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VOL XIV.

COLUMBUS, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1909.

NO. 35.

CARING FOR THE VICTIMS

Rations, Clothing, Tents and Other Supplies Are Pouring in and the Hungry and Injured Are Being Cared For.

Rome, By Cable.—What chiefly concerns the government and the people is the progress that is being made towards the relief of those who have suffered by the dreadful earthquake in southern Italy and Sicily. Considerable advances in this respect has been made at Messina, where, according to reports received here, the supply service is beginning to work satisfactorily. The different regions on the coast have been allotted to various warships and other ships as centres from which torpedo boats and launches convey and distribute rations and water to the different villages.

The Minister of Justice has wired from Messina to Premier Giolitti that large bodies of troops have arrived and are now occupying all parts of the town. The appalling extent of the disaster renders anything like a systematic search of the ruins impossible, but persons are being dragged out all day long and are quickly transported to the relief ships as soon as their wounds have received attention.

The appalling message came on New Year Day that the Ripari Islands which lie just north of Sicily had gone down with its 23,000 inhabitants, but a messenger boat sent to learn the facts has returned with the news that the islands are but little injured. Only the cracking of buildings make any real damage.

Estimates of Death List.
Rome, By Cable.—Estimates of the death roll of the earthquake now cease to concern the Italian people. It is enough to know that the catastrophe is overwhelming—figures would add nothing to the grief of the stricken nation, nor move to greater efforts those upon whom the work of relief and rescue has fallen.

Every channel open to the government has been utilized to this end, and other nations have been quick to come to its assistance, even before the cry for aid went up. Shiploads of fugitives have been carried out of the stricken zone to Naples, Palermo, Catania and other ports, and according to the Minister of Marine, rescue vessels to the number of 36 are now centered in the Strait of Messina, and 5,000 soldiers are being landed on the two coasts.

Most important of all now is the question of the living. Thousands of those who escaped the falling walls and the sweep of the tide are starving and without clothes or shelter. They can scarcely longer survive their sufferings. The first thought has been to carry food and covering for these helpless people, and it has now been decided by the government to send a fleet of emigrant steamers to transport them to other places.

Professor Riccio, director of the observatory at Mount Etna, states that his instruments have recorded 42 distinct shocks after the first, but that during the last 14 hours they have been almost motionless. Etna and Stromboli are now quiet and he is certain that the earthquake was not of volcanic but of geographical origin, similar to that of 1875.

The horror of the situation at Messina and Reggio grows with every fresh dispatch. One of the correspondents places the death roll throughout the entire territory as high as 300,000, but this appears to be extreme. Others make their estimate 200,000, but the official estimate as made by the Minister of Marine still holds to 115,000.

The tidal wave lasted much longer than the earthquake. During all the time vessels shivered intermittently, as though shaken by some huge marine monster.

A naval observer of the destruction of Messina says there were four tidal waves, ranging in height from 12 to 30 feet. Thirty minutes elapsed between the rolling in of the first and the destructive onslaught of the last wave.

Thousands of half nude individuals of both sexes have gathered along the muddy beaches on either side of the ruins of Messina seeking food or trying to get away by sea. Many children have died from exposure and the cases of madness are increasing.

During the night the warships in Messina harbor throw their searchlights on the ruins to enable the rescuers on shore to continue their work. The work of succor is going on feverishly but the forces are still woefully inadequate. The stench from decomposing bodies is becoming overpowering.

A frightful scene occurred here

Thursday amid the ruins of the customs house. Bands of famished individuals were groping among the debris in the hope of discovering food. The first of the searchers who were successful were attacked by others with revolvers and knives and were obliged to defend their finds literally with their lives. The struggle was fierce. The famished men threw themselves upon each other like wolves and several fell disarmed in defending a handful of dry beans or a few ounces of flour. One of the unfortunates was pinned to a plank by a knife, while clinging to his hand was his little child, for whom he had sought food.

The United States supply ship Celtic will go to Messina, after a brief stop at Gibraltar to give a million and a half of navy rations to the earthquake sufferers. New York on Thursday made up a fund of nearly \$100,000 as a relief fund. Chicago's contribution fund aggregate \$30,000. The American Red Cross is co-operating with the Italian Red Cross for the relief of the suffering.

STROMBOLI VIOLENT

Eruptions Attended by Earthquake—Citizens in Panic But Little Injury Done—Rescue Work in the Stricken Regions as Seen One Week Later.

Rome, By Cable.—A violent earthquake running north-southwest and east-northeast, lasting three seconds, Sunday and during which the Stromboli volcano began eruption, occurred in Stromboli island Sunday.

The phenomenon was accompanied by prolonged dull rumblings. The houses on the island were badly damaged and the populace fled to the streets in panic, but no one was hurt. The weather is intensely cold on Stromboli island.

The system of rescue work in Messina has been greatly augmented by the arrival of troops, who are to be seen all over the ruined city in squads of twenty and thirty, patrolling day and night. Bodies of them also are working in the ruins by day and until well into the night.

The movement of refugees from the villages is daily increasing in volume. Of the victims buried under the ruins few have been rescued alive.

It is now clear that the enormous number of casualties in Messina was due to the suddenness with which the first shock came, giving but little time to the people to escape from their homes. The tidal wave was not so high as was at first reported, and would have done little damage had it not been preceded by the earthquake. The damage done by fire was comparatively insignificant.

The first earth shock last Monday morning literally threw down the city and almost every street was completely buried under the walls that had fallen. Furniture and other debris, practically cutting off every avenue of escape.

Then came the tidal wave to inundate the city and the living and dying were caught like rats and drowned or had their brains dashed out by being thrown by the rushing waters against piles of masonry and rubbish.

Far greater havoc was wrought in Messina than was believed when the Associated Press correspondent first passed around the outskirts with Frank Perret, of Brooklyn, N. Y., assistant director of the observatory on Mount Vesuvius. During this tour a most critical examination was made of the American consulate. It is a complete ruin—nothing but a heap of crumbling and crushed stones, without semblance of its original shape. It is most doubtful if the rescuers will be able to recover the bodies buried beneath the debris for a few days, but every effort to do so will be made. The French and Turkish consulates also were razed completely, and it seems almost impossible that any of their inmates could have escaped.

Officials in Messina say that the original estimate of the fatalities in the city probably was not exaggerated. The lower part of the city is practically totally destroyed.

A Washington special says: "President Roosevelt has sent two supply ships with \$300,000 worth of supplies to Italy, that he will ask Congress for additional aid and that he has offered the use of the battleship fleet to Italy."

Big Fleet at Suez.
Suez, By Cable.—The United States Atlantic battleship fleet, completing two days ahead of its schedule the next to the longest run of its world-girdling cruise, arrived here Sunday morning from Colombo, a distance of 3,440 knots, from which place the fleet sailed on December 20th. The loss of a seaman from the battleship Illinois, who fell overboard and was the only accident to mar the voyage from Colombo.

E. M. WILLIAMSON'S CORN METHODS.

"Southern Corn for the South"

For a number of years after I began to farm, I followed the old-time method of putting the fertilizer all under the corn, planting on a level higher, six by three feet, pushing the plant from the start and making a big stalk, but the ears were few, and frequently small. I planted much corn in the spring and bought much more corn the next spring, until finally I was driven to the conclusion that corn could not be made on uplands in this section, certainly not by the old method, except at a loss.

I did not give up, however, for I knew that the farmer who did not make his own corn never had succeeded, and never would, so I began to experiment. First I planted low, and the yield was better, but the stalk was still too large; so I discontinued altogether the application of fertilizer before planting, and, knowing that all crops should be fertilized as a side application, and applied the more soluble nitrate of soda later, being guided in this by the excellent results obtained from its use as a top dressing for oats. Still, the yield, though regular, was not large, and the smallness of the stalk itself now suggested that they should be planted thicker in the drill. This was done the next year, with results so satisfactory that I continued from year to year to increase the number of stalks and the fertilizer with which to sustain them; also to apply nitrate of soda at last plowing, and to lay by early, sowing peas broadcast. This method steadily increased the yield, until year before last (1904), with corn eleven inches apart in six-foot rows, and \$11 worth of fertilizer to the acre, I made eighty-four bushels average to the acre, several of my best acres making as much as 125 bushels.

Last year (1905) I followed the same method, planting the first week in April, seventy acres which had produced the year before 1,000 pounds seed cotton per acre. This land is sandy upland, somewhat rolling. Seasons were unfavorable, owing to the tremendous rains in May and the dry and extremely hot weather later. From June 12th to July 12th, the time when it most needed moisture, there was only five-eighths of an inch of rainfall here; yet with \$7.01, cost of fertilizer, my yield was fifty-two bushels per acre. Rows were six feet and corn sixteen inches in drill.

With this method, on land that will ordinarily produce 1,000 pounds of seed cotton with 800 pounds of fertilizer, fifty bushels of corn per acre should be made by using 200 pounds of cotton seed meal, 200 pounds of acid phosphate, and 400 pounds of kainit mixed, or their equivalent in other fertilizer, and 125 pounds of nitrate of soda, all to be used as side application as directed below.

On land that will make a bale and one-half of cotton per acre when well fertilized, a hundred bushels of corn should be produced by doubling the amount of fertilizer above, except that 300 pounds of nitrate of soda should be used.

In each case there should be left on the land in corn stalks, peas, vines and roots from \$12 to \$16 worth of fertilizing material per acre, beside the great benefit to the land from so large an amount of vegetable matter. The place of this in the permanent improvement of land can never be taken by commercial fertilizer, for it is absolutely impossible to make lands rich as long as they are lacking in vegetable matter.

Land should be thoroughly and deeply broken for corn, and this is the time in a system of rotation to deepen the soil. Cotton requires a more compact soil than corn, and while a deep soil is essential to its best development, it will not produce as well as loose, open land where corn does best on land thoroughly broken. A deep soil will not only produce more heavily than a shallow soil with good seasons, but it will stand more wet as well as more dry weather.

In preparing for the corn crop, land should be broken broadcast during the winter one-fourth deeper than it has been plowed before, or if much vegetable matter is being turned under, it may be broken one-third deeper. This is as much deepening as land will usually stand in one year and produces well, though it may be continued each year, so long as much dead vegetable matter is being turned under. It may, however, be subsided to any depth by following in bottom of turn plow furrow, provided no more of the subsoil than has been directed is turned up. Break with two heavy plows, if possible, or, better, with disc plow. With the latter, cotton stalks or corn stalks as large as we ever make can be turned

under without having been chopped, and in pea vines it will not choke or drag.

Never plow land when it is wet, if you expect ever to have any use for it again.

Bed with turn plows in six-foot rows, leaving five-inch balk. When ready to plant, break this out with scotter, following in bottom of this furrow deep with Dixie plow, wing taken off. Ridge then on this furrow with same plow, still going deep. Run corn planter on this ridge, dropping one grain every five or six inches. Plant early, as soon as frost danger is past, say first seasonable spell after March 15th, in this section. Especially is early planting necessary on very rich lands where stalks cannot otherwise be prevented from growing too large. Give first working with harrow or any plow that will not cover the plant. For second working, use ten or twelve-inch sweep on both sides of corn, which should now be about eight inches high. Thin after this working. It is not necessary that the plants should be left all the same distance apart if the right number remain to each yard or row.

Corn should not be worked again until the growth has been so retarded and the stalk so hardened that it will never grow too large. This is the most difficult point in the whole process. Experience not judgment are required to know just how much the stalk should be stunted, and plenty of nerve is required to hold back your corn when your neighbors, who fertilized at planting time and cultivated rapidly, have corn twice the size of yours. (They are having their fun now. Yours will come at harvest time.) The richer the land the more necessary it is that the stunting process should be thoroughly done.

When you are convinced that your corn has been sufficiently husbanded, you may begin to make the ear. It should now be from twelve to eighteen inches high, and look worse than you have ever had any corn to look before.

Put half of your mixed fertilizer (this being the first used at all) in the old sweep furrow on both sides of every other middle, and cover by breaking out this middle with turn plow. About one week later treat the other middle the same way. Within a few days side corn in first middle with sixteen-inch sweep. Put all your nitrate of soda in this furrow, if less than 150 pounds. If more use one-half of it now. Cover with one furrow of turn plow, then sow peas in the middle broadcast at the rate of at least one bushel to the acre, and finish breaking out.

In a few days side corn in other middle with same sweep, put balance of nitrate of soda in this furrow if it has been divided cover with turn plow, sow peas and break out. This lays by your crop, with a good bed and plenty of dirt around your stalk.

This should be from June 10th to 20th unless season is very late, and corn should be hardly bunching for tassel. Lay by early. More corn is ruined by late plowing than by lack of plowing. This is when the ear is hurt. Two good rains after laying by should make you a good crop of corn, and it will certainly make with much less rain than was required in the old way.

The stalks thus raised are very small and do not require anything like the moisture even in proportion to size, that is necessary for large sappy stalks. They may, therefore, be left much thicker in the row. This is no new process. It has long been a custom to cut back vines and trees in order to increase the yield and quality of fruit; and so long as you do not hold back your corn, it will go, like mine so long went, all to stalk.

Do not be discouraged by the looks of your corn during the process of cultivation. It will yield out of all proportion to its appearance. Large stalks cannot make large yields, except with extremely favorable seasons, for they cannot stand a lack of moisture. Early applications of manure go to make large stalks, which you do not want, and the plant food is all thus used up before the ear, which you do want, is made. Tall stalks not only will not produce well themselves, but will not allow you to make the pea vines, so necessary to the improvement of land. Corn raised by this method should never grow over seven and one-half feet high, and the ear should be near to the ground.

I consider the final application of nitrate of soda an essential point in this ear-making process. It should always be applied at last plowing and unmixed with other fertilizers.

I am satisfied with one ear to the stalk unless a prolific variety is planted, and leave a hundred stalks for every bushel that I expect to make. I find the six-foot row easiest to cultivate without injuring the ear. For fifty bushels to the acre I leave it sixteen inches apart; for seventy-five bushels to the acre, twelve inches apart, and for one hundred bush-

els, eight inches apart. Corn should be planted from four to six inches below the level and hid by from four to six inches above. No hoeing should be necessary, and middles may be kept clean until time break out, by using harrow or, by running one shovel furrow in centre of middle and bedding on that with one or more rounds of turn plow.

I would advise only a few acres tried by this method the first year, or until you are familiar with its application. Especially is it hard at first, to fully carry out the stunting process where a whole crop is involved, and this is the absolutely essential part of the process.

This method I have applied, or seen applied successfully to all kinds of land in this section, except wet lands and moist bottoms, and I am confident it can be made of great benefit throughout the entire South.

In the middle West, where corn is so prolific and profitable, and where, unfortunately for us, so much of ours has been produced, the stalk does not naturally grow large. As we come South its size increases, at the expense of the ear, until in Cuba, and Mexico, it is nearly all stalk (witness Mexican varieties.)

The purpose of this method is to eliminate this tendency of corn to overgrowth at the expense of yield in this Southern climate.

By this method I have made my corn crop more profitable than my cotton crop, and my neighbors and friends who have adopted it have, without exception, derived great benefit therefrom.

Plant your own seed. I would not advise a change of seed and method the same year, as you will not then know from which you have derived the benefit. I have used three varieties and all have done well. I have never used this method for late planting. In fact, I do not advise the late planting of corn, unless it be necessary for cold lowlands.

The increased cost of labor and the high price of material and land are rapidly making farming unprofitable, except to those who are getting from one acre what they formerly got from two. We must make our lands richer by plowing deep, planting peas and other legumes, manuring them with acid phosphate and potash, which are relatively cheap, and returning to the soil the resultant vegetable matter rich in humus and expensive nitrogen. The needs of our soil are such that the South can never reap the full measure of prosperity that should be hers until this is done.

I give this method as a farmer to the farmers of the South, trusting that, thereby they may be benefited as I have been.

E. M. AVER WILLIAMSON.

Scientists Working For Humanity's Good.

Baltimore, Md., Special.—That the influence and efforts of the leading scientists in the country will be concentrated in the effort to establish a national organization, with regulations and rules of its own, for the conservation of disease generally was demonstrated in the symposium on public health of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Wednesday.



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