

southern Italy, which was swept by earthquakes, tidal waves and fire, it is predicted this morning that the casualities will reach 75,000, perhaps more. Hundreds of men and women

and children were buried alive, caught in the debris and carried to suffocation and instant death. To add to the terrors of the people

Mount Aetna began to spout lava and fumes in an alarming manner today. Dispatches received from Palermo

declare that hundreds will perish from exposure and lack of food unless instant relief is brought forward. At this time succor seems impossible.

The Tribuna this morning estimated the dead at 75,000. Official compilations, which are in progress, seem to confirm this awful list.

King Victor Emmanuel departed for the devastated districts in Sicily ities. today accompanied by a martial es cort. He has ordered the heads of all government departments at Rome to do everything in their power to alleviate the suffering and give relief.

It is feared the American consul at Messina has perished.

It is semi-officially reported today that the dead in Messina number 12,-000. The Strait of Messina has been materially changed by the disaster some time on this account. Arsenals

Reggio, Catania, Montelcone and who liver near Rolesville. many other places.

Sunday afternoon the two boys ar-Communication was cut off immerived at Mitchells' house. Both of diately after the disaster. Land- them were drunk. They entered the slides covered the rallroad tracks; house in which were Mitchell and hiz telegraph wires were cut by falling wife. According to the woman's buildings and poles were carried story, there was no quarrel between

away down the mountain sides. the men. One of the boys said some-Courlers on foot travelling in the thing about "hugging Mitchell's wife. manner unknown for a century. Mitchell took it as a joke and leughbrought direful tidings from the ingly objected. Carter said to his stricken scenes. The most serious companion, Ed. Harris, "Give me landslip occurred between Favazzini that pistol and I'll fix the d....

and Villa San Giovani which doomed scoundrel! Harris handed him the gun and h northern Italy to ignorance so far as Reggio was concerned. Adding to fired the ball striking Mitchell just the woe and disaster were the dis- above his right eye and killing him turbances at sea. Earthquake shocks almost instantly.

which agitated the Straits of Mes-The boys skipped at once. Deputy sina between Sicily and the mainland Sheriff G. D. Stell was sick at the caused a number of maritime calain- time the crime was committed and could not go in pursuit. Four other All through the day and night ef- men searched for the negroes yesterforts were made to hear from Mes- day and last night, but could not find sina. Owing to the fact that a gale them.

was raging off the Sicilian coast it This morning Mr. Stell went was well nigh impossible for a ship pursuit of them. Hay Carter he to brave the elements to carry the found hid under the lap of a pine tree

tidings of disaster. However, the and Ed. Harris in Mr. Rufus Bargunboat Spiga arrived today from ham's "pack-house" in Little River Messina ,bringing confirmation of the township.

worst reports. Every official instru-The negroes claim that the shool ment of the government was at once ing was done "in a frolic," that they started to aid the suffering and elim- were just "projicking," and had no and navigation will be hampered for inate the ravages of the catastrophe, intention of killing him. They de-Thousands of men have been drafted clare that they thought the gun was throughout Calabria and the affected into a vast army, which is now on not loaded and they only meant to pbrts were destroyed causing fur- its way south to clear away the ruins, scare him.

(By Leased Wire to The Times)

New York, Dec. 29-Judge Ray, in

nade an appry denial to a reporter government departments as a result of

eday of the publishese streament that Judge Taft's announcement of his ie would not act as special prosecta- plan to reorganize the government's or in the Hains case after the expiinstrumentalities for regulating interration of his term on December 31 state conmerce. The feeling at the or less than \$100 a day. Mr. Darrin interstate commerce commission is that

inId: that organization is once more to be "If I have my own way I will not e in the case in any capacity wine- put on trial for its life,

ver after Thursday night, when the An official of the commission point new prosecutor, Mr. D.Witt, takes ed out today that it was peculiarly office. I ask only to return to my unfortunate to have such a movement private practice." inaugurated just at this time, for the

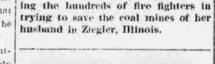
Just before Thornton Jeakins this soon that there has been practical-Hains was brought into court this by no judicial determination concern-Ham E. Annis, widow of the man for ing the powers granted by the Hepnorning the tall figure of Mrs. Wilwhose nurder he is being trifd, was

"Within the next month," said he seen to alight from a trolley car. She "practically every big question raised vent at once to the old Qfs- as coun- by the new legislation will have been court building and was closeted in submitted to the supreme court. Thus he room assigned to District-Attor- far we have had just one of then decided-that being the question of the ev Ira G. Darvin. ommission's power to summon wit-It was her Stat, appearance in Finching since site wave har sensa- nerges and require them to testify, ional testimony, the mess damitative which gas raised in the Harrinan in-

vestigation and decided against the if the whole trial to the defendant. commission. The widow was accompanied as us-"But there is a long list of issue tal by her close friends, Mr. and Mrs. of the utmost importance to be de-

harles A. Birchfield.

Mrs. Annis true to court today to have been made up and in the course e ready for call in rebuttal by the of six works practically everything in the new law will be before the surosecution. Haias realized that he had before prene court for determination. Then Hains realized that he had before improbably his hardest cay, for Mr. Melatyre, chief counsel for the de-ense, announced that he would prob-the set in the stead before the set in the stead before the set in ably call to the stand before night



Mrs. Joseph Leiter, who is encou



(By Cable to The Times.)

London, Dec. 29-From every section of the British Isles come today reports of the severest snowstorm which has velited the United Kingdom so far nia nter Since Sunday the bliggard has been

over the islands. In London aging storm has wrought much damage and inconvenience. Traffic is seriously clued in the near ruture. The cases In Scotland train service is impossible. The aid is extremely cold and the now is being driven by a stiff northern wind. In the rural counties roads

are blocked and many communities the completely isolated.

Beisel, were put on trial in the Delaware county court today for the murder of Captain J. Clayton Erb at his beautiful country home, Red Gables, at Village Green, on the night of October 6. The accused widow and her sister are defended by three of the ablest lawyers in the county. The trial has attracted wide attention and the room was jammed this morning when the case was called. The prosecution considers its case against the two women strong enough to withstand the attack of even such able counsel as Mrs. Erb has retained. VISITS ENGLAND Counsel as Mrs. Erb has retained. Captain Erb, who was formerly private secretary to "Boss" Israel Durham, of Philadelphia, was one of the most widely known politicians in

Pennsylvania. He had amassed a large fortune and his home. Red Gables, was one of the most imposing villas in the country-side. The real tragedy in the life of Cap-

tain Erb, however, stretched over many months of internal bickerings with his wife. Sensational quarrels preceded the shooting.

He married Mrs. W. G. G. Rotherimpeded and all trains are running in- mel in the belief that it was the only to the city are handleapped in at- course open to him as a man. She empting to follow regular schedule. led him to think that surgeons alone could save her name and that she had risked her life and reputation.

Erb's whole married life was tragic. Death came to him not as a final catastrophe, the prosecution will delare but as a relief from He admitted to a friend, one of the THREE SHIPS highest officers in the Philadelphia police department, that he would be able to hold out against his wife if she showed toward him any of the affection she pretended to feel before AT LAGUAYRA they were married. Mrs. Beisel is only 25 years old. he made a visit to the house at the ime Erb is said to have been poisoned. She was there when the shoot-(By Loased Wire to The Times.) ing occurred and in a hysterical con-Washington, Dec. 29-The mayy defession Constable Simpson will tespartment now has three warships in tify, admitted that she shot cown ner Venezuelan waters watching the course brother-in-law in the hallway of Red of events there. The Dolphin arriv- Gables. Israel W. Durham was one of the and word has been received of the first to declare he believed his former secretary had been the victim of a murder plot. He has been in constant communication with the prosecution, tending the district attorney all the aid in his power.

ther loss of life and great damage to bury the dead and give such succor In the last few weeks killings of the government .

Rome, Dec. 29-An authoritative of food and clothing are being shipp- "projicking" with an empty gun. morning to ascertain the extent of prayers are being said continuously ing Walter Crowder by accident. quakes and tidal waves of yesterday. land. The minister of war today is- might be mentioned . It is time that when whole cities were destroyed and sued general orders that the soldiers something was done with these thousands lost their lives. The cawill be used to prevent disorder and "projickers" who "projick" with untastrophe which swept over southern to carry through such civic work as loaded guns. Italy, leaving desolation and ruin in shall be deemed necessary.

its wake is known from the general reports to be the worst in modern history, but it is feared that even the in the relief labors have not reported DECISION AGAINST radical estimates of death and damyet. Those injured brought from age may prove conservative in the Messina to Catania in the vessels face of reports which are coming in from the provinces of Calabria and Sicily. Washington and Montebello are be-ing cared for. Many of the refugees were so stupefied with fear that they

Unofficial estimates today place the could not talk of the calamity. Tonumber of dead at between 10,000 day, however, the authentic story was and 20,000. Despite the wide var- forthcoming.

lance of these figures it is not pos-These ships report that at least 700 craft of various sizes have been the United States circuit court today sible at this time to make a less faulty hazard. When it is considsunk and that the Austrian steamered that whole towns and villages ship Buda foundered in the gale handed down a decision which dealt were swept away in the face of the which followed the earthquake. calamity and that hamlet after ham-Little ceremony today marks the York in permitting a suit brought float during the shooting of her husburial of the dead. Great trenches against the Interborough Rapid Tran- band. let along the coast was inundated, it can be seen that an exact estimate nave been dug and the bodies are be- sit Company, the Metropolitan Street ing buried in great heaps. Many are Railroad Company and the Metropol is beyond the questin.

The seismic disturbnces which unidentified and never will be, itan Securities Company on the swept over the entire southern dis- Thousands of residents of the big- ground that they constitute a monopger towns are camping in public olp to go on to a finish. Attorneys tricts of Italy yesterday have been squares and many more have fled to for the stockholders of the Catinental foreheralded, scientists claim. For the open country, taking care to pitch Securities Company of New Jersey inmonths past volcanoes have been active; slight quakes have been felt their tents upon ground free from stituted the suit. It was declared the in the mountains and the dire rummerger was illegal and contrary to running water.

The scenes in Messina are describ- the best interests of the public and blings which are the precursors of ed by the refugees as terrible in also that it constituted a monopoly. disaster have been heard in the bowels of the smoking craters in the their grewsome details. The tidal The lawyers for the traction commountain regions. It is not known wave left the streets covered with a panles entered a demurrer in the now that the earthquake of 1895, thick layer of mud and immediately suit. .:

when so many lives were lost, has after the severest shocks the sky was been exceeded. The city of Catania overcast with lowering clouds. The beautiful sun-bathed city with its in-tolent summer skies and its dancing FRIENDS OF MORSE was one of the worst sufferers.

The violence of the shocks caused great edifices to tumble, stately colseas of sapphire was transformed in umns of granite ,secure from ordian instant into a blackened mass of nary earthly disturbance, fell as debris wind-lashed and wave-swept, though they were on supports of mud. while the stately columns, symbolic An idea of the force of the shocks of Italian art in architecture, crumcan be gained from the fact that they bled away. Great tongues of flame extended through Italy from the leaped in lurid and angry bounds, southernmost extremity to the Alpr making a great pyre of the beautiful Hughes has called a meeting of friends tity ,while the run colored spy seem. of banker Charles W. Morse for this and were appreciably felt at Domond were spyrectably feit at Domo-ity, while the fun colored spy seen. If a difference at City Hall. An effort will below. Many explosions in the vicin-tral. It is expected resolutions will be adopted declaring that Morse's dossola, on the Simplon route and at Montcalleri, near Turin.

were felt at twenty-five minutes af- impressions. Stores of gunpowder sentence means life imprisonment and ter 5 o'clock and these were followed by less serious quakes at intervals. these were followed by explosions of secure a new trial and bail. This is Fatalities have been reported from

were exploded by the flames and that all honorable means be used to (Contined on Page Seven.) Morse's native place.

both of the aged parents of the de- There endant and his brother, Capt. Peter interstate commerce people about the as is possible at this late hour. Sub- this kind have multiplied. Lula Todd. suspected inspiration of the proposal

scriptions are under way: collections a negro woman, recently killed a man C. Hains. John Tierney, the ash-gatherer, of Judge Taft. It is attributed to the compilation was commenced this ed in the best way possible and Early Walker is now in jail for kill- who began his testimony yesterday, bureau of corporations, which wanted said on cross-examination. he had the executive powers of the commisthe devastation created by the earth of in all the churches throughout the orthogonal the commission at the devastation created by the earth of the commission at the commissi Birchfield, and George Downs at one quite willing, indeed anxious, to have and of the float. He said he had seen a thorough comparison of the results he defendant break his gun and show achieved by their body and the bureau

t to Downs. Witness said he had or corporations. tot seen Kimmell on the dock, but ad noticed Harvey Rockwell at the

light side of the dock. He identified Messrs, Storm and Iarway.

Mrs. Annis was then asked to come o the front. She took two paces into he enclosure and stood directly bacz of the prisoner and literally stared at lierney in the witness chair.

Jenkins Hains wheeled about and looked back and up into the widow's face, which was like marble in Its paleness and rigidity. Tlerney redivision of prosecutors of the luterpeated his testimony of yesterday and stuck firmly to his declaration a blow to traction merger in New that Mrs. Annis had not been on the reported that a fine of \$15,000 has been imposed on T. H. Bunch, of Lit-

> in violation of the act to regulate Mrs. Annis knew the consequence (Continued on Page Seven.)

MARIE CORELLI.



Washington, D. C., Dec. 29-The

tle Rock, Ark., for receiving rebates

commerce. Bunch was indicted April

tain & Southern Rallway.

LUMSDEN HEARING IS

ed at LaGuayra on the 25th instant FOR REBATING errival at that port of the battleship Waine and the crubser North Carolina. The North Carolina left La-Guavra today for a trip to Guanta-(By Leased Wire to The Times) namo.

WANTS MOR EMONEY.

state Commerce Commission today Mike Donlin Seems to be Suffering house, Judge Johnson presiding. From Bad Case of Swell-head. (By Leased Wire to The Times) Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 29-Mike Don-14, 1908, by the United States grand Giants next season. He has the act- Alexander.

jury for the eastern district of Ar- ing bee in his bonnet and has given kansas. The indictment charged him Manager McGraw his ultimatum. He with receiving rebates upon ship- said so himself last night on the that Florence Erb and Katharine ments of grain transported from stage at the Grand, where, with his Beisel be arraigned on the charge of Omaha and Kansas City to Little talented wife, Mabel White, he is murder of Captain J. Clayton Erb. Rock. It is also charged that he per playing a vandeville sketch called ceived elevation allowances in viola-"Stealing Home,"

"I am willing to play with New wife in removing hers. tion of the act. These rebates were received from the Missouri Pacific York next season if they come up to Rallway and the St. Louis, Iron Moun- my figures," said Mike, "if not, well, the indictment and Mrs. Erb's check

and I have some very nice offers." EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

First Session Held in Atlanta Today. (By Leased Wire to The Times)

POSTPONED TO JAN. 5. Atlanta, Dec. 29-The first session of the Southern Educational

(By Leased Wire to The Times) 10 o'clock, at the First Methodist firmly from Mrs. Erb and very quietly Convention was held this morning at New York, Dec. 29-The inquest church in Peachtree street, with delinto the killing of Henry B. Suydam, egates present from every state in the curb broker who was shot in his the southeast. It will be followed by office at 37 Broad street on the mora-noon, at which various branches of ing of December 19 by J. C. Lumsdon educational work will be considered. and died the next morning at St. The convention will continue for Vincents Hospital, was today ad- three days, the principal meetings benovelist, who is seriously ill, but con- journed by Coroned Harburger to ing held in the First methodist church.

The case was called at 10:50 this morning in the Delaware county court

Both defendants heavily veiled and cowned in black entered the courtroom during the poll of the jury panel, accompanied by their attorneys. lin may not play with the New York Messrs. Rhodes, Fronefield, and

> District-Attorney McDade stepped to the rail at just 10:50 and asked

Mrs. Erb at once threw back her vail and Harry Beisel assisted bis

Clerk of the Court Smith then read I'll stay on the stage Mrs. Donlin never blushed as the harsh words "did felonously murder" were read. Mrs. Beisel swallowed hard.

> Asked the question "What say you, guilty or not guilty?" Mrs. Erb replied strongly and firmly, "Not guilty", though Mrs. Beisel's reply was hardly audible

> And the same was true when asked 'By whom do you wish to be tried?' from Mrs. Beisel.

The examination of talesmen was then taken up.

Mrs. John Carter Brown Dying. (By Leased Wire to The Times) Newport, R. L. Dec. 39-Mrs. Jo Carter Brown, one of the wealthing women in America, is reported dying at her home here.

Marie Corelli, the distinguished tinues her writing. | January 5.

WANT HIM FREED

(By Leased Wire to The Times)

Bath, Mc., Dec. 29-Mayor George E.



