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CHARLOTTE, N. C. WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1908.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

GREAT CALAMITY STUNNALLY

SCORE OF CITIES WIPED FROM MAP

DEATH LIST NUMBERS 100,000

Earthquake, followed by tidal waves, destroyed city after city in Sicily and Calabria, and obliterated smaller towns and villages with numbers—Messina, with its tragic history, was shaken to ruins and flames hasten to complete the city's destruction...

THE MAP ALTERED

The Strait of Messina was shaken and twisted by the earth's trembling, for mariners report the channel altered beyond recognition. The ports and villages on both the continental and Sicilian sides were wrecked or inundated and all lighthouses along the coasts were swallowed up...

DEATH LIST NUMBERS 100,000

Roma, Dec. 29.—One hundred thousand dead; Messina in Sicily, and Reggio and a score of other towns in southern Italy overwhelmed; the entire Calabria region laid waste, this is the earthquake's record so far as is at present known from the reports that are coming slowly into Rome...

AD FROM FOREIGNERS

Already British and Russian squadrons have arrived at Messina. Sailors and marines have been disembarked and they have performed courageous acts in rescuing the injured and mutilated while hundreds of the injured, imprisoned in the wreckage were abandoned to their fate by the fleeing populace...

KING SAILS FOR MESSINA

The King and Queen of Italy are now on their way to Messina, having sailed to-night from Naples aboard the battleship Vittorio Emanuele. The Pope has shown the greatest distress at the calamity and he himself was the first to contribute a sum amounting to \$200,000 to the relief of the afflicted.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

The hands of all nations have been extended to Italy in her affliction. From rulers to common people, and from the people spontaneous promises of that aid which brings the world closer together in times of great calamity. Great Britain, France and Russia have sent their warships quick as the flash of the telegraph could carry the orders to lend assistance to the stricken cities...

NAVAL OFFICER'S EXPERIENCE

At half-past five in the morning the sea suddenly became terribly agitated, and the ships picked up at sea and straggled. Other nearby were similarly treated and the ships looked like bits of cork bobbing about in a tempest. Almost immediately huge waves of huge proportions swept across the strait, mounting the coasts and carrying everything before it. Scores of ships were damaged and the Hungarians mail boat Anthony, bound for Messina, was wrecked on the coast...

AMERICAN CONSUL VICTIM

Arthur S. Cheney and His Wife Supposed to Have Died. Their lives in the earthquake—was Consul of the United States at Messina. Washington, Dec. 29.—That Arthur S. Cheney, American consul at Messina, Sicily, and his wife lost their lives in the earthquake disaster which devastated that city yesterday, is indicated by official dispatches received to-night by the State Department from St. Louis, American vice-consul at Messina. The dispatch, which was from Messina, followed by the news that the consulate was destroyed and consul and wife supposed to be dead.

CONUL GALE AT MESSINA

Consul Gale at Messina, in forward position of the ship, was struck by a tidal wave and was killed. The ship was wrecked and the consul and his wife were killed.

ADMITTED LOVE FOR ANNIS

MRS. HAIN'S MORALS RIDDLED

Negro Servant Tells the Jury in Plaintiff's Case How the Wife of Captain Peter Hains Carried on With "Billy" Annis—She Told the Captain of the Misconduct During His Absence—Another Witness Testifies to the Captain's Irrational Conduct When Relating the Story of the Tragedy in His Family—Said His Wife Carried Him One Night and Dined Her Husband and the Next Night Killed Him.

Plaintiff, N. Y. Dec. 29.—The defense of Thornton J. Hains, indicted with his brother, Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr., for the killing of William B. Annis, called two witnesses in to-day's session of the trial to show certain alleged acts of Mrs. Claudia Hains, which the lawyers for the defendants claim so affected Captain Hains that he became mentally unbalanced.

Samuel Chester Reid, of Chicago, a friend of the Hains' family, says that Captain Hains told him of all his marital misfortunes and that the captain evinced signs of being irrational. Before the close of the day's session the defense called to the witness in Captain Hains' household, Minnie Rhone, who related certain alleged incidents in which Mrs. Claudia Hains and William B. Annis figured at the Hains home while Captain Hains was in the Philippines.

RELATES DOMESTIC TRAGEDY

Samuel C. Reid, a building inspector of the United States training station at North Chicago, was called. The witness related a conversation he had with Captain Hains, who, the witness said, used such expressions as "My life is ruined," and "I wish I was dead."

WIFE WANTED TO DIE

Witness said Captain Hains frequently expressed a desire to die and said Thornton had been so good to him. Mr. Reid said the captain sighed, moaned and quailed from King's "Vampires" and in his own mind uttered the poem before, but did so now.

THE WITNESS DRAMATIC

The witness jumped from her seat and gave an exhibition of how the captain acted, crying out: "Oh, my God! Did she say that? What will become of my children?" "When did you tell Captain Hains all this?" asked Judge Crane severely.

YOUNG LADY BURNED

Clothing of Miss Beale Lucy Catches as She is Coated by Fire—Burns Not Thought to Be Fatal. Burlington, Dec. 29.—Miss Beale Lucy, the 31-year-old daughter of John Loy, it was thought, was fatally burned yesterday, though today the doctors are hopeful of her recovery. She was seated near the fire at her home three miles from Burlington when her clothing became ignited and she was burned from her body. The flames were extinguished after she was burned almost beyond recognition.

LADIES E. LADD TURNS IN HIS LAST COPY

New York, Dec. 29.—Ladies E. Ladd, for several years engaged in newspaper work in this city, died at the Swedish Hospital in Brooklyn today. Mrs. Ladd was born in Springfield, Mass., and did her first newspaper work on the Union of this city. Her last duties were those of correspondent of the Associated Press at Atlanta, Ga.

ABRAHAM RUF GETS 14 YEARS

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Abraham Ruf, formerly political boss of San Francisco, today was sentenced to 14 years in the State Prison by Judge William P. Taylor, who presided over Ruf's trial on the charge of bribing a member of the Senate to get a franchise in the award of an overland trolley franchise to the United Railroads. The trial ended in the conviction of Ruf on December 29th after a long and bitter struggle.

THE JUDGESHIP MATTER

PRESIDENT FAVORS EASTERNER

It is Said That President Roosevelt Will Not Go Out of the District to Name Successor to Judge Purnell, if Suitable Man Can Be Found—Some Able Men in the District Besides Spencer H. Adams, Judge Purnell's Successor, are Being Considered—The President Has the Support of Many of the Leading Democratic Lawyers of the East, Where He Has Practiced for Many Years.

Washington, Dec. 29.—"Shall the President go out of the district to get a successor to the late Judge Thomas R. Purnell?" is the all-absorbing question in the eastern portion of the country. The National Committee on E. C. Duncan has declared himself for Judge Spencer H. Adams, of Greensboro, which is in the western district, and is taking a great risk—in the east and cunning that he does for any one to whom he gives his support.

WILL PROSECUTE OFFICERS

Convention of Holders of Stock in Seminoles Securities Company Held in Columbia and Took Steps to Sue Trustees to Recover Losses—Criminal Prosecution to Be Brought Against Directors and Officers—Nine New Directors Elected.

Observer Bureau, 1330 Berkeley Building, Columbia, S. C., Dec. 29.—Much indignation was manifested at the convention to-day of the stockholders of the famous Seminoles Securities Company, held in the court house, toward the three local trustees, Messrs. Willis Jones, W. A. Clark and T. S. Bryan, and President Garlington and his officers and the directors of the company; and the meeting, which was attended by about three hundred prominent men representing five neighboring States, took action looking not only to legal proceedings against the wealthy trustees to recover the losses of the company, but to criminal prosecution of the directors and officers of the company.

SENSATIONS FALL FAST

The afternoon was still more profitable as the afternoon. After the election of the new directors, who were empowered to negotiate with a committee of the Southern Life Insurance Company to effect the best settlement possible with that concern and wind up the affairs of the company if they failed to do so, the convention turned to the reading of the financial statement, hurriedly prepared by Charles H. Helley, of Helley & Co., public accountants, of Augusta, Ga., whom the trustees employed to go to Chattanooga and investigate the books of the Seminoles Company.

WEALTH COMES BY THREE E'S

Holding Horses, Hogs and Hay James Halthcock Becomes the Possessor of Eight Good Farms and a Few Thousand Dollars in Good Securities. Social to the Observer.

TRUSTEES PAID

In answer to questions, Mr. Clark admitted he was paid \$1,000 and other trustees \$500 each for their services. Outside of the stock in the Southern Life, Mr. Helley's statement shows less than \$9,000 in cash can be got out of the visible assets of the company. The examination of the trustees revealed the fact that Mr. Clark had applied for 1,000 shares of stock but had never paid anything; that Mr. Bryan never had any stock and that General Jones subscribed for only 200 shares.

STOCKHOLDERS INDIGNANT

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POSSESS HANDY MEMORIES

NIGHT-RIDERS PROVE ALIBIS

Eight Defendants Accused of the Murder of Captain Ranken Can Remember Where They Were on the Night Ranken Was Killed, But Cannot Recall Events of Prior or Subsequent Days—Only Victim's Strange Frank of Fate That the Engineer's Son Was a Passenger on the Ill-Fated Train—Dead Man Leaves a Wife and Three Children The Finest and Several Postal Clerks More or Less Injured, But the Passengers Escape Unscathed.

Union City, Dec. 29.—The eight night-riders on trial for the murder of Captain Ranken, having pleaded not guilty, are trying on grave alibis. The testimony of the defendants that they were not present at the murder of Captain Ranken is to be strengthened by the testimony of scores of witnesses, most of them relatives of the defendants. Six of the defendants have been put on stand. Tid Burton and Fred Pinion have not testified yet.

CROSS-EXAMINATION SEVERE

The cross-examination of Attorney General Casper was very severe, as mentioned that each witness could remember nothing that happened on any other night save the one that Ranken was killed. A Mrs. Graney, mother-in-law of Morris, one of the confessed riders, swore that her son-in-law was in bed in the same room with her at 10 o'clock on the night of the killing and therefore could not have been at the murder as she says he was.

THE LEADER TESTIFIES

Garrett Johnson, the reputed leader of the riders, detailed their movements the night of the Ranken murder. Johnson swore the night-riders met at Ranken's store to prevent a raid by Lake county men as detailed by Frank Pughmeyer. The sheriff had authorized them to gather for protection. Johnson denied that any one was masked or that the men gathered there were night-riders. In fact, he had never seen a night-riding and would not admit one if he saw him.

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ENGINEER SATERFIELD KILLED

Southern Passenger Train Hits Into a Mangled Switch One Mile This Side of Danville and is Wrecked

Several Cars Turning Turtle—Engineer Saterfield, Whose Home Was in Spencer, the Only Victim, Strange Frank of Fate That the Engineer's Son Was a Passenger on the Ill-Fated Train—Dead Man Leaves a Wife and Three Children The Finest and Several Postal Clerks More or Less Injured, But the Passengers Escape Unscathed.

Washington, Dec. 29.—A misplaced switch caused the derailment of mail and passenger train No. 35 on the Southern Railway at Stokesdale, Va., six miles south of Danville, at 8:50 p. m. to-day. Engineer Saterfield was killed and fireman Davis, colored, and three postal clerks were injured. No passengers, as far as is known, were injured.

THE TRAIN WHICH LEFT WASHINGTON

The train, which left Washington at 8:45 a. m. for the South, ran into a switch that was turned into the Danville & Western tracks which connect at that point with the Southern, although the signal light was properly displayed. The engine, baggage car and mail car turned over.

BY TELEPHONE TO THE OBSERVER

Spencer, Dec. 29.—Engineer A. P. Saterfield, who was killed in the wreck near Danville, lived here and was well known, being highly regarded by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He leaves a wife and three children, who will leave early to-morrow morning for Danville to attend the funeral. Representatives of the B. of L. E. left to-night for that city to make preliminary arrangements for the funeral, which will be held in Danville, the former home of the dead man. There will be a special meeting of Division 271, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, here to-morrow morning at 3:30 o'clock to make final arrangements for the funeral.

WORKING ON HIS CABINET

The President-Elect to Apply Himself Assiduously to the Task Before Him—A New Record on the Gubernatorial Issue.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 29.—The arrival here to-day of Frank H. Hitchcock, Republican national chairman and future Postmaster General, and the announcement that Senator Ross, R. T. Tatt's Secretary of State, will be present on the 6th indicates that the President-elect is to occupy himself actively with Cabinet construction. Mr. Hitchcock, it is reported, will obtain the judgment of the national chairman particularly on the political bearing of appointments under consideration and making his selections with due regard to exacting geographical conditions, is admitted to be somewhat difficult. This week Mr. Tatt will visit himself to assist on the new one.

ANOTHER CONFERENCE REGARDING MISAGE BOOKS

Observer Bureau, 1330 Berkeley Building, Columbia, S. C., Dec. 29.—There was a conference here to-day between railroad passenger officials and representatives of the U. C. T. and T. P. A. in regard to the traveling man's objections to the new misage book regulations, but no definite agreement was reached. The understanding is that the traveling man will attempt to get the Legislature to give them relief, in which case the railroads may withdraw the present law rate.

TWIN CITY Y. M. C. A. CIRCUS TO-MORROW NIGHT

Special to the Observer. Winston-Salem, Dec. 29.—One of the features of the week will be the M. C. A. circus, which will be held there to-morrow night. The circus is a new building of the association. The advance notices are in true circus fashion, abounding in alliterations and give promise of an exceptionally interesting and amusing program. Mr. George Stock, the physical director, has done most efficient work with the young men in his charge, and that the performers will acquit themselves creditably goes without saying.

PRESIDENT PREPARING ANSWER TO ALDRICH REPLY

Washington, Dec. 29.—Cabinet officers are submitting to President Roosevelt their reports in answer to the Aldrich resolution as to the secret service, and it is considered probable the President will have ready to hand the replies to the resolutions of the House—all those resolutions after the responsibility of Congress. It is the President's intention to act promptly in this matter.