

FOUR HUNDRED DEAD IN EARTHQUAKE

Italian Disaster Injures
Thousands More

Sun Obscured by Dust—Medieval
Castles Tottering Ruins

ROME, Sept 8 (By A. P.)—Italy is again suffering from an earthquake disaster, the extent of which has not yet been measured. It is known, however, that hundreds of persons have been killed and thousands injured. Many small towns and villages have been wrecked and although assistance is being hurried from all parts of the country to the afflicted area, there is much suffering for want of food, medicines and shelter for the people.

"Every earthquake disaster is for Italy like a lost battle," said Ex-Premier Luzzatti after the Avezzano catastrophe, and this is now repeated in Tuscany. Though not so great the present disaster recalls the distant tragedy of Messina.

It is not yet possible to calculate how many hundreds are dead—the list up to this evening shows close to 400 already reported. There are many bodies under the ruins, and there are wounded also under the ruins who have not yet been reached by the rescuers.

There are believed to be many thousands of injured; the hospitals at Spezia have already received about 500, and 300 have been taken to other hospitals nearby. Improvised hospitals composed of tents are caring for how many others nobody knows. The injured and the homeless are thankful at least that the weather keeps fair, but at night it is very cold, especially on the mountain slopes.

All classes are combining in their efforts to render aid. Monarchists as well as Republicans, Socialists and Clericals and even anarchists are flocking to the scene of the earthquake from the bigger cities, Spezia, Florence, Luca, Modena.

Admiral Solari from Spezia was the first to dispatch medicines, food, bandages and tents. Deputy Chessa, ex-Minister of Aviation, was among the first to reach Livizzano. He was followed by Admiral Solari and Signor Bertini, representing the Government.

Survivors describe the shock as terrifying; the air was filled with choking, blinding dust, so black that the sun was lost to view.

"It seemed like the end of the world," terrified peasants say.

The great towers of medieval castles were shaken, partially destroyed or seem tottering to a fall. The ducal palace at Massa Carrara, which was the summer residence of Napoleon's sister, was seriously damaged.

MORE THAN 700,000 ARE CAMPING IN THE OPEN

ROME, Sept 8—Barco, a town of 9000 inhabitants, was virtually destroyed by the earthquake of Tuesday, as was also Fornagi, nearby. Sixty-five dead have already been identified and laid out in the small, picturesque cemetery, which was thrown open by the earthquake.

Barco was the birthplace of the poet, Giovanni Pascoli.

The Red Cross has dispatched to the scene of the disaster hundreds of beds, many tents, medicines and physicians. Other benevolent associations are contributing to the work of rescue, as are private individuals, who have placed automobiles and camions at the disposal of the authorities for transportation of the wounded and distribution of supplies. The supplies are urgently needed, since 700,000 persons are camping in the open.

KING VICTOR GOES TO SCENE OF EARTHQUAKE

PISA, Italy, Sept 8—King Victor Emmanuel, with his suite, who came to this city immediately after he received news of the earthquake in this vicinity, went this morning to visit districts in Tuscany, which were affected by the shock.