injured pined beneath walls which the fire did not touch are yet alive. He believed that it would take months and perhaps a year to remove the dead from under the ruins. Some few bodies have been recovered and they have been buried in the public gardens.

One tragic phase of the disaster was the fight for life made by the prisoners in the jail above Messina. There were nearly 1,000 of these, including 300 women. The building collapsed at the first shock and the inmates were caught like rats. Several rows of cells remained intact and those who were locked within them could be heard pounding the walls and crying aloud for help. There came another shock which completed the destruction. All were killed with the exception of the few who escaped after the first shock.

REFUGEES CROWD NAPLES

Each Has Frightful Tale to Tell of the Horrors of the Cataclysm.

Naples.—Time only confirms the unspeakable horrors of the earthquake catastrophe. Naples, vibrant with the memory of Vesuvius, is prosaically new at the misery and woe from Messina, crowded to her care. The hospitals, hotels and homes are crowded with refugees and the people are vying with one another in aiding the stricken.

Those who have expert knowledge agree that the center of the cataclysm was the Strait of Messina, which also is the center of the volcanic zone, whose highest peak, 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 nearly 100 miles.

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 coast line, with its soft and fragrant foliage, has been converted into a hideous desert.

Cities Blots on the Horizon.

Reggio, whose gay aspect set off the severity of the mountains, and Palma, perched jauntily amid orange and olive trees, have become mere blots on the horizon.

The newspapers are reproducing the prophecy of Matilde Sarao, which was printed in the *Les Anna* a week ago, and in which, predicting the destruction of Naples and expressing Italy's constant fear of nature's upheaval, she said:

"Today the city beautiful because God wishes it. We believe her immortal, but she is destined for death. See you this mountain at whose feet stretch beautiful villages bathed in the sea? She will destroy our city, she will be our executioner. One day roars will come, convulsions will shake the mountain, a frightful tempest will agitate the sea, flashes of lightning will cover the heavens, and all nature will combine to our destruction."

The sea front at Reggio has been completely swept away, say the refugees. The harbor is filled with wreckage from vessels of every kind, and it is impossible to approach Reggio by sea or by land. For 12 miles from the city roads, bridges and footpaths have been destroyed. Even the face of the country has changed. It has been impossible to get into Reggio even with automobiles.

WILL ACCOMPANY MR. TAFT

President Roosevelt Names Engineers to Go to Panama.

Washington.—The president has invited the following engineers to accompany President-elect Taft on his trip to Panama: Arthur P. Davis, chief engineer of the reclamation service; Washington, John R. Freeman, Providence, R. I.; Allen Green, New York City; Isham Randolph, Chicago; James Dix Schuyler, Los Angeles, and Frederick P. Stearns, Boston.

SEA ROSE LIKE A MOUNTAIN

Naval Officer Describes the Terrifying Sights at Messina—Sea Rises Like a Mighty Mountain.

Rome.—Although there was no eruption of Mount Aetna at the time of the earthquake, it became active immediately thereafter and continues to threaten an eruption.

Lieutenant Saccarez, commanding the torpedo boat *Saffo*, sends the following account of the disaster at Messina as seen from the deck of that vessel, which was anchored off shore:

"At 5:30 a fearful upheaving movement coming from the bottom of the sea gave a violent shock to all the ships in the harbor. The sea suddenly rose like an enormous mountain, running down the strait, and it struck the shore with a thundering crash. The bridge giving communication between the breakwater and the shore fell in ruins, and many of the ships at anchor were completely wrecked.

"The Austrian steamer *Andrassy* was torn from its mooring and ran amuck, greatly damaging some other steamers. The whole of the harbor ranks were demolished in a few minutes. A moment later the surface of the sea appeared to be covered with barrels, casks and broken boats. Then a black cloud came over and hid the town.

"Only when dawn broke was it possible to get an idea of the nature of the disaster. It is impossible to describe its horror and tragic magnitude. Here was a flourishing town reduced to a heap of ruins, among which stood the gigantic sinister skeletons of the town hall and the Hotel *Trinacria*. All the splendid palaces and villas rising from the sea front and the *Gorsio Caribaldi* had disappeared. The streets were full of debris and at various points in the town, reduced to a mass of horrible ruins, belched forth flames and smoke."

MAY SEND BATTLESHIP

Consulate Is Destroyed and United States Is Without Representative.

Rome.—The destruction of the American consulate at Messina, and the death of former Vice Consul J. H. Peirce, together with the absence of W. H. Bishop, the American consul at Palermo, leaves the United States without a representative in Sicily at the present time.

Officials in Rome are considering the possibility of the administration at Washington ordering one or more of the ships of the battleship fleet now cruising around the world to proceed to Sicily in order to protect American interests.

So far all reports agree that there were few if any Americans in Messina at the time of the disaster, with the exception of Consul Cheney and his wife. Mr. Peirce was an Englishman.

LYNCHERS ARE FOILED

Lack of Leader for Mob Saves Life of Negro.

Baltimore.—A party of 25 masked men made a demonstration before the Ellicott city hall in which is confined William Hatwood, the negro who was undergoing a magistrate's hearing in Easton hall when the floor gave way with resultant injuries to two score of men. Apparently lacking a leader, however, no serious move was made toward securing Hatwood, and eventually the gathering dispersed.

When Hatwood was apprehended for an alleged assault on Charles E. Hill, a farmer of Howard county, a week ago, there were mutterings of vengeance against the man, and after the accident the bitter feeling revived. Hatwood being held responsible in the minds of many, for the accident at the hall.

BAGNARA RUINED

Italian Town Wiped Out by the Earthquake and All Its Inhabitants Perish.

Catanzaro, Calabria.—A report received here says that the town of Bagnara, on the coast to the north of Reggio, has been completely wiped out by the earthquake, finishing the work of destruction. The report says that "all the inhabitants of Bagnara are dead." The town counted about 10,000 people.

In a few days lime will be scattered over the heap of ruins which marks the site of a once populous town.

TWENTY KILLED IN BATTLE

Adherents of Castro Resist Attempts To Wrest Their Offices from Them.

Port of Spain, Trinidad.—There has been fighting at Macuro, on the Venezuelan coast, between adherents of former President Castro and the crew of the gunboat *Miranda* working in the interests of the new president, Juan Vicente Gomez. About 20 men were killed and some 30 wounded. The Gomez party was obliged to withdraw temporarily, but later returned to resume the engagement.

Tucson, Ariz.—The Whitwell hospital was destroyed by fire. The patients were removed in safety. The loss is estimated at \$60,000. The hospital was owned by New York parties.

SIMILAR TO FRISCO 'QUAKE.

New Haven, Conn.—Prof. William H. Brewer, of Yale, stated that he believed the earthquake in Sicily was due to the same conditions as that which caused the San Francisco earthquake, namely, a fault in the earth's surface.

He thought that what has been described as a tidal wave was a disturbance of the water in the straits of Messina, which caused it to recede and then to rush back, temporarily engulfing the land which had slipped.

DISASTER AROUSES ROYAL SYMPATHY

Italian Ruler Visits the Districts Laid Waste by Earthquake.

KING AND QUEEN RESCUE VICTIMS

Go to Work Like Heroes Among the Ruins of Messina—Their Presence Cheering.

Catania.—King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena arrived at Messina on board a battleship. They made their way into the ruined city.

As soon as it was known that the King and Queen had come crowds of the terror-stricken populace swarmed around the royal party, prostrating themselves in the mud and crying for pity. This reception was so much for the Queen, who almost fainted.

Many terrible stories were told to the King in connection with the work of rescue. He lost little time in listening to a recital of difficulties. He immediately joined a rescue party and labored unremittingly as the others. He personally extricated several injured persons pinned under the ruins.

The Queen quickly recovered her courage, and followed the example of her husband. She devoted her attention principally to the little children. She rescued with her own hands a boy 3 years old, bleeding from many cuts and wounds, where she handed him over to members of the hospital corps.

King's Presence Revives Hope.

At the dock were many small boats sent in to take the wounded out to the ships in the harbor. People wept when they saw the King and Queen come ashore. The women threw kisses to Her 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 the King had come among them.

An aged man who had been abandoned under a beam that 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 happily. Long live the King."

He then fell back and expired. The troops and sailors have been obliged to shoot down robbers who persisted in looting.

The entire local treasury of the Messina branch of the Bank of Italy, some \$2,000,000, has been saved and is on board an Italian warship. The king was loud in his praise of the splendid work accomplished by the Italian, Russian and English blue-jackets, who saved many persons who otherwise would have inevitably perished.

The Queen spent the day in the wards of improvised hospitals visiting the wounded, many of whom have lost all that was dear to them. Her Majesty did her best to cheer them with womanly words of consolation, often breaking into sobs as she listened to their dreary tales of suffering.

The King Left for Reggio.

News reaching Catanzaro from the outlying districts in Calabria indicates that 35 towns and villages have been wiped out, with the number of dead in that district estimated at 35,000. The survivors have fled to the forested mountain slopes, where they are subsisting on roots and the bark of trees.

TWELVE MINERS DEAD

Coal Mine Disaster in Virginia Impersonates Fifty Men.

Roanoke, Va.—Meager reports of a coal mine disaster at Lick Branch, Va., reached here. About 50 men were imprisoned. Twelve miners are dead: Henry Lockhart, colored; Richard Lockhart, James Lockhart, John Brown, John Miller, Kemp Sanders, James Smith, Charles Little, W. Little, Cleve Alexander, Peter Kennedy and a Russian whose name is not known.

Lick Branch is a coal operation on the Pocahontas division of the Norfolk & Western Railway and is without commercial telegraph facilities.

Norfolk & Western headquarters here say that as miners were taking a holiday in large numbers the number at work in this particular mine at the time of the explosion, which occurred about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, was smaller than usual.

It is said the Lick Branch mine has a connection with another mine on the other side of the mountain, and that it is possible this mine has been affected.

The cause of the explosion cannot be learned. Although rescue work is slow, being retarded by fire and smoke, most of the living miners have been released by exploring parties. The damage to the mine is great.

President Roosevelt, in a statement given out said that he cannot act in the sentence of Messrs. Mitchell, Compers and Morrison while an appeal is pending in their case.

RUEF GETS 14 YEARS

San Francisco Boss Grafted Sentenced for Bribing Official.

San Francisco.—Fourteen years in the penitentiary, the maximum sentence for bribery of a supervisor, was given to Abraham Ruef, for years director of the political destinies of San Francisco as adviser of Eugene E. Schmitz, formerly mayor.

BIG FLEET AT SUEZ

Some of the Battleships to Carry Food and Clothing to Starving Italians.

Suez.—The United States Atlantic battleship fleet, completing two days ahead of its schedule, the next to the longest run of its world-girdling cruise, arrived here January 3 from Colombo, a distance of 3,440 knots, from which place the fleet sailed on December 20.

The loss of a seaman from the battleship *Illinois*, who fell overboard and was drowned, as previously reported, was the only accident to mar the voyage from Colombo. The *Illinois* remained on the scene to search for the sailor and is a little behind the fleet.

Officially Received.

When the ships had come to anchor the Egyptian and canal authorities went aboard the flag ship *Connecticut* and welcomed Rear Admiral Sperry, who expressed himself as well satisfied with the cruise from Colombo. He regretted that he was compelled to curtail his stay in Egypt, but hoped that at some future time an opportunity would be given him to visit Cairo. The admiral spoke of the Australasian visit of the fleet as a special feature of the trip.

Universal regret is expressed here that the visit of the battleships will be so brief. It had been expected that a representative officer would visit Cairo and be presented to the khedive on the anniversary of his accession to the throne on January 8.

The converted cruiser *Yankee* entered the canal Sunday afternoon, and the supply ship *Culgoa* followed. The former has a number of doctors aboard and the latter a large supply of provisions and stores. Both will go to Messina at full speed. All arrangements were made by wireless for the ships of the fleet to pass through the canal as quickly as possible and to coal at Port Said, where 25,000 tons are stored.

Right of Way for Fleet in Canal.

The authorities made arrangements for the battleships to have right of way for a clear run through the canal. The news of the disaster in Southern Italy was received with profound sorrow by officers and men. In a reply to a message from the navy department, Rear Admiral Sperry said that he had supplies available for distribution to the Italian earthquake sufferers.

FUNDS FOR SUFFERERS

Some Large Contributions by Americans from New York.

New York.—Nearly \$100,000 was subscribed to the various funds being raised here for the relief of the earthquake sufferers in Italy.

Among the many contributors was one of \$2,500 from H. C. Frick and one of \$10,000 from John D. Rockefeller. At the Italian chamber of commerce the list closed for the day with a total of \$5,000 collected. The United States Steel Corporation contributed \$25,000 to the American Red Cross for the Italian earthquake sufferers, and the Standard Oil Company gave \$10,000. Mrs. Russell Sage gave \$5,000 to the mayor's fund for the sufferers.

DUBUQUE FOR BLUEFIELDS

U. S. Gunboat Will Watch Expected Troubles in Nicaragua.

Washington.—Reports of expeditionary movements in Central America have led to a close watch of the situation by the Washington government, and acting under orders from the navy department the gunboat *Dubuque* sailed from Havana for Bluefields.

The *Dubuque* will touch at Key West for supplies. Her presence in the neighborhood of Nicaraguan territory will have a reassuring effect in the event that any trouble occurs in that section.

CUBA AGAIN FREE COUNTRY

General Gomez Takes Over Reins of Government—Magoo Retires.

Havana.—The inaugural step toward re-establishment of the Cuban republic was marked with the New Year's reception at the palace New Year's, when Governor Magon, who for more than two years has been the supreme ruler of the island, formally presented local dignitaries and diplomatic representatives to the president-elect, General Jose Miguel Gomez, and the vice president-elect, Alfredo Zayas.

Flying Warships.

New York.—An airplane warship 700 feet in length, with accommodations for 100 passengers, food and fuel enough for a voyage across the ocean, and a full complement of guns is to be built immediately at the Nixon yards, according to Lewis Nixon, the designer.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Naples.—Joseph H. Peirce, the former vice consul at Messina, and all the members of his family, lost their lives in the earthquake.

Moscow.—The municipal elections here today resulted in a victory for the constitutional Democrats, who elected 79 out of 138 councilmen.

Cebu, Island of Cebu, P. I.—A major portion of the Chinese quarter of this city has been wiped out by fire, loss \$250,000.

ALL BUT ONE PERISH

The British Steamer Advance Sinks After a Collision Off Coast of Australia.

New Castle, N. S. W.—The British steamer *Advance* and the British bark *Iverna* were in collision off here. The *Advance* went down and, with exception of her first officer, all the members of her crew lost their lives. The *Iverna* put into New Castle, leaking badly.

CITY OF 50,000 SWALLOWED UP

Convulsion Changes Harbor Making Navigation Dangerous.

SURVIVORS HALF DEMENTED

The Government Hesitates to Publish the Apalling Tale of Disaster Until Confirmed.

Rome.—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 exception of a mere handful, has disappeared.

The warships which were ordered to relieve the survivors were unable to approach the coast owing to changed configuration to the Straits of Messina. Ultimately a torpedo boat ran close to the coast, but was unable to discover a 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 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 rawling 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 reached Catanzaro and Palmi half demented by fright. They were scarcely able to talk intelligently, but their incoherent stories are sufficient to confirm the horrible fate of the city. One of them was mainly impressed by having seen the sea cover the cathedral. The others were deafened by the roar of 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 this latest development of the catastrophe, the death roll may well reach 125,000.

The ministry of marine has received wireless reports of the obstruction of the straits of Messina, showing that its safe navigation will be impossible until it is recharted, while its future navigation is likely to be extremely difficult. The news has caused a deep impression here, for its consequences, from commercial and military points of view, will be incalculable.

BURGLARS MAKE \$25,000 HAUL

Get \$5,000 Cash and \$20,000 in Jewels from New York Store.

New York.—A safe robbery was discovered by Oscar C. Jackle, a jeweler of 866 Third avenue, whose place of business was entered at night and looted of \$5,000 in cash and \$20,000 in jewelry. The burglars entered the Jackle establishment by way of the cellar.

After wrenching 12 steel bars from the cellar window, they sawed an opening in the ceiling and through this they entered the store above. After vainly attempting to bore through the steel door of the safe, they managed to pry the combination small opening left manipulated the bolts and levers so as to release the lock.

STANDARD FILES APPEAL

Seeks to Remain in Missouri and Have Fine Remitted.

Jefferson City, Mo.—In a motion for rehearing in the Missouri ouster suit against it, filed in the supreme court here, the Standard Oil Company of Indiana asked to be allowed to remain in Missouri as long as it conforms to rules and regulations that may be laid down by the court.

An appeal was also filed with the court for a remittance of the fine of \$50,000 imposed on the Republic Oil Company on the ground that this company has gone out of business.

Patriarch Is Dethroned.

Jerusalem.—The Greek synod has dethroned Damianos, the Greek patriarch of Jerusalem, who declined to resign. The patriarch favored reforms for his native flock, which were denied under the old Turkish regime and were opposed by the synod because they would have reduced considerably the church revenues. The authorities have sent troops to guard the patriarch.

\$200,000 Is Awarded.

Washington.—The court of claims has announced its findings in the case of the State of Oregon against the United States, and awards \$200,000 to the State for money expended by it during the Civil War in protecting the adjoining territories of Washington and Idaho. The claim has long been before congress.

Knox's Assistant.

Washington.—Beekman Winthrop of Massachusetts, assistant secretary of the treasury, accepted the office of first assistant secretary of state under the incoming administration.

Relief Work Ends.

San Francisco.—With a balance of \$397,267.25 on hand the relief corporation which had charge of the distribution of the fund donated to San Francisco at the time of the fire of 1906 will turn the money over to the various charitable organizations and go out of existence the first of the year. The corporation distributed \$9,553,140.76. The actual cost of administering the affairs of the society from August 1, 1906, to the present time was \$125,021.25, 2.03 per cent of the entire sum disbursed.

WORLD'S GREATEST CALAMITY

Sleeping People Are Given No Time to Escape from Topping Walls of Their Homes.

Rome.—One hundred thousand dead; Messina, in Sicily, and Reggio and a score of other towns in Southern Italy overwhelmed; the entire Calabrian region laid waste—this is the earthquake's record, so far as it is at present known from the reports that are coming into Rome slowly on account of the almost complete destruction of lines of communication to the stricken places.

The death list in Messina ranges from 12,000 to 50,000; that of Reggio, which, with its adjacent villages, numbered 45,000 people, includes almost the entire population. At Palmi 1,000 are reported dead, at Cassanura 1,000, at Cosenza 500 and half the population of Babbara, about 4,000.

ROBBERS STAND OFF TOWN

While Some of the Five Stand Guard Their Pals Loot Bank.

Muskogee, Okla.—Five robbers dynamited the bank at Wellston, Okla., east of here, and after exchanging many shots with citizens escaped with \$5,000. No one was hurt. The robbers rode into Wellston after midnight. They 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. For two hours the latter kept the townspeople at bay while other robbers worked on the bank's vault. When they got the money the five men rode off, covering their departure with a constant and heavy fire.

MOVE \$225,500,000 IN GOLD

Largest Shipment Ever Made Goes from 'Fisco to Denver Mint.

Washington.—Moving \$225,500,000 in gold coin a distance of more than 1,000 miles without accident or without loss of a dollar is the feat just successfully accomplished by the treasury department.

All the principal vaults of the San Francisco mint had become filled with gold coin and it was deemed desirable to move the additional accumulation to the new modern vaults of the Denver mint.

This is by far the largest transfer of money ever made by the treasury department.

J. P. Morgan Gives \$10,000.

J. Pierpont Morgan has sent \$10,000 for the relief of the earthquake sufferers. The news of Mr. Morgan's contribution was communicated to the Italian government by Ambassador Griscioni, who also informed the Duke of Aosta, president of the national relief committee, of the donation. The people are touched by the promptitude with which Mr. Morgan has contributed.

Roanoke (Va.) Votes "Dry."

Roanoke, Va.—In a local option election here, the "drys" were victorious by a majority of 96 votes. The effect of the election will be the closing within ninety days of forty-two saloons and six mail order liquor houses. The anti-saloon league has pledged \$10,000 to work in enforcing the law after the saloons are closed. The fight has been one of the bitterest ever waged in Virginia.

Black Hand Men Throw Bomb.

Kansas City, Mo.—A bomb was exploded here under the home of Antonio Armenio, a prosperous saloon-keeper, on Gillis street, North End. None of the family were injured and the damage to the house was slight. Armenio recently received an anonymous letter demanding \$5,000.

\$75,000,000 Ranch Merger.

Denver.—According to private dispatches received a merger of Texas ranches in the territory penetrated by the Colorado & Southern railroad is forming, and it will comprise 7,000,000 acres of land, worth \$75,000,000. James J. Hill, who, it is said, has gained control of the Colorado & Southern, is named as a backer of the merger.

Boni Loses Suit.

Paris.—The petition of Count Boni de Castellane that the custody of his three sons be given to his mother, the Marquise de Castellane, was denied. The court ruled that the children remain in the custody of their mother, Princess de Sagan, formerly Miss Anna Gould of New York.

American Consul Perished.

Washington.—That Arthur S. Cheney, American consul at Messina, Sicily, and his wife lost their lives in the earthquake disaster which devastated that city, is indicated by an official dispatch received by the state department from Stuart Lupton, American vice consul at Messina.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

Claus Spreckels, sugar king of Pacific coast, died in San Francisco.

Henry W. Poor, prominent Wall street banker and broker, made assignment for benefit of creditors.

Plans have been completed by the United Wireless Telephone Company to erect eleven new wireless stations on the Pacific Coast.

American Woman Robbed in Paris.

Paris.—Jewelry to the value of \$6,000 was recently stolen from Mrs. Ely Patterson, who was formerly Miss Schmitt of St. Louis. The police have made one arrest in connection with the case.

Fertilizing Plant Burns.

St. Joseph, Mo.—The fertilizing plant and tank room of the Nelson Morris packing plant were destroyed by fire. The damage is \$125,000. The fire will not interfere with the working of the plant.