

EARTHQUAKE RAZES 10 TOWNS; 100 DEAD

Hundreds Injured As Catania Vicinity Is Overwhelmed.

THOUSANDS FLEE FROM DANGER ZONE

Mt. Etna Eruption Adds To Horror; Property Loss Is Heavy.

Catania, Sicily, May 9.—An earthquake and volcanic eruption followed by fire destroyed many villages on the slopes of Mount Etna last night. The disaster caused the death of at least 100 persons. The number injured will reach several hundred. Refugees declare that the loss is as great as in the Messina disaster of 1908. Railroad tracks were torn up, churches razed to the ground, houses shaken to ruin and telegraph poles overturned. A radius of several miles around Catania. Terror-stricken people rushed from the villages into Catania before daybreak today, bringing stories of ruin and disaster.

Interruption of railroads and telegraph made it impossible to obtain any accurate details of the loss of life. Catania, Sicily, May 9.—A violent earthquake greatly resembling that at Messina in 1908 late last night destroyed about a dozen villages in this vicinity. No estimate of the number of casualties has yet been made, but it is known that the damage was enormous. The great gravity of the disaster was not realized until this morning when reports came from the surrounding country.

The village of Linera and Consentini were transformed into heaps of ruins. At Zafferana every house was destroyed. Enormous damage was caused at Santa Benigna.

Roofs fell in and walls collapsed in the hamlets of Santa Maria, Ammalati, Carico, Guardia, Mangano, Santa Tecla and Bongiaro.

The village of Santa Maria Margine Catena was razed to the ground. Fifty persons are known to have been killed in the village of Linera which was destroyed. Among the ruins of Passomomo, Bongiaro and Malati 60 bodies had been found this morning.

Work of Rescue.

Prefect Minervini of Catania and all of the officials under his superintendence were called together before daybreak this morning and received orders to do their utmost to aid the afflicted inhabitants. They have been since working indefatigably. The soldiers in the district are aiding in the endeavor to rescue those still alive beneath the ruins and to extricate the dead from the debris. All available nurses were mobilized today and are assisting in gathering the homeless and children who have lost their parents. Temporary shelter is being provided here for the afflicted.

In the stricken district the scene of devastation was heartrending this

morning. Groups of refugees, many burdened with improvised letters made of branches of trees and bushes on which they were carrying injured and dying relatives to the temporary surgical stations, thronged the highways. In the neighborhood of Santa Venerina the number of the injured was very great.

Frequent Shocks.

For several days earthquake shocks had been felt, accompanied by eruptions of Mount Etna. No particular attention was paid to the occurrences as inhabitants of the district are accustomed to these agitations. The last severe shock was felt at 7 o'clock last evening but its destructive effect was not learned in Catania until this morning when terror-stricken refugees began streaming into town.

The center of the disturbance was the village of Linera. Here the proportion of dead and injured was very heavy. The victims were mostly women and children.

Incomplete Reports.

Rome, May 9.—Incomplete reports from Catania this morning indicated that the number of dead in the earthquake disaster is about 100. The total of injured will reach several times that number.

The ministers of war and marine have sent orders to the commanders of the military and naval forces in the district to give all possible assistance. An immediate concentration of soldiers was ordered and commanders were directed to take with them tents, provisions and clothing.

The Italian Red Cross sent an emergency corps to the afflicted town.

Many Quakes.

The vicinity of Catania has probably suffered more than any other section in the world from volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Catania itself is built on a bed of lava at the foot of the volcano of Etna and most of its streets are paved with lava.

Catania has a population of 140,000 and is the largest city in Sicily. It lies to the south of Messina on the east coast. Ever since its foundation in B. C. 729, it has been visited frequently by earthquakes. In 121 A. D. it was partly destroyed by an eruption of Mount Etna. In 1169 it suffered severely from an earthquake. In 1669 during an eruption of Etna, a great stream of lava flowed toward Catania but in the nick of time the town course was diverted and the town saved. In 1853 when the whole of the island of Sicily was affected by an earthquake Catania was destroyed.

In the earthquake and tidal wave at Messina and Calabria on December 28, 1908, official figures gave the number of deaths as 77,283, but it was estimated that from 150,000 to 200,000 people lost their lives. Damage to public and private property amounted to about a billion dollars. The United States took a prominent part in the relief work and with the funds placed at their disposal by the American public, sailors from the United States fleet erected large numbers of houses.

DISCUSS "DEFECTIVES" AT MEMPHIS MEETING

Memphis, Tenn., May 9.—"Defectives" was announced as the general subject for consideration today before the National Conference of Charities and Corrections at the report of a committee of which Alexander Johnson of Vineland, N. J., is chairman, and a paper on the physical study of juvenile delinquents, prepared by Dr. William Healy, director of the Juvenile Psychopathic Institute of Chicago.

Two hours of the morning session were assigned for the presentation of reports of the various state delegations.

Ship Arrives.

New York, May 9.—Arrived: Imperator, Hamburg.

DORSEY WILL ASK A POSTPONEMENT

Of Hearing on Motion to Annul
The Verdict in Case of
Leo M. Frank.

Atlanta, May 9.—Announcement was made here early today by Solicitor General Hugh M. Dorsey that when the motion to annul the verdict which pronounced Leo M. Frank guilty of the murder of Mary Phagan was presented to Judge Ben H. Hill of the Superior court today, he would ask for a postponement of the hearing until some time next week. Lack of time for preparation of the state's plea against the motion was assigned by Mr. Dorsey as his reason for requesting the delay. The solicitor general said he would probably ask that the hearing be passed until next Wednesday.

The motion of Frank's attorneys for annulment alleges that the constitutional rights of the condemned factory superintendent were violated when the verdict was returned into court during the defendant's absence. It is through this channel that the defense plans to take the case to the Supreme court of the United States if necessary.

An interesting turn in developments growing out of the celebrated case was expected today when Mr. Dorsey announced that Judge Hill probably would examine Annie Maude Carter, the negro who recently made affidavit that James Conley, a negro factory sweeper, confessed to her the murder of the little factory girl, of which crime Frank was convicted. The Carter woman, who the head of a national detective agency told Judge Hill had been sent to Birmingham recently, was returned here under orders of the court. There was considerable speculation here today as to the results which might follow her examination.

When the hearing on the motion to set aside the verdict against Frank was called before Judge Hill, Mr. Dorsey requested its postponement, and the court ordered it passed until next Saturday.

Immediately afterward Judge Hill ordered the issue of a rule nisi against W. J. Burns, the detective, and Dan Lohon, one of his employees, calling on the mt appear before him Tuesday next and show cause why they should not be held in contempt for having sent the Carter woman outside the jurisdiction of the court.

THE FALL OF MAZATLAN IMMINENT, IS REPORT

City Officials Leaving—Federal Light House Service.

On Board U. S. S. California, Mazatlan, Mex., May 8.—(By wireless to San Diego, Cal., May 9.)—The fall of Mazatlan seems imminent. The city officials embarked last night on the federal gunboat Guerrero and the steamer Limantour, both of which are ready to sail for Salina Cruz. The American brig Geneva was captured on the high seas April 26 by the Mexican transport Korrigan, according to information received here today. At the demand, however, of Captain Magruder of the United States cruiser Raleigh the brig was released.

MOORESVILLE TO GET IREDELL'S CREAMERY

Special to The Gazette-News. Statesville, May 9.—The Iredell county co-operative creamery will be located at Mooresville. The committee appointed at meetings held in Mooresville and Statesville for the purpose of deciding on which of the two towns should get the creamery held a meeting in Statesville and the Statesville committee accepted the proposition of the Mooresville committee. The Statesville committee proposed that this section of the county would finance the creamery if the Mooresville section would agree to support it if located at Statesville, and the Mooresville committee made a similar proposition to the Statesville committee. The Mooresville people had already subscribed \$4,000 of stock and \$1,500 more will not be subscribed, the capital of the creamery company to be \$5,500. Arrangements for the establishment of the creamery will begin at once and it is the purpose to have it in operation before September 1.

PRIVATE TAKEN BY MAAS' MEN

General Funston Does Not Report, However, That Parks Has Been Put to Death.

SPEAKS OF CIVILIAN
WHO WAS EXECUTED

Consul Silliman Is Safe, Mexican War Minister Reports To French Legation in Mexico City.

Washington, May 9.—General Funston today confirmed unofficial reports that Private Parks, supposed to be insane, had been captured by Mexican federalists into whose lines he rode with two horses belonging to Lieutenant Colonel Elmore F. Taggart, whom he served as orderly. General Funston did not report that Parks had been executed but mentioned the execution of an unidentified American civilian.

The Parks incident was summarized in this statement by Secretary Garrison:

"General Funston reported that on May 6 Private Samuel Parks, belonging to the regimental detachment of the 28th infantry, apparently went insane. He took two horses, the property of Lieutenant Colonel Taggart of the 28th infantry and rode into the Mexican lines. It has been reported to General Funston that the horses were seen in the possession of Mexican troops. There is also a rumor that an unknown American civilian in the Mexican lines was executed two days ago. Parks' fate is not known. Mexican troops were last heard of in the neighborhood of Toluca, where the tracks of the Mexican National railway have been torn up."

Vera Cruz, Mex., May 9.—Even if the reported execution by General Maas' men of Private Samuel Parks, the orderly missing since Wednesday, proves true, army officers are inclined not to regard one such incident as apt to precipitate a clash. They believe such an act would probably be that of a subordinate officer without authority and that Maas would be wholly ignorant of the matter until the Mexico City government asked for an explanation.

It is assumed here, however, that the matter will be taken up by the authorities at Washington. General Funston deems it inadvisable to open formal communication with General Maas.

General Funston has asked that the brigade equipment left at Galveston because of lack of room on the transports be sent forward. He is also asking that recruits for regiments here now assembled at recruiting depots in the United States be shipped. The equipment includes a majority of the regimental wagon trains and horses for the signal corps.

Army officers report that the Mexicans while the troops take care of the cases in which soldiers, sailors or foreigners are involved.

Silliman Reported Safe.

Washington, May 9.—American Vice Consul Silliman, reported imprisoned by the Mexican federalists at Saltillo, is safe and well, according to assurances made to the French legation in Mexico City by the Mexican war minister today.

The information was conveyed to Secretary Bryan by Ambassador Jusserand of France. General Huerta's minister of war also informed the French charge in Mexico City that the American consulate at Saltillo was guarded by federal forces and that neither Mr. Silliman nor other Americans were under arrest.

JURY IN BECKER CASE IS AGAIN BROKEN UP

Two Jurors Ask to Be Excused—Address of Whitman Is Delayed.

New York, May 9.—With eleven jurors in the box the trial of Charles S. Becker, for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was halted today until Monday morning. Twelve were in the box last evening but two were excused today. James G. Yelle, a silk merchant, was accepted as a juror but the panel was exhausted before the twelfth was agreed upon. A new panel will be on hand Monday.

New York, May 9.—The jury selected for the second trial of Charles Becker, for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was broken up again this morning, delaying the opening address of District Attorney Whitman. Jurors Edward E. Van Eman and Robert Baxter made special requests to be excused and were eliminated.

SOUTHERN RY. WILL EXPAND

Optimism Keynote Sounded by Railroad Officials at Meeting of G. W. N. C. Association.

CONFIDENT OF BETTER
BUSINESS IN SOUTH

Advertising Appropriation for Western North Carolina Has Been Increased Over Last Year's.

Optimism was the keynote sounded at the meeting yesterday of the directors of the Greater Western North Carolina association. This keynote was sounded by Passenger Traffic Mgr. S. H. Hardwick of the Southern railway and was followed up in an address by M. V. Richards of the land and industrial department of the Southern and others present. Mr. Hardwick delivered a message to those present from President Fairfax Harrison of the system to the effect that the officials of the Southern are so confident of the future of the south and the program of the road is one of expansion in service. Of particular interest to the people of this section was the statement that the appropriation of the southern for advertising western North Carolina this summer for tourist business has been increased over last year and that many additional trains will be operated. These additions will be made outside of the excellent service that has been provided heretofore during the busy season.

The declarations of Mr. Hardwick were especially gratifying to those who heard him today, since reports from many sections of the country are to the effect that business conditions are of such a nature that curtailment of railroad business is being consistently followed out. The Southern has no idea of any such curtailment, but on the contrary is preparing all the time to take care of increased business. This is flattering to the southern states as a whole but particularly to western North Carolina, which is to receive a very large share of this expansion.

Mr. Hardwick declared that business conditions in the south and this particular section are better than ever before and that the officials of the Southern are enthusiastic over the outlook for the approaching season. They believe that the great success of last season will prove to be only a forerunner of the approaching season. In testimony of this belief a new through train has been arranged between Asheville and St. Louis, to begin operations May 24; arrangements have been made to have the Carolina Special make connections through to Chicago, instead of to Cincinnati; and their through train is contemplated between Asheville and New York; and two additional trains are to be put on for local service. One of these will be between Asheville and Sylva and the other between Hendersonville and Lake Toxaway.

Mr. Richards delivered an equally enthusiastic talk, expressing his confidence in western North Carolina a great tourist resort and as one of the greatest possibilities in agriculture and other lines of commerce. Others present spoke of increased business in the section and bright prospects for continued increase.

Following a report submitted by Col. Sanford H. Cohen, manager of the association, on the work that has been accomplished since the last meeting on February 23, covering the campaign for tourists in southern resorts, the publication and distribution of a large amount of literature and the work in the interest of the military and civil training camps that will be conducted in the section this year, the directors present voted an appropriation of \$300 with which Col. Cohen is to launch the summer campaign of advertising. This will be begun about May 26 and will include the posting of important points in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, and various points in Ohio and Indiana. Col. Cohen stated that the association now has between \$400 and \$500 worth of posters on hand and that very few others will have to be printed. The summer booklet will come from the press some time next week and will be given a wide distribution.

Owing to the decided change in the weather, the May festival which was to have been held on the campus of the Asheville school for Girls this afternoon, by the student body, has been postponed until next Tuesday afternoon, when the program as arranged will be carried out. Elaborate preparations have been under way at the school for several days for the festival and it is expected that it will be one of the most interesting events of the kind ever held here.

CONTINUE WAR PREPARATIONS

TOE RIVER FAIR ASS'N ORGANIZED

Citizens of Avery, Yancey and Mitchell Counties Perfect Organization.

At an enthusiastic meeting which was attended by citizens from Avery, Yancey and Mitchell counties, the Toe River Fair association was recently formed and put on a permanent basis of organization, according to information received in the city last night. The meeting was held at Sprucepine in Mitchell county and officers were elected, a board of directors and committees appointed.

E. P. Watson of Burnsville, Yancey county, was elected president of the association; J. M. Peterson of Sprucepine, secretary; and L. A. Berry of Sprucepine, treasurer. The vice-presidents from each of the counties participating in the fair were elected as follows: Avery county, J. M. Phillips and W. B. Hedges; Yancey county, John M. Young and W. B. Wray; Mitchell county, H. P. Laurence and R. H. Bradshaw.

The board of directors of the fair association consists of the following men: Joseph M. Carpenter, Ralph Young, C. B. Voncanan and R. M. Burleson, Avery county; John Hanum, S. G. Byrd, W. D. Peterson and W. B. Banks, Yancey county; T. A. English, Ed. D. Bowditch, J. H. Phillips and Hiram Tipton, Mitchell county. The committee on constitution and by-laws will consist of President Watson, chairman; J. H. Phillips and W. B. Banks; committee on location of permanent location, W. W. Bailey, L. A. Berry, D. H. S. Tappan, H. F. Laurence, John V. Cox, J. E. Burleson and Mr. Henry. The committee on education will consist of the superintendents of the county schools of each county, together with the president of each college in the counties and the principal of each high school in the counties.

While a great many of the details of the association were worked out at this meeting, it could not be definitely decided as to what date the fair would be held, nor where the location would be, although it is highly probable that the location will be at Sprucepine, as this point is more central to the three counties comprising the fair association than any other place that would be at all suitable. The fair will be permanent and will be held each year, according to the information received. It is expected that the association will at once be incorporated and headquarters opened where the business can be carried on of arranging for the first fair, which will be held this year.

WARSHIP TO MEET FUNERAL VESSEL

New York, May 9.—The battleship Wyoming left the Brooklyn navy yard to meet the armored cruiser Montana bearing the bodies of the United States marines and bluejackets killed at Vera Cruz. The Wyoming will remain at anchor off the Ambrose channel lightship, just outside New York harbor, until the arrival tomorrow of the presidential yacht Mayflower carrying Secretary of the Navy Daniels.

Mrs. Ellen C. McCanley of Detroit has purchased a resident in Grove park.

Transports Wanted at Galveston to Carry Two Brigades To Vera Cruz if They Are Needed.

MEDIATION DELEGATES
OF HUERTA EN ROUTE

Officials Not Concerned Over Reported Landing of Huerta Munitions by German Vessels.

Washington, May 9.—Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt announced today that the state department had satisfactorily settled issues which had arisen over the reported consignment of arms to General Huerta aboard the German vessels Kronprinzessin Cecille and Bavaria to be delivered at Puerto Mexico.

Washington, May 9.—With the departure of Huerta's mediation mission from Mexico City today the South American envoys and government officials here took renewed confidence that there would be no hitch in the Niagara Falls negotiations. Huerta's representatives will proceed to the Canadian border city by way of Vera Cruz and Key West.

It was believed that if the names of the United States representatives at the meeting were not given out today the announcement would come as soon as President Wilson returned from memorial services to the American victims of the occupation of Vera Cruz at the Brooklyn navy yard next Monday.

There was no abatement today of execution of the program of preparedness in the war and navy departments. Secretary Garrison explained that he was trying to gather transports at Galveston that could be used to send the fourth and sixth brigades to Vera Cruz. "In case it is thought wise in view of a precautionary attitude to have them there," he asserted no aggressive move was contemplated and that there was no change in the situation "so far as hostilities are concerned."

Send Reply to Huerta.

The South American envoys transmitted to Huerta today the reply of the American government to his protest that the United States had broken the truce by landing additional troops at Vera Cruz. The three mediators took the view that Huerta could be convinced that the United States had not violated the armistice, in spirit at least.

Internal Situation.

Developments in the Huerta-Carranza strife also attracted much attention today. Constitutionalists expressed confidence that their troops would drive the federalists out of Tampico in the next three or four days. That development, it was hoped in some quarters, would relieve tension over the menace to foreign property in the Tampico oil district. Reports that San Luis Potosi had been taken by rebels were not credited by Carranza's Juarez agents. They expressed belief their forces were not yet ready for a decisive attack on that southern gateway to Huerta's capital.

Praise Mexican Officers.

Refugees arriving at Vera Cruz stated all was quiet in Mexico City and that Huerta had asserted he would see his capital in ashes before he would quit. The refugees praised Mexico. (Continued on Page 11).

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Gazette-News, Saturday May 9

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