

broken up and disappear from the tissue, and at the same time the patient is rendered no longer capable of transmitting the disease.

Moscow, Jan. 4th.—An earthquake on December 29th in Russian Turkestan, near the town of Uratyube, destroyed two villages comprising four hundred houses. Eighty three persons were killed. These advices were received today in a despatch from Tashkent. The quake left big fissures in the earth over a wide area, and severed all communications with the affected district.

Rome, Jan. 4th.—The suspense surrounding Premier Mussolini's plans, in so far as they concern his continued rule, either with or without elections, is about to be broken. An official communique given out today contains this promise, saying "The Premier since last December has made irrevocable decisions concerning the political situation. These decisions will be published during January". The papers are filled with conjectures on the political line-ups which they think are imminent.

Swansea, Jan. 4th.—Six men were blown to pieces and another one died in a hospital today as a result of an explosion at midnight on the river bank adjoining the Rhosaman Colliery at Brynamman, in the Swansea Valley. The men were engaged in driving the drift in a search for coal, when the explosives they were to use became ignited. The force of the explosion shook the whole neighbourhood and the noise was heard six miles away.

Paris, Jan. 4th.—The leading financiers have been invited by the Finance Minister, M De Lasteyrie, to confer with him concerning means of suppressing speculation in exchange and halting the depreciation of the franc.

Washington, Jan. 4th.—The Government has sold 5,000 Enfield rifles, model 1917, 5,000,000 rounds, 30 calibre, rifles ammunition and eight airplanes to the Obregon Government of Mexico. The Secretary for war, Mr. Weeks, in a brief statement today said the terms of the sale called for one half of the purchase price in cash and the balance within 20 days.

Montreal, Jan. 4th.—Damage set at \$100,000, the death of an aged patient and the removal of 250 other patients from the building to hospitals and other quarters was the result of fire which broke out in an attic below the roof of the hospital Gamelin, in the east end of the city early this morning.

Galveston Texas, Jan. 4th.—All of the Mexican oil fields are now in the possession of the rebels, according to an official despatch received today by Adolfo Jimenez from de la Huerta headquarters at Vera Cruz.

New York, Jan. 4th.—Flames starting from a short-circuit in the press room of the New York World, in the basement of the Bulitzer Building tonight, shot up an elevator shaft to the

top of the fourteen storey building, causing dense smoke which forced a general evacuation of the editorial and composing room in the upper storey. Working under the difficulty of having to draw lines of hose up the staircase firemen controlled the fire in an hour and the employees of the newspaper returned to their work. Three of the fourteen presses in the basement were damaged. It was announced, however, that the damage would not interfere with the publication of the paper.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 4th.—Trade between the port of Vancouver and Japan will probably break all records for volume and variety in 1924, according to details being made in the annual report of the Japanese Consulate, now being completed, and in the opinion of shippers closely linked with export and import conditions of this port. Probably the largest item is lumber, for which orders have already been placed for more than twenty million feet from British Columbia forests. This lumber will play an important part in the rebuilding of Japan's devastated area. Japan is also expected to buy large quantities of wheat through this port.

Paris, January 4th.—The rise in the flood waters of the Seine was slower today than on Wednesday, but the level reached during the night was sufficient to cover large areas of new territory. This compelled thousands of additional water-bound people to take safety in boats, or to rely on boat services for supplies. Many of the large apartment buildings in large town just west of the city, such as Annieres, Colombes and Argenteuil have been cut off. The authorities found it impossible to get all the inhabitants out of the buildings, so a sort of omnibus skiff service was organized to take housewives to the markets and businessmen to their trains. The number of people driven from their homes increased during the day by several thousands, a large number of these were removed from Alfortville, where a majority of the houses have become uninhabitable, and from along the Marne, where more than 4,000 buildings are surrounded by water, at Nogent, Champigny and Lettreus. The damage done by the waters inside Paris is still confined to the district of Anteuil, where a number of streets have been invaded and cellars filled and to the sections in the neighbourhood of the Chamber of Deputies and to the Invalides Palace, where the Seine is now high enough to seep through the porous soils and into cellars. Some anxiety is felt as to the ultimate effect of the water on the subsoil. It is recalled that the waters seeped through the ground under the Boulevard Hausseman after the flood in 1910, causing collapses at several different points with several fatalities. There is no protection from similar damage, as the Seine is now higher than the level of the streets and

Boulevards along the river front.

London, Jan. 5th.—A serious industrial situation affecting the railways again appears on the horizon, as a result of a ballot of the men which overwhelmingly rejected the recent award by the Wage Commission. Under the terms of the ballot the Executive is empowered to call a national strike if necessary, but extreme measures are unlikely until the union has tried to secure modification of the award. Union officials state that the men are particularly resentful of the conditions governing extra pay for Sundays, also overtime and mileage allowances. They declare that engine drivers lose thirty shillings a week under the award and firemen from twenty to thirty shillings.

London, Jan. 5th.—By defeating Switzerland 8 to 1, the Oxford University team won the International tournament in which teams representing England, Switzerland, Austria and Germany contested, and Oxford's victory also carries with it the winning of the Spengler Cup for 1924. The Oxonians in their three games amassed a total of 18 goals. A solitary score by Davos was obtained in a mixup in front of Oxford's net in the first period.

Paris Jan. 5th.—The retaining wall at the entrance of the Invalides railroad station collapsed for a distance of 100 feet this morning and the water from the nearby Seine immediately rushed in. The station has been closed since Xmas Day, because of danger from the flood. The few watchmen in the structure heard the wall crumbling and escaped.

Washington, Jan. 5th.—The Weather Bureau issued this stern warning today: "Advisory 9.30 a. m. north-east storm warnings displayed on the New England coast and north-west storm warnings displayed on the Atlantic coast from New York south and on the east Gulf coast from Mobile to Keywest. Disturbance developing off Cape Hatteras will advance north north-eastward and increase in intensity."

Washington, Jan. 5th.—The weather forecasters brought into play some of the superlative terms of their scientific lexicon today to describe what will happen to the country in the next 24 hours, as a result of the cold blast that has come down out of the north-west. "A severe cold wave", was forecast for most of the east, as far south as the Virginia-Carolina line, while a cold wave, with temperatures below freezing, was said to be in store for all the rest of the eastern forecast district, except Florida. The term "severe cold wave" is seldom employed by the Government Weather Bureau.

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