

THOUSANDS PERHAPS ARE BURIED ALIVE

Heroic Work in Progress in the Italian Earthquake Zone

MANY IMPRISONED BY WRECKED HOMES

Death Toll Now Placed at About Twenty Thousand—King Returns from the Scene—Pope Visits Victims

Rome, Jan. 15.—Constantly shifting estimates, based on incoming reports, now place the death toll from Wednesday's earthquake at twenty thousand and the injured in excess of thirty-five thousand. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of victims remain buried alive or imprisoned by the wreckage of their homes. Rescuers in every walk of life are struggling to dig them out.

King Victor Emmanuel, who returned last night to Rome, from Avezzano, personally superintended the release of several unfortunates.

Rome, January 15.—News from the earthquake stricken district comes slow. Enough is known to show this disaster closely approaches that which befell Messina six years ago. Estimates of the killed and injured vary from twenty five thousand to fifty thousand. It probably will be days before the exact figures are available. Avezzano, twenty five miles east of Rome, and Sora, fifteen miles south of Avezzano, are the worst sufferers, far as the loss of life is concerned. About sixty towns, and villages in all are either totally demolished or seriously damaged. Reports today say the shock was felt at the Swiss frontier. That makes it appear the earthquake through the entire length of Italy, except in the extreme Southern end. The government was the quickest to extend the people aid. The Red Cross central committee ordered all members to join the relief work. Troops and supplies were rushed to the scene.

King Victor Emmanuel is tireless in his endeavors to spur the rescue work and has asked abandonment of unnecessary formalities. All Royal automobiles have been ordered to the rescue.

Every time the King reached the telegraph office, he sent messages to the Queen. Pope Benedict yesterday visited Santa Marta Hospital and talked with forty-one victims being cared for there.

American Ambassador Page called the Minister of Interior and expressed America's sympathy. He intimated his desire to send members of his staff to the scene to give aid. He dispatched an automobile with supplies to second Secretary Norval Richardson, Lieutenant Commander of Train, the Naval attaché, and Private Secretaries, John Harrison, and Marlon Sims Wyeth.

At midnight Giornale d'Italia estimates the number of earthquake victims in the region of Avezzano and Sora, at twenty-five thousand.

Ambassador Page is ready to appoint an American Relief Committee, Avezzano, the chief sufferer, presents a scene of wreck and desolation. Practically every building is said to be in ruins, and nearly all the people are dead or injured. Many still alive are buried in the debris. Rescuers are working day and night. Late advices say five hundred bodies have been recovered. Hundreds of injured have been taken from the ruins. Early all municipal officials were killed.

Similar conditions exist in the towns around Avezzano. Magliano and Pescina are practically in ruins. Among the missing are Monsignor Bagnoli and the Bishop of Pescina. Cold and snow add to the sufferings of the survivors.

King Victor Emmanuel returned to Rome last night, and confirmed the gravity of the situation.

Some survivors are able to tell a connected story of the earthquake. A man taken from the ruins yesterday said:

"I had a sensation of some one forcing me to dance. Then I was thrown to the ground. The roof and walls fell upon my head. Even after I was half buried the earth seemed heavy and hot."

"A priest was saying mass when I felt the first shock. He rushed under the Arch of the Church, that saved

his life. His Acolytes were struck down and killed."

The shocks destroyed the aqueduct system of Avezzano. No water is there today.

Some newspapers announced that Pope Benedict is visiting the wounded in Santa Maria Hospital left the Vatican, thus interrupting the traditional imprisonment of a Pope, always adhered to by Popes Pius IX, Leo and Pius X, after the fall of temporal power. In reality the Pope didn't leave the Vatican, passing through the Apostolic Palace, inside of St. Peter's he reached the hospital, without touching Italian soil. His predecessor did the same when he visited the Messina victims.

Estimates Dead About 30,000
Paris, January 15.—The Petit Pari-

PECULIAR MANNER FIGHTING SHOWN

Each Side Struggles to Blow Up The Trenches of the Other.

Berlin, Jan. 15.—The peculiar character of the fighting now going on in the Forest of Argonne is illustrated by the following letter from a soldier: "The two companies forming our right wing had been lying for five days only 30 to 50 yards from the enemy along a distance of nearly 200 yards. In front of our company to the left was a little valley, on the opposite slope of which the French had entrenched themselves in three lines of pits, one lying above the other, and this front was generally regarded as impregnable. We therefore had a detachment of Prussian sappers and miners, which was assigned to our lines, to tunnel under the three French trenches in order to blow them up. The explosion was really intended to go off on the anniversary of the battle of Champigny (Nov. 30), but the sappers said that they had not yet enough 'snuff' into their holes. There was danger that the French would undermine us and blow us into the air first. Finally on December 1 everything was ready. At places lay pounds of dynamite under the French trenches.

"At 10:30 all our front trenches were evacuated, but we masked this movement to deceive the French. At 11:21 a lieutenant of pioneers pressed his thumb on a button, and there was a terrific crash. One might have thought that whole earth was falling to pieces. From my position I saw a cloud of earth probably over 600 feet high. After about a minute something like a mighty tempest broke loose in the woods. I did not know what it was till something struck my skull, when I knew it was a hail of dirt and stones which had been thrown up by the explosion. I darted into our bombproof, where I stayed for two minutes. Meanwhile our two companies pressed forward and occupied the gap that had been broken in the French lines. The first trench was full of dead and buried Frenchmen. In the

ALDERMAN IS HEARD BY SOLONS WITH PLEASURE

Former Tar Heel Delivers Fine Address Today.

BILL WAS HELD UP

Senator Cooper to Get Hearing on Representative Stacy's Bill as to Registration—Wilkesboro Jefferson Turnpike to Be Sold.

Special to The Dispatch.
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 15.—The Senate spent most of its time today in discussing a bill to allow women to act as notaries of public, but postponed the matter until tomorrow.

President Alderman, of the University of Virginia, was heard with rapt attention in the House. He appears to have recovered his health. He appealed for public schools and State institutions and was given a ringing vote of thanks.

Senator Cooper received a telegram from Wilmington requesting him to hold up the New Hanover Registration bill until a hearing could be had. He said he would do so.

Speaker Wooten informed the House that the Wilkesboro-Jefferson turnpike, on which the State spent \$60,000, was to be sold January 15th for a \$7,000 debt, and a committee was named to act at once.

The Virginia legislature sent felicitations to the State.

STRIKE COMMISSION MEETS SUCCESS

New York, January 15.—The strike commission appointed in November by President Wilson has completed its negotiations with miners and coal operators of Colorado, and is now on its way to Denver to culminate an agreement between the coal barons and their workers looking to the prevention of future labor wars in the Colorado fields.

The commission consists of Hon. Seth Low of New York, Chas. W. Mills of Philadelphia and Patrick W. Gilday of Clearfield, Pa. These men have been in almost constant communication with both sides of the big controversy, and have brought reason to bear on both sides. "Everything is satisfactory," said Commissioner Miller, "and we hope and expect to devise a working agreement between the miners and the operators."

The present trip to Colorado is the second stage of its work. That is, the problem of the present unemployment of miners and their suffering as a result of their idleness. The commission will cooperate with the local authorities in Colorado in an effort to solve the present situation of unemployment.

Before journeying westward, the commission awaited the new administration in Colorado. Governor Carlson has now been inaugurated, and his views have met with an improved popular confidence. The field has been cleared for conciliatory plans, for much of the bitter feeling against the State government on account of its harsh means of handling the strike situation, has been alleviated. Reconstruction is the watchword of the commission that will meet all sides in Denver next week.

AMERICAN MINISTER CABLES ABOUT IT

Washington, Jan. 15.—Dispatches from Ambassador Page, at Rome, place the dead at between twelve thousand and fifteen thousand and the seriously injured at about the same number. He said he inquired of Italian government if aid is needed. He was told Italy was not accepting assistance from any foreign country. No Americans are reported victims.

"A soldier must have luck! The captured French prisoners told us afterwards that they had mined our trenches at eight points, and were going to blow us up at 6 p. m. not yet having finished putting in the charges. When we examined our trenches we found these mines. So we had a lucky escape this time. The higher authorities are giving unstinted praise to our achievement. Even the Crown Prince sent automobiles with 200 woolen blankets and a bottle of wine for each of us. What more could a soldier's heart want? Such are the tricks that we are playing here!"

TRUSTEES' SALE.

Of the G. H. Haar stock of Dry Goods, Notions and Fixtures continues until sold. Prices Guaranteed Below Wholesale Cost.—Advertisement de 26 ft

in the Alps, and near the Italian frontier, twenty-seven soldiers were overwhelmed by the avalanche and three seriously hurt.

Taking Bodies From the Ruins
Sora, January 15.—Detachments of troops have arrived here to help the work of rescue. Over four hundred and fifty bodies have been taken from the ruins. Large number of injured were rescued.

GERMANS GETTING READY FOR ATTACK

THE HUMAN MOLE WORKS AT NIGHT

How Trenches Are Dug While Shot and Shell Scream Over Battlefield.

Karlsruhe, Ger., Jan. 15.—At night, when the searchlights flit from trench to trench of the enemy and when gunners send shells into hostile works which during the day have been singled out for this attention, the human mole—the pioneer—goes to work. The present war at close quarters has made it impossible for him to labor in daylight. Not alone is every part of the field scrutinized with powerful glasses by the observation officers, but men in aeroplanes are also constantly on the lookout for a red or brown scar in the landscape that might show pioneers busy at work digging trenches.

Contrary to popular belief, trenches are but seldom dug the infantrymen nowadays. The little spades they carry serve for the sole purpose of throwing up cover when during an attack the firing line, owing to superiority of fire from the enemy's position, must intrench itself superficially until reinforcements can be brought up. The trenches of the permanent positions are dug by the pioneers, as are also the approach of trenches, bombproofs and tunnels, which make up a modern "position-fight" line.

What it means to be a pioneer is well told in a letter which has just been published in the German press. The writer explains that the division staff had thought it advisable to advance closer to the French trenches. Before this could be done a trench had to be dug; otherwise the infantry sent there would have been mowed down by the fire from the other side. The locality of the proposed trench lay between the French and German trenches.

"So we left the half-rusted little village on the banks of the canal, reached the highway, and labored through the deep mud and around the holes blown in the ground by the shells," continues the pioneer. "About us hummed bullets which seemed to have lost their way, and the spades

(Continued on Page Two.)

Looks Like General Aggressive Movement in the Vicinity of Warsaw

THE FRENCH LOSE OUT NEAR AISNE

Swollen Current Prevented Them Getting Reinforcements, So They Retired —British Claim Victory

Petrograd, January 15.—The Russian General Staff has reached the opinion the Germans are preparing for a general aggressive movement west and southwest of Warsaw. Staff officers say the opinion is borne out by the fact the Germans have removed their sick and wounded from Lodz and Piotrkow into Prussia and changed their ammunition bases. Furthermore information has been received of arrival of large bodies of German troops in Northern Hungary and distribution with striking distance of fortified positions, covering the northern entrance of Hungary and the principal Carpathian passes held by the Russians. This is taken to indicate the Germans are reinforcing the Austrians for a vigorous effort to free Bukovina, Northern Hungary, of danger from further Russian advances.

Back Across the Aisne.
London, Eng., January 15.—The violent German attack in North Soissons, under direction of General von Kluck, which, coupled with flood stage in that river, has forced the French back across the Aisne, was the most striking news of the last twenty-four hours from the seat of war. The engagement in North Soissons is the

first notable fighting thereabouts since last September. Snow in the Vosges and floods in Flanders still prevent extensive operations to the eastern or western wings. To British observers it appears as though the Soissons district has been selected for a point where, with reinforcements and first line troops, the Germans are planning to display once more hammering tactics. On the other hand, some war experts contend operations at Soissons may have been undertaken to compel the allies to lessen the pressure in Alsace. The British claim to have won marked success several days ago, near LaBassee, when they drove the Germans from strongly entrenched positions, gaining a mile distance, and inflicting severe losses on their antagonists. There is no change of importance in the east.

Turkish troops, who recently invaded Persia, are advancing to the interior, according to a Teheran dispatch to The Reuters. The message says: "It is reported that the Turks, when they occupied Tabriz, Azerbaijan province, shot the Persian Governors of the towns of Soujbulak, Maragha and Burat. The small Turkish force, which entered Tabriz, is now moving in the direction of Isfahan, Central Persia, two hundred miles south of Teheran, supported by other Turkish contingents."

Expects Italy To Enter.
Italy is momentarily distracted from the thoughts of war by the earthquake. Assertions are still made in London that the Allies confidently expect Italy to join them in due time.

British Win a Victory.
Paris, Jan. 15.—A Havas Agency dispatch from Stomer, dated January 10th, relates a British victory and advance near LaBassee of one mile. The message follows:

"The British by impetuous attack stormed the strongly entrenched German position, near LaBassee, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, after a vigorous preliminary shelling. This is an important strategic point. Its occupation represents an advance of one mile. The British losses were slight, and the Germans heavy. Many Germans were taken prisoners."

French Statement.
The French official report refers very briefly this afternoon to the military situation in Northeast Soissons. It says the Germans yesterday occupied the village of St. Paul, close to Soissons, but the French immediately drove them out. With exception of customary artillery exchanges from the sea to Lys, Craonne, near Rheims, a spirited infantry encounter in Vosges, in which the French claim victory and a successful infantry charge near Arras, in which the French got through the German wire entanglements, and took some trenches, the report contains little new. The trillery silenced the German batteries, demolished two pieces of artillery, exploded an ammunition depot, and destroyed field works being built at Targette, St. Laurent and at a point north of Andechy, in the region of Roye.

German Statement.
Berlin, Jan. 15.—The German official statement today declares all the French troops have been driven from the northern bank of the Aisne, northeast of Soissons. It records repulses of several French attacks and progress in Poland.

WILL BE RELEASED
IF JUDGE SAYS SO

Washington, January 15.—A statement issued today by the British Embassy says release on bond ships detained in British prize courts will be permitted by the British Government if the Judge of the Court consents.

TRUSTEES' SALE.
Of the G. H. Haar stock of Dry Goods, Notions and Fixtures continues until sold. Prices Guaranteed Below Wholesale Cost.—Advertisement de 26 ft

WANTS A LARGER EDUCATION BOARD

PREPARING THE MILITARY PAY BILLS

Washington, Jan. 15.—A conference held here today of the executive committee of the national guard association, in which the views of the War Department relative to the militia pay bill were considered. It is believed that the situation will be cleared up when the bill as approved by the militia men and the War Department is submitted to President Wilson.

A peculiar situation has developed in regard to the militia pay bill. The association has been working for it for a long time. Last summer an agreement was reached as to its terms between the executive committee and the War Department, but it was never submitted to President Wilson for his approval. The bill was introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the committee immediately announced that they were not responsible for the introduction of the bill, as they had agreed not to move until the President had been consulted. Today's meeting may focus the attention of the administration on this measure, and it may be approved and backed in its passage through Congress.

The militia pay bill contemplates much greater funds for the organized militia or guardsmen of the various states and an enlistment for a longer period with time for service in the reserve. It would bring the national guard into still closer relation with the regular army and the War Department.

VICE ADMIRAL NARES HAS PASSED AWAY

London, Jan. 15.—The death of Vice Admiral Sir George S. Nares, R. N., retired, was announced here today. He was born in 1832. Nares' career was brilliant. He gained fame in an Arctic expedition in 1875. He planted the British flag beyond latitude eighty-three, north. As commander of the H. M. S. Challenger, Nares made deep sea explorations around the world.

Senator Cooper Introduces a Live Local Bill.

WOULD HAVE EIGHT MEMBERS

Advocates a Member to Be a Trustee For Each School— Representative Stacy Not Consulted As Yet.

Special to The Dispatch.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 15.—Senator Cooper today introduced a bill to increase the number of members of the New Hanover County Board of Education from three to eight, so that each school in Wilmington might have a trustee, so as to give attention to it. The bill would not interfere with the county.

The names proposed in the bill for trustees are: B. Solomon and J. G. L. Gieschen, two years; J. O. Carr and Sam Bear, four years; B. C. Moore and W. E. Perdue, six years; J. J. Loughlin and W. M. Cumming, eight years. Mr. Stacy has not been consulted about this bill, Senator Cooper said.

BRITONS PROTEST AGAINST CARRANZA

Washington, January 15.—The British Ambassador made urgent representations to the State Department today against the Carranza embargo on oil exports from Tampico, from which the British Navy draws some of its fuel.