

200,000 KILLED IN AN EARTHQUAKE

Most Destructive In the Present Generation Visits Italy

WHOLE CITIES DESTROYED

Earthquake Followed by Tidal Wave, Destroys City After City in South Italy and Sicily and Obliterates Smaller Towns and Villages Without Number.

One of the most disastrous earthquakes in the world's history occurred on Monday in the lower portion of Italy including the island of Sicily. The news of the appalling disaster was not adequately conceived when the cables first brought the message. No tongue or pen can depict the horrors of the awful calamity that has fallen upon that region.

Later details covering more fully the horrible occurrence are given in the following dispatches, and show that the first news of the disaster came nowhere near giving the full extent of the devastation wrought.

The impressiveness of the disaster in southern Italy and Sicily can only be measured by the fact that it is now estimated that 110,000 people perished in Messina and Reggio alone.

A score of other towns have been devastated and thousands of victims in these places must be added to the roll. In the face of this awful total all Italy stands appalled.

Nor has the full death-list yet been reached. Ship loads of fugitives have arrived at Naples and other ports and the vast majority of these are severely injured.

The British consul at Messina is reported injured and his wife and children dead. This disaster has resulted in a greater loss of life than any of our wars for independence.

cases 48 hours without assistance. Even when rescued, it is impossible to house them, everything available having been filled by the dead.

The King and Queen of Italy hastened to the scene and disregarding the dangers proceeded to help in rescuing those injured beneath the ruins.

It was learned that General Colla lost his life at Messina. The troops and sailors have been obliged to shoot down robbers who persisted in looting.

The rescuers at Messina are rapidly becoming exhausted. The fires have not yet been put out and there is no water with which to combat the flames.

A dispatch received here from Deputy Felice at Messina says: "Organize a squadron of volunteers for rescue work. Send us food for we are dying of hunger."

Only two members of the municipal council of Messina survived the disaster.

Great Earthquakes in History. Guatemala, Central America, founded in 1524, destroyed by earthquake and volcanic eruption in 1558.

Guatemala, Central America, founded in 1524, destroyed by earthquake and volcanic eruption in 1558. The second Guatemala, established near the site of the first, almost destroyed by earthquake in 1773.

Lisbon, Portugal, almost destroyed by quake and accompanying tidal wave, November 1, 1775, with the loss of 60,000 lives.

Caracas, capital of Venezuela, destroyed by earthquake shock in 1812. Aleppo, destroyed in 1822. Naples, severely shaken, with accompanying eruption of Vesuvius, 1857.

Manila, severely shocked, 1863 and 1881. Valparaiso, Chile, badly damaged in 1880.

Earthquake at Colchester and eastern counties of England, 1834. Charleston, S. C., visited August 31, 1886, by a severe earthquake, that shook down many buildings and caused loss of life and property damage.

San Francisco and neighboring towns shaken Wednesday, April 18, 1906, fire swept the ruined districts of the city and the property loss ran into the hundreds of millions, with hundreds killed.

Valparaiso and other towns in Chile ruined by earthquake August 16, 1906, and 2,000 killed. Kingston, Jamaica, partially destroyed Monday, January 14, 1906; 800 killed.

British Steamer Taken by Chinese. Hong Kong, By Cable.—The British steamer Tai-On was captured by two Chinese cruisers, near Kum Chuk. The reason for the capture is believed to lie in the fact that the steamer several months ago ran down a junk and drowned a theatrical company which was on board.

King and Queen on Scene. Catania, Special.—King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena arrived at Messina on board the battleship Victoria-Emmanuel. They disembarked and made their way into the ruined city. As soon as it was known that the King and Queen had come crowds of the terror-stricken populace swarmed around the royal party, prostrating themselves in the mud and crying aloud for pity.

PLANS FOR RELIEF WORK

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 advance in this respect has been made at Messina, where, according to reports received here, the supply service is beginning to work satisfactorily.

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 28,000 inhabitants, but a messenger boat sent to learn the facts has returned with the news that the islands are but little injured.

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 weight of relief and rescue has fallen.

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Professor Rieco, 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.

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.

TO WASH BLACK WOOLLEN. Cut 1-2 bar white soap in small pieces; dissolve in 4 quarts of water; when cold add two table-spoons of household ammonia; put in tub with cold water to cover skirt.

THE WILLIAMSON METHOD OF CORN CULTURE

"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 corn were few, and frequent small.

I'd not give up, however, for I knew that the farmer who did not make his corn never had succeeded. I began to experiment. First I planted lower, but the stalk was better, but the stalks still too large; so I discontinued altogether the application of fertilizer before planting.

and knowing that all crops should be fertilized as a whole application, and applied the same soluble nitrate of soda later, being enabled 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.

Last year (1905) I followed the same method, planting the first week in April, seventy acres which had yielded the year before 1,000 pounds of corn 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.

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.

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.

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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 with a 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 die.

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 of March.

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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 and judgment are needed to know just how much the stalk should be staked, 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.

When you are convinced that your corn has been sufficiently humiliated, you may begin to make the ear. It should now be four to five to eight 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 leafy 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.

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 absolute 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 extreme of the ear, as in Cuba and Mexico, it is nearly all stalk (without Mexican varieties).

The purpose of this method is to eliminate this tendency of corn to its growth 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 corn 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 lands.

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 soil, phosphate and potash, which are relatively cheap, and retaining a share of the manure and 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'IVER WILLIAMSON.

Looking After Inland Waterways.

A party of Congressmen and others are making a personal inspection of the inland waterway route along the eastern Carolina coast under the personal direction of Congressman Small.

Steam Laundry Burned.

Lenoir, Special.—Early Christmas morning the Lenoir Steam Laundry was burned to the ground and was a total loss to the owner, Mr. W. H. Sherrill.

Will Serve the Sentence.

Joseph Lane was convicted of firing a random shot from a passing train during the Christmas holidays of 1907 at Beanna Vista, which resulted in the death of little Alma Green.

Exchange of Courts.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Glenn authorizes an exchange of courts between Judge Allen and Judge Cook, whereby Judge Allen will hold the Pitt county court beginning January 15th and Judge Cook will hold the Franklin county court to convene January 11th.