

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1920

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE MUCH DAMAGE CAUSED IN TUSCANY

Earthquake shocks, which have caused considerable damage and some loss of life, have occurred in North Italy. On Monday evening the first of the shocks was felt. It was slight and caused practically no damage, although it appears to have been noticeable all along the Riviera, in Milan, and in Tuscany. A second and more severe shock occurred yesterday morning over roughly the same area. It was most intense in Tuscany, from which province come all the reports of damage.

Few details are yet available. A Rome message says that the centre of the earthquake was the province of Massa Carrara, which includes that part of the Apennines immediately north of Lucca and Pisa, and in which are the celebrated Carrara marble quarries. Destruction was done to property at Fivizzano, Anella, and Massa. At Calcondia a house collapsed, burying a woman. At Cave di Forte a block of marble fell, killing a workman and injuring three others. Riverano, Forni, and Montignoso are in ruins. Damage is also reported from other parts of Tuscany. At Viareggio, a watering-place on the Mediterranean, the Church of St Paul was almost destroyed. At Prato, near Florence, several chimneys fell. Several people were injured at Pontassieve, at the great bend of the Arno above Florence. Telegraph and telephone lines have been interrupted in several localities. Troops, including both engineers and infantry, have been sent into the district affected to render assistance.

MORE SERIOUS REPORTS

Rome, Tuesday.—Grave reports concerning the earthquake in Tuscany are arriving. Villa Collemandina has been destroyed. Serious damage and deaths have occurred at Castamione, Fociani, Vogli, Camporgiano, Sandonino, Rizza, Al Serchio, Poggio, Castagnola, Forciandora, and Carignano. Medical and other assistance is arriving in the stricken districts. Villa Collemandina is a small town just over 2000 inhabitants, in the province of Massa Carrara.—Reuter.

ITALY'S EARTHQUAKE

200 DEAD AND MANY WOUNDED

From "The Glasgow Herald" and "The Daily Telegraph" Correspondent

Milan, Wednesday Evening.—The earthquake has come to create some diversion from the gloomy outlook in the labour world. A slight shock was felt at Milan yesterday morning, but it was only at night-time that news came showing the importance of the seismic disturbance in the Tuscany, Spesia, and Emilia-Apennine districts. The reports from Florence, Siena, and Leghorn only mention the great fright among the inhabitants, but other Tuscan towns nearer the centre of the disturbance like Lucca, Pisa, Pistoja, and Viareggio report damage and casualties. Pisa's famous leaning tower is safe, although subjected to frightful oscillation, and the fact that it withstood the shock is only due to extensive foundation repairs which were luckily carried out lately. The area involved in the main shock is about 100 miles long by 50 wide, with the epicentre near Massa Carrara, which suffered most, and from this district the majority of the casualties are reported, amongst them being workers in the great marble quarries, owing to blocks becoming unloosened. Many people have been injured everywhere through tiles and chimneys dropping from the roofs, but the houses which have fallen are comparatively few. Hence the death roll so far reported totals about 200, but many hundred wounded require prompt assistance if they are to be saved. The destruction caused in several of the towns and villages is very extensive, owing probably to the old construction of the houses, but on the whole the towns seem to have suffered comparatively little, it being mostly rather a question of walls cracking than of collapsing.

Government, military, and private assistance were very promptly sent, and are efficient everywhere. The important problem is now the housing of the many thousands of homeless people.