

THE BLACKNESS OF DESOLATION

A Rough Estimate Says Loss of Life in San Francisco is 500, and Financial Loss \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 --- Ten Thousand People Homeless in Santa Rosa, Which Was Utterly Destroyed --- Great Damage in Other Towns --- Homeless Thousands From 'Frisco in the Parks and Churches of Oakland --- Tales of Destruction and Death From Other Towns in California.



SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—Day dawned on a scene of death and destruction. During the night the flames had consumed many of the city's finest structures and shipped in a dozen directions to the residence portions. They had made their way over into the north beach section, and springing anew to the south, they reached out along the shipping section down the bay shore, and across toward Third and Townsend streets. Warehouses, houses and manufacturing concerns fell in their path. This completed the destruction of the entire district known as the "South of Market street." How far they are reaching to the south across the channel cannot be told, as this part of the city is shut off.

After darkness thousands of the homeless were making their way with their blankets and scant provisions to Golden Gate Park and the beach to find shelter. Those in the homes on the hills just north of the Hayes Valley wrecked section, piled their belongings in the streets and express wagons and automobiles were hauling the things away to the sparsely settled regions.

Everything in Ruins

Down town everything is ruin. Not a business house stands. Theaters crumbled into heaps. Factories and commission houses lie smoldering. All of the newspaper plants have been rendered useless. It is estimated that the loss in San Francisco will reach from \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000. These figures are in the rough and nothing can be told until partial accounting is taken.

Probably 500 Dead

On every side there was death and suffering. Hundreds were injured, either burned, crushed, or struck by falling pieces from the buildings. The number of dead is not known but it is estimated that at least 500 met their death in the horror.

At 9 o'clock under a special message from President Roosevelt, the city was placed under martial law. Hundreds of troops patrolled the streets and drove the crowds back, while hundreds were set at work assisting the fire and police departments. During the afternoon three thieves met their death by rifle bullets while at work in the ruins. The curious were driven back at the bases of the horses that cavalrymen rode and all the crowds were forced from the level district to the hilly section beyond to the north.

Water Wholly cut off

The water supply was entirely cut off, and may be it was just as well, for the

lines of fire department would have been absolutely useless at any stage. Assistant Chief Longherty supervised the work of his men and early in the morning it was seen that the only possible chance to save the city lay in an effort to check the flames by the use of dynamite.

During the day a blast could be heard in any section at intervals of only a few minutes, and buildings not destroyed by fire were blown to atoms. But through the gaps made the flames jumped and although the failures of the heroic efforts of the police, firemen and soldiers were at times sickening the work was continued with a desperation that will live as one of the features of the terrible disaster.

Passengers on trains from other cities in California bring details of destruction and death from nearly all of them.

Homeless Thousands

OAKLAND, Cal., April 19.—Thousands of refugees, rendered homeless by the terrible calamity which has overtaken San Francisco have come to this city. On learning of this the Realty Syndicate at once offered Eden Park for the use of those left without shelter by the earthquake. The offer has been gratefully accepted by the police and fire departments and 200 cots have been placed in the theatre for the use of the refugees. Relief stations have also been established at the city hall and at the various public parks throughout the city.

Other relief stations have also been established in such of the churches as are considered safe for such. A report comes from Martinez that the Martinez Bank building, one of the finest structures in the town has been completely destroyed.

It is at present impossible to estimate the amount of damage to property in this city owing to the fact that practically no inspection has been made of the buildings except for the purpose of condemning those which are unsafe.

Many of the structures show little apparent damage on the outside, but on closer examination prove to have been badly twisted and racked by the shock.

Santa Rosa Destroyed

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—(Via Oakland)—Reports from the interior are most alarming. Santa Rosa, one of the prettiest cities of the state in the prosperous county of Sonoma, is a total wreck. There are 10,000 homeless men, women and children huddled together. The loss of life is not to be estimated. It will probably reach the thousands.

As the last great seismic tremor sent its force in the earth, the whole business

portion tumbled into ruins. The main street is piled many feet deep with the fallen buildings. Not one business building is left intact. This destruction includes all of the county buildings. The four story court house is merely a pile of broken masonry. Nothing is left. Identification is impossible.

What was not destroyed by the earthquake was swept by fire. Until the flames started there was hope of saving the residence district. It was soon apparent that any such idea that might have been entertained was to be abandoned. This was appreciated by the citizens and they prepared to desert their homes. Not even their household goods were taken. They made for the fields and hills to watch the destruction of one of the most beautiful cities of the west.

Other Horrors Reported

Messengers bring the saddest tidings of the destruction of Healdsburg, Geeserville, Cloverdale, Napa and Ukiah. This report takes in the country as far north as Mendocino and Lake Counties and as far west as the Pacific ocean. These are frontier counties and have not as large towns as farther south.

In every case the loss of life and property is as shocking as here.

Alameda Suffered

ALAMEDA, Calif., April 19.—Yesterday's earthquake caused a loss of \$200,000 in Alameda. No lives were lost but a few persons were injured, one seriously. Railroads are inactive and all wires are out of commission.

Berkeley Shaken

BERKELEY, Calif., April 19.—Buildings of the university of California escaped harm in the earthquake yesterday. The town of Berkeley was not so fortunate. No lives were lost but the aggregate damage from minor injuries to buildings is many thousands of dollars.

Prayed for Succor

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The pastor of St. Francis' church, on the slope of Telegraph Hill, a few blocks from the raging furnace below, during the worst of the fire gathered his flock about him on the sidewalk where all knelt in prayer.

The Chinese were greatly alarmed and though not in apparent danger many of them flocked to the public squares with their families.

The tower of the hall of justice was greatly damaged. In the basement of the building Mayor Smith established his headquarters, using candles for light.

Swept into the sea

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—From the Cliff House comes word that the great pleasure resort and show place of the city which stood upon a foundation of solid rock, has been swept into the sea. Nothing remains to tell where the monster stone building once stood. It has been leveled to the foundations and only the rock lining the seacoast remains intact.

There is neither gas nor electric light in San Francisco tonight. The plant of one of the gas companies blew up this morning and as a precautionary measure all the other gas in the city was turned off.

Fashionable Suburbs Damaged

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Menlo Park, Burlingame, and other fashionable suburban towns suffered. Santa Rosa, to the north, Napa, Vallejo, and all towns around the bay were damaged. The reports, alarming as they were, created little interest in San Francisco, where the people were in a panic state. Today's experience has been a testimony to the modern steel building. A score of these structures were in course of construction and not one suffered from the earthquake shock. The completed modern buildings were also proof from harm from the seismic movements.

Blown up by Dynamite

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—(via Oakland)—Lieut. Charles C. Pullis, commanding the 24th company of Light Artillery was blown up by a charge of dynamite at Sixth and Jesse streets, and was probably fatally injured. He was taken to the military hospital at the Presidio. He had a fractured skull and several bones broken and internal injuries.

Lieut. Pullis placed a heavy charge of dynamite in a building on Sixth street. The fuse was imperfect and did not ignite the charge as soon as was expected. Pullis went to the building to relight the fuse and the charge exploded while he was there. He is 30 years old and a native of Chicago.

Stopped the Clocks

LOS ANGELES, April 18.—A slight shock was felt at Los Angeles this morning, sufficient to stop the clocks in the general offices of the Santa Fe R. R.

A Terrible Scene

LOS ANGELES, April 18.—No private messages were sent over the one wire open to San Francisco part of today on the Postal Telegraph lines. Before the offices of the company an excited crowd of men and women surged back and forth

this morning, imploring the officials to send messages for them to San Francisco, and to bring back some word from relatives in peril there. Manager Lewis said that there was only one wire in operation and that he had received imperative orders that it was to be used solely for company purposes, press despatches and general news. Men who have large dealings with the company tried to use their influences, implored and threatened. Madmen fought their way toward Mr. Lewis with handfuls of money offering it all just for the sending of one word and one in reply, that they might know whether one person was still alive. Women sobbed and cried, imploring him to send some word for them. One old grey-haired woman crouched voiceless at his feet, her lips moving in silent appeal. Manager Lewis grunted his teeth and shook his head.

Rushing Relief

CHICAGO, April 19.—That relief supplies for San Francisco will be carried gratuitously by various transportation companies was indicated yesterday, when within a few hours after the news of the catastrophe had arrived, the export shipping company announced through its president, G. Bailey, that it would agree to take supplies to the suffering municipality free of cost. Mr. Bailey said that clothing and food supplies would be transported as fast as received.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Prompt action has been taken by the War Department, extending to the earthquake sufferers in San Francisco, all the available resources at its command, to relieve the distressed and to provide shelter for the homeless. Two hundred thousand rations have been directed to be sent to San Francisco by the War Department, and a large number of tents from Vancouver and other military posts. The supplies will be forwarded with all the expedition possible.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The New York building trades union voted last night to send an army of their unemployed members to San Francisco to aid the work of clearing the city and to help in its rebuilding.

NEW YORK, April 19.—Wells Fargo & Company announced today that they will transport free of charge supplies for the sufferers from the San Francisco disaster which are addressed to any San Francisco relief association, or public official who may have charge of the distribution of it.

Scientists Expected it

MADISON, Wis., April 19.—President Charles R. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin, one of the best known geologists in the country, formerly of the United States geological survey, says a disaster at San Francisco has long been expected by scientists. In a signed statement he says:

"Scientists have known for many years that San Francisco is dangerously located and would probably sooner or later be subject to severe shocks."

"The fever has been repeatedly expressed that San Francisco would be the first to show the effect of an earthquake upon steel structures, for it has been well understood that San Francisco has the most dangerous location with reference to earthquakes of any large city in the United States."

Heavy Insurance

CHICAGO, April 19.—Fire insurance companies had about \$250,000,000 at risk in the city of San Francisco, the estimate being based on the premiums received in 1905. For years the Pacific coast has been the one section of country which could be depended upon for a steady profit year in and year out. San Francisco has been the best profit producer on the coast. Its loss ratio for a period of years has been the lowest, being less than 25 per cent of any city in the country, despite the unusual proportion of frame construction.

As a result of this unusually favorable experience rates were low in that city and all the fire insurance companies wrote liberally. On the other hand, the proportion of insurance to value was unusually small, partly because of the confidence resulting from the long immunity of heavy losses and partly because there is no co-insurance in use there as is the rule in other large cities requiring the owner to carry a certain proportion of insurance to value. The total San Francisco premiums in 1905 were \$2,955,540, of which \$1,645,739 was written in American companies.

More Earthquakes Feared

ROME, April 19.—The seismographs in the observatories throughout Italy yesterday recorded distant earth shocks. Those of the observatory at Florence, which has the most perfect instruments, indicated that an earthquake had been felt at a distance of over 7,000 miles. The shocks were so severe that they injured the instruments.

The director of the Florence observatory is of the opinion that the earthquake in California, viewed in connection with the outbreak of Mount Vesuvius and the earthquake in Calabria in September last,

indicates the approach of further terrestrial convulsions.

King Victor Emmanuel was most impressed with the news from California, following so soon after the Calabria disaster and the eruption of Vesuvius. He greatly sympathized with the sufferers in and about San Francisco and expressed much anxiety for the safety of the thousands of Italian emigrants in California.

Residences Burning

NEW YORK, April 19.—The Western Union received a report that early this morning the fire spread into the Nob Hill section of San Francisco. This is the section in which are located many fine residences, including the Crocker and Huntington homes.

Austrian Sympathy

SYDNEY, N. S. W., April 19.—The premiers of New South Wales and Victoria have conjointly cabled to President Roosevelt their sympathy with the United States in the disaster at San Francisco.

Money for the Banks

NEW YORK, April 19.—The National Park Bank today transferred to San Francisco through the sub-treasury between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 in gold.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The secretary of the treasury has authorized the telegraphic transfer of \$10,000,000 from the sub-treasury at New York to San Francisco. The cash will be deposited in New York and immediately paid out on the order of the San Francisco banks entitled to the same.

\$50,000 for Relief

NEW YORK, April 19.—M. Guggenheim's Sons today notified General Funston that they had contributed \$50,000 for the relief of the San Francisco sufferers.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19.—Pursuant to the order issued this morning by Secretary of war, Taft, the quartermasters department of this city today shipped to San Francisco 3000 conical tents, all that were available in the Philadelphia depot.

Earthquake in Vienna

VIENNA, April 18.—A telegram from the government observatory at Lihoe, says that from 2:25 to 2:30 o'clock this afternoon the seismograph recorded a distant earthquake of great force and destructiveness. The intensity shows that the disturbances were much more violent than those which recently occurred in Formosa.

(Continued on Page 3.)

A St. John Relief Fund for the San Francisco Sufferers.

Telegraph and Times Start a List for the Sorely Afflicted People by Subscribing \$1,000 Each--Who Will Help?

Believing St. John and New Brunswick people will join in raising a fund to assist the sufferers of San Francisco among whom death and devastation are at work in their most appalling forms, The Telegraph and Times here and now are starting a San Francisco Sufferers' Relief Fund. The Telegraph and Times subscribe \$1000.00 each, and hereby solicit subscriptions from all readers whose sympathy for the afflicted moves them to join in this work of mercy. Read the story of the catastrophe and you will realize the need for immediate aid by the thousands who are homeless and dazed by horror and suffering.

Subscriptions will be received today and hereafter for some days at the offices of the Telegraph and The Times and will be promptly acknowledged through these journals and the amounts forwarded to the Mayor of San Francisco. Promptness in this matter is all important. The keenest suffering exists now. Therefore remember that "he gives twice who gives quickly," and send in your contribution. Your name will be added to this list:

Name	FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO SUFFERERS	A mount
The St. John Telegraph		\$1000.00
The St. John Times		1000.00