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NO. 6.

TERROR IN NAPLES.

Vesuvius, More Active, is Threatening Great City.

Strong Earthquake Shocks Shatter Windows and Crack Walls in Naples—Work of Succor Delayed by Red Hot Stones Falling on Railway.

Naples, April 8th.—The eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which yesterday reached a magnitude placing it among the historic displays of Vesuvian fury, increased in violence to-day, and this evening threatened to become even more terrible. The earth for miles around quaked repeatedly.

Incessant rumblings, groanings, and thunderings accompany the repeated explosions at the crater, whence there is an immense discharge of lava, cinders, and hot rocks. Ashes are falling over a large part of Southern Italy, even to the east coast. These and the dense smoke this evening blotted out all sight of the mountain, the island of Capri, and the town of Sorrento from Naples.

During the day many areas around the mountain were in darkness. The towns and villages have been generally abandoned, hence the extent of the damage is not fully known.

The panic has spread to Naples. Two strong earthquake shocks, which shattered windows and cracked the walls of buildings, were experienced to-day. The entire population rushed to the streets in terror, many persons crying, "The Madonna has forsaken us; the end of the world has come."

No trace remains of Boscorease, a commune on the southern declivity of the mountain, where up to forty-eight hours ago ten thousand persons lived; and Torre Annunziata, on the shores of the Gulf of Naples, one mile to the southward, is almost surrounded by the invading lava and has been evacuated by its thirty thousand inhabitants. The people were brought to Naples by trains, street cars, military carts, and steamships. Similar means of transportation are being employed to bring away the people from Torre del Greco. The police and carabinieri are guarding the abandoned houses, and several members of the government, also, are there.

A telegram received from the mayor of San Sebastiano, a village near the observatory, on the northwest declivity of Vesuvius, says the lava is approaching rapidly, and that the people are terror-stricken. They have been for nights without sleep, he says, are destitute, and beg that assistance be given them.

The work of succor is hampered owing to delays to the railway service, which is interrupted by red-hot stones, thrown to a height of 3,000 feet, falling on the tracks.

MAGNIFICENT IN ITS FURY.

London, April 3.—The accounts of Sunday's eruption of Mount Vesuvius which have reached here are detached and in expert. It is declared that the evacuation of the towns and villages in a wide area around the volcano before the advancing lava and torrents of hot ashes and sand has left nobody to observe the progress of the catastrophe, even if such observation were possible. A correspondent, who went to the Boscorease and Torre Annunziata districts Saturday says:

"Along the road I met hundreds of families in flight, carrying their few miserable possessions. The spectacle of collapsed carts and fainting women was frequent. From a point on the mountain between the two towns I watched four rivers of molten fire, one of which, 200 feet wide and over forty feet deep, was moving slowly and majestically onward, devouring vineyards and olive groves. I witnessed the destruction of a farm house,

which was enveloped on three sides by lava.

SUMMIT WREATHED IN FLAMES.

"Immediately overhead the great crater was belching incandescent rocks and scoriae for an incredible distance. The whole summit was wreathed with flames and a perpetual roar was heard. Ever and anon the cone of the volcano was encircled with vivid electric phenomena, amid which a downpour of liquid fire on all sides of the crater was revealed in magnificent awfulness.

"In the evening there was a frightful shock of earthquake, which was repeated at 2 o'clock Sunday morning. Simultaneously the lava streams redoubled their onrush and men, women, and children fled precipitately toward the sea. The lava had invaded the road behind them."

Another correspondent describes a visit made to Boscorease Saturday, saying:

"As nothing could be seen from Naples, owing to the dense, black pall of sand, half of Naples hurried to the threatened town by railway, electric tramway, motor car, and country cart. It was difficult enough to obtain a ticket and infinitely more difficult to obtain a seat in the trains, although the service has been trebled. As far as the picturesque town of Portici, the country lay desolate under a shroud of sand. Not a blossom could be seen on the withered trees, not a scrap of fodder on the ground for the cattle. Along the railway the people of the towns through which it passes, stood watching in mournful surprise the procession of crowded trains."

FIFTY THOUSAND HOMELESS.

Naples, April 11.—The loss of property by the volcanic outbreak is estimated at \$20,000,000 and it is announced that 50,000 persons have been rendered homeless.

So widespread is the catastrophe that it is estimated that it will require an organized body of 100,000 men and the expenditure of many millions of dollars to raze houses made unsafe for habitation by the accumulation of ashes and cinders on the roofs, erect temporary huts or refuge for the thousands who have been obliged to flee from their homes, clear the roofs of buildings that may yet be saved, and extricate from the ruins of fallen structures and bury the dead.

The distress among the tens of thousands of fugitives is appalling. The government has forwarded supplies of food and money, several of the Italian cities have done the same and private citizens are contributing money for the assistance of the suffering people, but more help is needed.

Father of Forty-Three Children.

In conversation this week with uncle Callier King, a well known colored man who lives a few miles down the river, he informed us that he was about 74 years old, had been married three times and was the father of forty-three children. There was born unto him by his first wife 10, by his second 11, by his third, who is still living, 22. His baby is four years old. He was not exactly certain as to the number of grand children. The old man has been a pretty hard working man all of his life, and gets about now at a lively gait.—Franklin Times.

The Death of Little Dollie.

Thursday evening, April the fifth, the angel of death visited the home of Mr. D. B. Denning and took their precious little girl. She was two years and five months old. No special name had ever been given her except a pet name—as she was called "Dollie."

On the first morning of April she was stricken with a brain trouble which proved to be a fatal disease. All was done for her relief that lay in the power of a good physician and fond and patient parents to do. But alas! Ten minutes past eight o'clock her little body found relief and her soul fled to a peaceful shore.

ANON.

WRECK NEAR RIVER.

Sixteen Freight Cars thrown From Track Tuesday.

While Rounding Curve on High Embankment Serious Wreck Occurs—Accident Caused by Broken Rail.

Tuesday morning about six o'clock a North-bound freight composed of about forty loaded box cars dashed around the curve near the river bridge at the speed of probably fifty miles per hour and was derailed and wrecked within one hundred yards of the bridge and upon the highest point of the embankment. Thirteen box cars, all loaded with cabbage, were demolished, while several other cars were partially derailed and remained on the track, crossing the river with some of the wheels dragging upon the cross ties. No



Picture of Wreck on Coast Line near Neuse River, taken Tuesday Morning Before any of the Wreckage was cleared away. The picture shows only a part of the Wreck as it was impossible to get all in one picture. The photograph was made by Mr. John F. Sanders.

one was injured.

Traffic was delayed about eight hours, the first train passing about two o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The wreck train and force has been at work at the spot since but it will be some time before the last of the wreck is cleared away.

This accident occurred within one half mile of the serious wreck of a few days ago, in which fifteen cars were demolished. The above wrecks have entailed a great money loss upon the railroad and it seems providential in each instance that lives were not lost.

The cause of the wreck is due to rotten ties and a broken rail. This rail has been broken for five or six weeks, and it was spiked upon ties that were rotten that one could kick the spikes loose with the foot. It would seem that the tracks placed upon embankments sixteen or twenty feet high and upon a decided curve besides, would have been given more than ordinary attention by the section force of the company, but it seems to have been signally neglected. We are told by reputable people that they have passed this spot in the past six weeks and had seen this broken rail. We are informed, but we cannot vouch for it, that the section master had been told that this very rail would cause a wreck.

For many years, the Atlantic Coast Line system seemed to be exempt from serious wrecks. It enjoyed the reputation of being the safest road in the South, but in the last several months, it has suffered many accidents, and the condition of the road bed is now such that it renders it very dangerous, indeed, to travel over it.

Within the past few days, besides the two wrecks in our vicinity, there have been bad accidents at Hope Mills, Benson,

Rocky Mount, and Florence.

We are informed that the section force here has numbered not more than two or three hands for some time past and the day this wreck occurred, the section master did not have a single laborer. It had been simply impossible for the section to be worked as it should. It seems that the trouble is due to the fact that the railroad is not paying competitive wages to the laborers and pay off only once a month. The saw mills and other public work have attracted the labor elsewhere.

On Wakefield Circuit.

We are requested to announce that there will be a special meeting for Wakefield circuit at Rogers X Roads on the fifth Sunday in April. Col. Bruton, Dr. Swindell and Prof. Wolfe have been invited to deliver addresses. Everybody is invited to attend with a well-filled basket. Meeting begins at 10 A. M. Rev. F. F. Eure is pastor in charge.

MR. POU INTERVIEWED

On Railroad Rate Bill and Rural Free Delivery.

Our Congressman Thinks Congress Will Pass Some Kind of Rate Bill—Anxious That no Route be Discontinued in His District.

Congressman Edw. W. Pou arrived from Washington Sunday night to spend a few days with his family, returning to Washington Wednesday afternoon. When asked by the Editor of THE Herald, whether or not, in his opinion, the Railroad Rate Bill would ever become a law, he said:

"I do not doubt that some sort of railroad rate bill will be passed; President Roosevelt has forced the measure upon the representatives of his party in Congress and they are afraid to adjourn and go before the people without passing some bill which they will claim carries out the recommendation of the President. The President is having a hard time in his efforts to bring his own party in line of support for the pending bill. But for the fact that the Speaker rules the House of Representatives, the Hepburn Bill, I firmly believe, would have encountered serious opposition in that body."

What sort of a bill do you think will pass, we asked the Congressman?

"I will say this," he replied, "I am perfectly certain that the Hepburn Bill will never become a law in the shape it left the House. Even in that shape it is worth little or nothing to the small shippers, still it is an improvement upon existing legislation. As I said, the Senate will pass some sort of a bill; after that body has done its work, I predict that the average shipper will never realize that the law has been changed, or that Congress has legislated with respect to railroad rates at all. Under the rules of the Senate, no bill can be passed as long as a single Senator stands up in his place and speaks against it. In other words, the Senate never votes on a measure unless practically by unanimous consent."

"I may be mistaken, but I think the Republican party has been too friendly with corporate interests for its representatives in Congress to allow a bill to pass which will be very objectionable to the interests which have put up the funds to help carry their election."

Should the Hepburn bill become a law it would no doubt help our people to some extent we said, but our people are more interested in Rural Free Delivery agitation. What about the rumor that some of the routes now in operation might be discontinued, we asked.

"I hardly think the Post Office Department will discontinue any Rural Free Delivery Route which is much appreciated by its patrons. There has been some talk of the discontinuance of routes which do not handle two thousand pieces of mail per month, but as yet no route has been discontinued for that reason; but I do hope that the patrons will do all in their power to make the rural free delivery service a success. If I am not mistaken in my figures, it costs the Government about forty cents for every letter which is delivered by the Rural carriers. I may be mistaken in these figures, but I am sure that I have heard it stated in the House that it costs about that much."

"The Rural Free Delivery service is the greatest thing Congress has done for the farmer in recent years. I shall do my utmost to prevent the discontinuance of any route in my district. Every family along these routes would take a weekly newspaper there would be little danger of a discontinuance of the route, for

this would almost certainly put the number of pieces of mail handled up to two thousand pieces per month. A semi-weekly paper in each family would make it certain that the route would never be discontinued. I suppose a good semi-weekly newspaper can be had for about \$2.00 per year, and just think what a magnificent stimulus this would be to universal education."

Death Near Kenly.

Mr. John H. Barnes died suddenly on Monday, April 2nd, 1906, in his eighty-first year. He was well known in this county and always felt a deep interest in anything of interest to Johnston. He was a citizen of this County before Wilson county was formed and a part of Johnston taken to help make it. After the formation of Wilson County part of his home tract of land was in Johnston County.

At the close of the civil war he had nothing except his farm but he was a good farmer and a fine financier. He made money farming and by lending money. His estate is said to be worth thirty-five thousand dollars. He was a man worthy to be followed as an example. Mrs. J. U. Oliver, who formerly lived in Smithfield, Mrs. B. L. Aycock, Mrs. D. H. Bagley and Mrs. C. W. Knight were his daughters.

Pou on Contributions by Corporations.

Washington, D. C., April 7.—Representative Pou made a strong speech in the House to-day in support of his bill to prevent contributions from corporations in political campaigns.

Remarks of the Congressman from the Fourth District developed the fact that the several bills introduced with reference to such legislation are held up by the chairman of the committee on the election of President and Vice-President, Gaines, of West Virginia, who, according to Mr. Rucker, of Missouri, a member of the committee, refuses to call a meeting.

This remark brought forth a suggestion from Minority Leader Williams that the majority of a committee could displace a chairman, but Mr. Rucker replied that while Democrats and Republicans on the committee favored such a measure, they could not get a meeting. Representative Pou was also interrupted by Representative Sims, of Pennsylvania and other members.

In preaching against the practice of corrupting elections, he was none the less severe in his criticism of Democrats, who become parties to such transactions. He began with contributions to national campaigns as far back as the Hayes administration. The speaker laid special emphasis on the campaign of '96 that year of all years. He said: When the insurance companies were trying to save the honor of the nation by stealing the money that belonged to the widows and orphans, trying to save the country from the disaster of W. J. Bryan, by robbery and theft, that ought to put them in stripes."—Thomas J. Pence, in News and Observer.

BENSON NEWS.

Miss Mary Rose and Mr. Joseph Rose spent a few days here recently with their brother, Mr. J. H. Rose.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Royal, formerly of Benson, but now of Emporia, Va., happened to the sad misfortune recently to lose their little two-year old girl by accidental poisoning. On last Saturday morning while Mrs. Royal was using some water of ammonia for household purposes the little one not knowing the fatal danger it was in, drank a small amount of the powerful drug which resulted in its death on Monday morning about three o'clock. Its remains were brought here and interred in the town cemetery on Tuesday evening April 11th.

SOLOX.