

Office:
Struve Str. 5, I.
Dresden A.
Telephone
1755.

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 880.

DRESDEN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1908.

10 PFENNIGS.

The Daily Record is delivered by hand in Dresden, and may be ordered at any Post Office throughout the German Empire. It is published daily, excepting Mondays and days following legal holidays in Dresden.

Monthly Subscription Rates: For Dresden, mark 1.—; for the rest of Germany and Austria, mark 1.20. For other countries, marks 2.50.

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UNHAPPY ITALY.

The Italian despatches we publish this morning unmistakably indicate the severity of the earthquake shock which visited certain districts of Calabria and Sicily in the early hours of Monday morning. Owing to the breakdown of practically all communication between the capital and the centres visited by the shock, it is quite impossible at this date to accurately, or even approximately, estimate the actual loss in life and property caused by this latest disastrous phenomenon, but each succeeding despatch announces a heavier death-roll. That this gruesome list will considerably exceed one thousand is now a practical certainty. Ancient Messina, beloved of tourists, has apparently suffered more heavily than its neighbours, one of our telegrams announcing the greater part of the city to be destroyed. The fine Gothic cathedral, which is a prominent landmark, has sustained damage, though to what extent is not yet known. Beautifully situated on the slope and at the foot of the Sicilian hills which rise like an amphitheatre above it, its dazzling white buildings thrown into relief by the dark forests in the background, Messina has justly earned the name of being one of Europe's most charming cities. But like many other places upon which Nature has lavished her richest treasures, Messina has suffered frequently from her wrath. Time and again the city has been visited by earthquakes, but the latest appears to be as disastrous, if not more so, than any previous disturbance. Calabria, whence come reports of widespread destruction, is another sufferer from these visitations, several of which caused panic among the inhabitants last spring. With the lurid memory of the scenes at Naples a year or two ago still fresh, when Vesuvius vomited fire and destruction on the surrounding villages, public sympathy will go out to the unfortunate people involved in this latest catastrophe. It is pleasing to note that the British and Russian warships in those waters have been promptly despatched to render what aid is possible to the afflicted victims, and that the Italian Government has lost no time in placing a considerable sum at the disposal of the authorities for the purpose of alleviating distress among those deprived of food and shelter.

GRAVE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

Teheran, December 28.
Reuter reports that the situation gives rise to some uneasiness. Many of the bazaars are closed, and the patrols in the streets have been considerably strengthened. The news from the provinces is unfavourable; the nationalist movement is gaining ground in Asterabad, and has been started afresh in Mesched. At Rescht more than 100 Russian shopkeepers have taken refuge at their Consulate. The Governor threatens to have them arrested. On the whole the state of affairs is rather serious.

FLOODS IN PANAMA.

Panama, December 28.
The river Reventazon and its tributaries have overflowed their banks, and the damage done by the floods is considerable. In the Costa Rica district 25 people were drowned.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY.

DESTRUCTION OF MESSINA.

MANY HUNDREDS OF LIVES LOST.

Rome, December 29.
The earthquake shock which visited many districts of Calabria yesterday morning and caused extensive damage and loss of life, was also felt in different districts of Sicily, especially in Caltanissetta and Mineo, where panic broke out among the affrighted population. Yesterday evening the streets and squares were filled with terrified people camping out for the night. It is reported from Catania, where the shocks lasted some twenty seconds, that a tidal wave immediately afterwards broke along the shore and devastated a great portion of the town. In Noto, where the shocks were experienced for thirty seconds, an attempt was made by prisoners in the town gaol to break out, and it became necessary to call out troops for the purpose of restoring order. Reports of damage are also to hand from Linguaglossa and Santa Severina, but details are still lacking. In all the districts visited by the disturbances a large number of buildings collapsed, so that it is feared later reports will reveal very heavy casualties. From Calabrian centres comes the news that three people were killed and sixty injured in Stefanacconi; many of the injured are still buried in the ruins, and so far have not been extricated from their perilous plight. The garrison of Majerato has been ordered to assist in the work of rescue. Two people were killed in San Gregor. Signor Giolitti, the Prime Minister, has despatched two officials to report on the damage caused by the earthquake, and has sanctioned the expenditure of 20,000 lire to alleviate pressing distress.

Rome, December 29.
Telegrams to hand from Sicily announce that the violent earthquake shock caused huge tidal waves all round the coast, and at Catania many vessels foundered, while others were driven ashore and badly damaged. Merchandise awaiting shipment on the wharves was swept away. The shock lasted 32 seconds at Palermo. With the exception of the cable between Naples and Messina, all communication with Sicily is interrupted. Railway traffic throughout the island is at a standstill. Further advices received at the Ministry of the Interior throw a more serious light on the damage done at Messina, whither troops have been sent to assist in rescue work. The tunnel near Rometta, on the Messina-Palermo line, has been closed by debris, and the station buildings at Rometta are in ruins. Reports from Reggio di Calabria are very disturbing. A huge tidal wave at Catania swept three children into the sea, capsized and sunk four small vessels, and hurled many others on the rocks. From the provinces come reports of heavy losses in life and property. Two churches at Maletto were destroyed, together with 55 houses; in Belpasso two houses collapsed, and others were badly damaged; at San Giovanni, near Giarre, ten houses fell in, killing one person. The cathedral at Riposto suffered severely from the shock, the entire roof falling in; the council house and other public buildings are in danger of collapse. The tidal wave at this point reached a height of thirty feet, overwhelmed many buildings and killed or injured several persons.

The Minister of Public Works, Signor Bartolini, travelled to Calabria this evening, and will also visit Sicily. The Minister of Marine has ordered the battleships "Regina Elena," "Vittorio Emanuele," and "Napoli" to Messina to organise the work of rescue there and to establish telegraphic communication. Further reports from Messina just to hand indicate that a portion of the city has been completely destroyed. Large numbers of people were killed and wounded by the collapsing houses. Five steamers have left Catania to convey provisions and help to the distressed population. Reggio di Calabria is completely isolated in consequence of the breakdown of railway and telegraphic communication. The neighbouring villages report many killed and injured.

Rome, December 29 (later).
A telegram received at the Marine Ministry from the commander of a torpedo-boat announces that Messina has been devastated by the shock. Hundreds of houses are destroyed. Several hundred people perished at Palmi, and the town itself suffered heavily. Reggio di Calabria, according to latest despatches, has suffered in life and property almost as badly as Messina.

Rome, December 29.
The latest news from Messina is that a great part of the city has been demolished. In several quarters outbreaks of fire occurred, greatly adding to the horror of the scene. Several thousand people have been killed in Messina alone.

A Palermo despatch states that railway communication between Catania and Messina has been re-established. A trainload of refugees and injured has arrived at Catania from Messina. They report the destruction of the Hotel Trinacria, and the death of 90 guests. Immense tidal waves are said to have swept the city, and the damage done will be much greater than at first thought. Doctors and soldiers have left Palermo to render assistance at Messina. The council house, bourse, post-office, and barracks have collapsed.

Syracuse, December 29.
The British squadron lying at anchor before Syracuse, and the Russian warships at Augusta, have received orders to proceed to Messina and render whatever help is possible.

Bremen, December 29.
The North German Lloyd steamer "Therapie," bound to the Levant, took on board at Messina the Germans who were there and a number of other passengers, and conveyed them to Naples.

Palermo, December 29.
A torpedo boat has landed at Milazzo 60 people injured by the earthquake at Messina. A number of vessels have left Catania for Messina, to render assistance; the deputies Carnazza and Defilice were on board one of them. At Diedimonte many people were killed and injured. In Giarro there were four killed, in Riposte three, in Torre 11 killed and 35 injured, in Fiumefreddo two killed.

Rome, December 29.
The first wireless telegrams confirm the terrible news from Messina. The villages round Messina were also destroyed. The Prime Minister has sent 100,000 francs to the Prefect of Naples for a relief expedition to Messina and Reggio. The Government is taking active measures for rendering aid, and has called upon the shipping companies to place steamers at its disposal. A flying squadron has arrived at Messina.

(Continued on page 2.)