Largest Afternoon Circulation East of Montreal

Average Daily Circulation, 1906, ... 7,412

THE EVENING TIMES

8 Pages

VOL. III, NO. 90. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1907. ONE CENT.

Board of Works 31dec06.

SAN FRANCISCO HORROR FINDS GRIM PARALLEL IN KINGSTON, JA.

Although Early Reports Were Much Exaggerated, Great Damage Has Been Done, and There is Considerable Loss of Life---Ruin and Desolation Stretch for Miles---Wharves and Warehouses Burned in Kingston and 300 People Are In The Hospitals---Philippine Islands Swept By Typhoon.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16—Few additional details of the earthquake disaster at Kingston, Jamaica, reached this city during the night.

The brief messages that came from Holland Bay, the cable station on the Island of Jamaica, located forty miles from Kingston brought reports that the disaster was not so great as had been at first feared. Only a part of the town was ruined by the earthquake shocks and the loss of life is placed at thirty, while 300 persons are reported injured. The fire, which had started after the tremor, is said to have been brought under control late on Monday night.

The panic at Kingston was apparently short lived, as it was stated that the work of rescuing and caring for the injured was under way. Many persons, however, fled from the city and took refuge in the surrounding country, fearing a recurrence of the shocks.

An official despatch received in the colonial office, London, today confirms the reports that the destruction wrought by earthquake and fire was not so widespread as at first reports indicated. This despatch stated that, while the total number of killed and injured had not been definitely ascertained, it was apparently not large. The greatest number of casualties occurred in the camp hospital where 30 colored soldiers were killed.

Ruin and Desolation Stretch for Miles

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The contradictory and scanty reports of news which thus far have reached London from Jamaica renders it difficult to estimate the real extent of the calamity caused by the earthquake and the subsequent conflagration. Messages received by steamship and cable companies here indicate that while the early reports of the destruction of Kingston and great loss of life were exaggerated, the disaster was still of a grave character. Ruin and desolation are said to stretch for miles outside the city of Kingston.

The shocks were felt from fifty to sixty miles away and one despatch from the temporary cable station at Bull Bay says that not a single house has been left there.

Fire In Kingston Now Under Control

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Other cable despatches from Kingston say that the offices of the Direct West India Cable Company were wrecked, but that no fatalities occurred among the members of the staff. Mr. Codner, one of the clerks, was severely injured.

The Colonial Bank of Kingston was burned down. The vaults with the books and cash are safe and the members of the staff escaped uninjured.

Cable communication has been restored to within eight miles of Kingston, connection having been made with the cable at a place called Bull Bay.

The latest information received from Kingston said that the fire was under control and added that the number of West Indian soldiers killed in the camp hospital was 40 instead of 30, as previously reported.

The colonial office this morning was besieged with enquirers, who asked for news of relatives in Kingston, but the officials had nothing further to communicate at present, except that the officials of the colonial office had every reason to believe that the fatalities among the Europeans at Kingston were light.

The colonial office has instructed the government authorities in Jamaica to take all the necessary steps to relieve the distress among the earthquake and fire sufferers and the admiralty has ordered the cruiser Brilliant, now at Bermuda, and the cruiser Indefatigable, at present at Trinidad to proceed forthwith to Jamaica and assist in relief work.

They are both vessels of 3,600 tons, and their combined crews number about 550 men, which will enable them to land strong detachments for police and other duty in the devastated city.

Most of Wharves and Warehouses Burned

LONDON, Jan. 16. — The steamship and cable companies here have received belated messages, dated Monday, via Holland Bay. A despatch to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., says:

"Kingston wrecked and most of the wharves and warehouses burned, but our main wharf, sheds, coal and cargo safe. Offices wrecked. Constantine, Jamaica, superintendent of the company, and Captain Young, commander of the Areno, were killed."

The Areno is a small steamer belonging to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., and it is presumed that the superintendent and captain were killed in the wreck of the office.

The Royal Mail Co. simply says that Sir James Ferguson, who represented the company at the agricultural cotton conference, is "missing" and adds that Governor Sweetenham had asked the local representatives of the company to sell provisions to those requiring them.

Chairman Phillips, of the company, cabled to the governor, placing all the available provisions and stores of the company at his service for the relief of the sufferers from the earthquake and fire, also cabled to the New York offices of the Royal Mail to send provisions to Kingston by the Atrato and other steamers with all possible speed. The company has not heard of any damage having been sustained by their vessels in Kingston harbor.

Three Hundred Are In The Hospitals

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The destruction wrought by the earthquake at Kingston, Jamaica, and the subsequent conflagration, according to an official telegram received this morning at the colonial office, was by no means so widespread as indicated in the first reports.

Although the total number of killed and wounded has not yet been ascertained, it is apparently not very large and only a small portion of the city, including, however, wharves and warehouses, suffered from the fire that followed the earthquake. The greatest number of casualties was in the camp hospital, where 30 colored soldiers were killed.

The telegram which was sent by Governor Sweetenham is undated and is presumed to have been sent on Monday. The text follows:—

"Severe earthquake this afternoon between three and four o'clock caused considerable damage to houses at Kingston. It was followed by a fire, which continues, though it is confined to about one-sixteenth part of the town, containing wharves and warehouses. The camp hospital was destroyed and thirty men were killed. There were no officers among them. Major Headyman was seriously injured. The town hospital is crowded with some 300 injured persons. The fire is now decreasing. The Myrtle Bank Hotel has been destroyed and also cable office. The conference delegates and the members of Sir Alfred Jones' expedition are believed to be uninjured and are now at Port Langston. In the harbor numbers of persons were killed or wounded, but the figures have not yet been ascertained. Slighter shocks continue."

Halifax Does Large Trade With Jamaica

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 16.—(Special).—Halifax is in direct communication with Jamaica, through the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company, but that company has been cut off since 4.30 o'clock on Monday afternoon, and up to this morning communication had not been restored.

Reports received on Monday told that the weather was fair and clear, with no indications of disturbances. Jamaica is reached direct by the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company and by the West India and Panama cable, via Trinidad and St. Thomas. The Western Union also has a cable from Key West, Florida, to Cuba, by which connection is made with Jamaica, but all lines are interrupted, and the only news received was from Holland Bay, the Panama cable station, sixty miles from Kingston. The destruction of the land lines made communication extremely difficult and up to a late hour only meagre news was received.

Halifax merchants who have large business relations with Kingston were greatly alarmed over the startling news contained in the earlier bulletins, but were unable to gain any information save what was contained in the press despatches.

This city does a large and important trade with Jamaica, there being two lines operating between the island and this port, the Pickford & Black line, which have the steamers Beta and Boston, the latter calling at Santiago, and the Canada-Jamaica line, which have the steamers Vinland and Kathinka, A. G. Jones & Co., being the agents of the latter line.

The principal items of export from here are dried and pickled fish, lumber, butter and potatoes, and as imports from there we receive rum, bananas, oranges, grape-fruit and woods.

The steamer Kjeld, which left Halifax on Saturday last with a full general cargo, is bound for Kingston via Santiago, but it will be some days before she reaches her destination. The steamer's cargo consists principally of potatoes and fish.

The Canada-Jamaica liner Vinland left here on Dec. 31st for Kingston via Santiago and is probably at Jamaica now.

The steamer Boston, of Pickford & Black's line, is at present at Jamaica.

Sir James Ferguson May Not Be Dead

LONDON, Jan 16—The fate of Sir James Ferguson, who is deputy chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, is still in doubt. His relatives say that despatches receiver through the colonial office, show that he is dead, but the colonial office states that its advices relative to Sir James are not official and are not confirmed.

The West Indian and Panama Cable Company's office at Bull Bay cables that all the people in Kingston are camping in the open and that the earthquake extended so far as Holland Bay, where the West Indian and Panama Cable Company's station is slightly damaged.

"Between Bull Bay and Kingston," the message said, "there is not a safe house. Ruin and desolation are everywhere."

Great Disasters Of Recent Times

The greatest disaster of modern times in point of damage done and the amount of property destroyed was the San Francisco earthquake and the following fire which occurred almost nine months ago on April, 18, 1906.

The first earthquake shock came in the early morning and in the holocaust which followed hundreds of lives were lost. Just how many will probably never be known but at least 600 bodies were recovered and buried. The estimated loss to property was $500,000,000 and the fire insurance companies were hit for something like $200,000,000.

A few days before the San Francisco horror or on April 5 to 13, 1906, the volcano of Vesuvius erupted and did much damage in the city of Naples and in eleven nearby towns. In there eruptions 300 square miles of country were laid waste, 3,000 people perished and property damage to the extent of $200,000,000 was done.

On May 8, 1902 Mount Pelee in the Island of Martinique burst into eruption and the city of St. Pierre was almost completely wiped out. It is estimated that between 35,000 and 40,000 lives were lost in this disaster.

On the same day Mount Soufriere in the adjoining island of St. Vincent split asunder and from 3,000 to 5,000 lives were lost.

On Sept. 8, 1900, the city of Galveston, Texas, was overwhelmed by a tidal wave. Nearly 10,000 lives were lost and great damage done. The hurricane also ravaged other Texan towns and 710 lives were lost.

On May 31, 1889, the city of Johnstown, Pa., with a population of 30,000 was swept by flood, 2300 lives were lost and $10,000,000 damage done.

On August 31, 1886, Charleston suffered from earthquake in which 44 people were killed and $5,000,000 damage done.

Great Earthquakes Recorded in History

Year.	Lives Lost.
A. D. 79—Pompeii and Herculaneum destroyed	Thousands
A. D. 115—Antioch destroyed	Thousands
A. D. 557—Constantinople	Thousands
A. D. 742—Syria and Palestine 500 towns ruined	Thousands
A. D. 1137—Catania, Sicily	15,000
A. D. 1456—Naples	40,000
A. D. 1531—Lisbon	30,000
A. D. 1626—Naples	70,000
A. D. 1638—Calabria	Thousands
A D. 1667—Schamoki lasted 3 months)	80,000
A. D. 693—Sicily (54 cities, 300 villages)	100,000
A. D. 1703—Jeddo, Japan	200,000
A.D. 1716—Algiers	18,000
A. D. 1726—Palermo	6,000
A. D. 1731—Peking	100,000
A D. 1746—Lima and Callao	18,000
A. D. 1754—Cairo	40,000
A.D. 1755—Lisbon	50,000
A. D. 1759—Baalbec, Syria	20,000
A. D. 1773—Guatemala	33,000
A. D. 1797—Quito, Cuzco and other towns	40,000
A. D. 1812—Caracas	Thousands
A D. 1822—Aleppo	20,000
A. D. 1851—Melfi, Italy	14,000
A D. 1857—Kingdom of Naples	10,000
A. D. 1859—Quito	5,000
A. D. 1861—Mendoza, South America	12,000
A. D. 1863—Manila	1,000
A D. 1869—Peru and Ecuador	25,000
A. D. 1875—Towns near Santander on border of Colombia	14,000
A. D. 1880—Manila	3,000
A. D. 1881—Scio and several villages	4,000
A. D. 1883—Island of Ischia, Italy	2,000
A. D. 1883—Krakatoa and other Java volcanoes	Thousands
A. D. 1884—Andalusia, Spain	1,170
A. D. 1887—Riviera and southern Europe	2,000
A. D. 1891—Japan	4,000
A D. 1893—Persia	12,000
A. D. 1894—Japan	10,000
A. D. 1899—Tiflis	1,000
A. D. 1902—St. Pierre, Martinique	40,000
A. D. 1902—Andijan, India	2,500
A. D. 1905—North India	35,000
A. D. 1906—Region about Vesuvius	3,000

MANILA, Jan. 16—The islands of Leyte and Samar were swept by a typhoon January 10. One hundred lives were lost in Leyte. The barracks and officers' quarters on the east coast of Samar were destroyed. No estimate of the damage to property has yet been made. No damage to shipping is reported. The storm is the worst for ten years. Communication with Leyte and Samar has been cut off for six days and only meagre particulars of the storm were received today.



View of Jubilee Market Square, Kingston.



Upper row, left to right: The Mico Training Institution, near Kingston; at the Fountain, Kingston.
Lower row, left to right: Kingston Landing Stage; Kingston from the Harbor.

THE ISLAND AND ITS CAPITAL

Jamaica is the largest island of the British West Indies, and lies between the Caribbean sea and the Gulf of Mexico, about eighty miles to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba.

The estimated population in 1901 was 755,730, and by natural increase would be about 850,000. By the last census there were 14,692 whites, 121,295 colored, 488,624 black, 10,116 East Indian, 481 Chinese, and 3,653 not stated.

Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, stands on a gravelly soil. The population by local census in 1901 was 46,542. It covers, with its suburbs, an area of 1,080 acres of ground, regularly sloping down to the sea.

LOCAL PEOPLE TELL OF VISITS TO JAMAICA

R. Keltie Jones, Fred S. Crosby and H. B. Schofield Have Been in Kingston, Jamaica, and Talk About the Stricken City.

Among the St. John people who read of the Kingston disaster with considerable interest was Fred S. Crosby, son of L. G. Crosby. Mr. Crosby visited Kingston about three years ago, in company with Ed. Rhodes, of Amherst, while on a tour of the West Indies. They spent about two weeks in Kingston and vicinity, stopping at the Constant Springs Hotel, about five miles out of Kingston on the trolley line.

Kingston, said Mr. Crosby, is right on the sea level and there is a range of mountains about ten miles back, between Kingston and Port Antonio, which is about forty miles away on the other side of the island.

They have a very fine trolley system, lines running out of the city in three directions, a distance of about six miles.

The public buildings are mostly very old, but the streets, particularly in the business section, are very fine, the main thoroughfares being paved with brick.

The post office, customs house and other government buildings are situated on Harbor street, facing the harbor. Harbor street and King street are the principal business thoroughfares.

The Myrtle Bank Hotel, which was destroyed, is located near the centre of the city and is owned by the Elder-Dempster Steamship Company. This company also owns the Constant Springs Hotel, which is patronized largely by the tourists, as its situation a few miles from the city makes it cooler and more comfortable. Golf links, tennis courts, swimming, etc., are run in connection with it.

At Port Antonio the United Fruit Company operate a mammoth hotel.

The Crosby Molasses Company have no business connection in Jamaica, their trade being confined to the other islands.

R. Keltie Jones Tells of His Trip

About a year ago, or on February 25, 1906, R. Keltie Jones of this city visited Kingston while on a holiday trip to the West Indies and South America. He was a passenger at that time on the steamer Princessin Victoria Luise, which was wrecked a few weeks ago. As Mr. Jones only stayed about 36 hours in Jamaica, and most of one day was spent at Castleton Gardens, about ten miles from Kingston, he did not see much of the city. His impression was that it was a pretty place in a tropical way, but there was scarcely anything of note about the city. The Castleton Gardens, however, were worth a visit, as they are reputed to be the finest gardens devoted to tropical trees in the world.

H. B. Schofield Was In Kingston

H. B. Schofield, of this city, has spent much time at Kingston, and this morning talked entertainingly on the country. He said that he went by the Royal Mail from Southampton to Kingston, which is beautifully situated and has a splendidly protected harbor. There are two large tourist hotels there under the management of Sir Alfred Jones. The Myrtle Bank Hotel, which was destroyed, is situated in the heart of the city and has a beautiful garden in the rear, extending to the water's edge.

The other hotel, the Constant Springs, is situated about six miles out in the country and connection is had by means of trolley lines.

"Kingston is the commercial centre of the island and has a number of very large shops. It is a big trading centre in every respect and is canvassed by representatives of both American and English houses, and in consequence competition is exceedingly keen and prices as a rule very low. Two daily papers are issued, both of which show considerable enterprise.

"I had the pleasure of spending a good many hours at different times with Canadian Commissioner G. H. Burke, who is a very active and energetic citizen of Kingston and probably one of the city's most prominent business men. He has given a great deal of his time to public interest, particularly trade and commerce.

"I also met A. H. Rowley, whose parents reside in Marysville. He is manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Kingston.

"The island has frequently been visited by terrific cyclones, which usually completely demolish the banana crop. The last of these occurred about three years ago and it was found necessary to raise public subscriptions to assist the people at that time. I have understood that the island industries have just about cleared themselves of the disaster and I fear that the earthquake soming soon afterwards would prove most discouraging."

Mr. Schofield stated that Mr. Freeman, formerly an accountant in the Bank of Nova Scotia in this city, but who was connected with the agency of that bank at Kingston, is now at Mandaville, a village back of the hills in the orange district.

THE TIMES NEW REPORTER

MERELY A JOKE.

The microbes of the market meat wagons had a joke this morning at the expense of their brethren of the country meat crate, which is not subject to any inspection, but goes back and forth in cheerful disregard of all sorts of inspectors. The announcement in the morning papers that a sterilizing plant for milk cans is to be established at the I. C. R. depot gave the meat wagon microbes their cue. They gravely informed the country crate microbes that a provision was to be made to the effect that hereafter all meat crates were also to be sterilized, and this startling information almost produced a panic. The country microbe has always enjoyed the freedom of the city, and any restriction would now be a hardship. But one of them intercepted a wink with which one meat wagon microbe accompanied his remarks, and then the whole party adjourned to the sanitary cooler with the oil lamp in it, and adopted resolutions expressing the fullest confidence in the civic authorities and the board of health.

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A committee of aldermen will today inspect the new sanitary vault in the country market, with the idea that it may be utilized as a morgue, being centrally located and otherwise admirably suited for such a purpose.

A WARNING.

There is sand on some of the sidewalks today, but this is due to an error on the part of the workmen of the street department. They should have been pouring water on the sidewalks to freeze and provide better skating. Any one caught throwing ashes on the ice will be arrested.

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On account of the cold weather the Ludlow was not put on the route today. She is not feeling well, despite long treatment, and must take good care of herself. But she will be given an airing the first warm day.

FIRES CAUSE MUCH DAMAGE

MONCTON, N. B., Jan. 16 (Special)—Fire broke out at ten o'clock in the Bank of Montreal premises, which are in the Y. M. C. A. building, a large three story stone structure on Main street. The fire appeared to originate around the flue, which runs through the bank premises and proved to be very stubborn. Though still burning at 12 o'clock, it is now fairly underder control. The building will be almost gutted, though the walls and roof are intact. None of the bank furnishings were saved, but most of the effects of the other tenants were saved. These include the board of trade rooms, the Y. M. C. A. quarters and lawyers' offices. The loss is probably $5,000, covered by insurance. Intense cold prevails, ten below zero, making the fire fighting very difficult.

DIGBY, N. S., Jan. 16 (Special)—Fire destroyed the store and contents belonging to the Whale Cove Trading Co., at Whale Cove, at 10.30 last night. A gale of wind at the time made it difficult to save adjoining property. The fire, like the recent ones at Sandy Cove, only a few miles from Whale Cove, is thought to have been of incendiary origin; the loss is partly covered by insurance.