

## 1910 DISASTERS TOOK HEAVY TOLL

Fewer Holocausts Occurred the Past Year, However, Than for Some Time.

### ONE BIG EARTHQUAKE

In Costa Rica, Was the Most Fatal Tragedy—Big Forest Fires Occurred.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 2.—The year 1910 shows fewer great disasters than previous recent years, but enough were recorded to emphasize the weakness of man against the great force of nature and his imperfect guarding against accidents.

Greatest of the year's disasters was the earthquake at Costa Rica, which destroyed the city of Cartago, causing 1,800 deaths and the wounding of almost as many people. More than 40,000 survivors were made homeless and starvation and pestilence followed in the wake of the great calamity. This was the only earthquake of very serious results during the year.

Next to the Costa Rica disaster in fatal results was the destruction caused by floods near Tokyo, Japan, early in August. More than 1,000 lives were lost and 100,000 persons were made homeless. The damage to the rice crop was estimated at \$4,000,000. Floods caused great destruction in Europe.

#### Forest Fires Deadly.

Forest fires in the United States caused immense damage to property and the loss of many lives. These fires were so extensive in Montana and Idaho that in August the War Department sent soldiers to aid in the work of fighting the fires, which devastated more than 100,000 acres.

The most notable of the fires of and Idaho that in August the War Department destroyed a great part of the Brussels Exposition, causing a loss of more than \$10,000,000, August 14. A fire in a dance hall in Hungary, March 28, brought death to more than 300 persons.

A cyclone and cloudburst in the vicinity of Naples, Italy, October 24, brought death to 200 and immense damage to property. July 23, a cyclone killed 60, and caused property losses of many millions of dollars at Milan, Italy.

The most serious mine disaster of the year was that at Palau, Mexico, October 1, in which 200 men were entombed by an explosion. January 31 about 75 miners lost their lives in a coal mine explosion at Primero, Colorado, January 1, a gas explosion in the Browder coal mine, near Drakesboro, Ky., killed 34.

April 22, a gas explosion in a coal mine near Amsterdam, Ohio, killed 18. May 5, a mine explosion near Birmingham, Ala., caused 70 deaths. May 12, an explosion in the Wellington coal mine, near Manchester, England, killed 137.

#### Marine and Rail Calamities.

The most fatal marine disaster of the year was the foundering of the Japanese steamer *Tetsurei* off Chindor, Korea, in which 210 of the 250 passengers were drowned. Almost as heavy a toll was exacted by the sea in the foundering of the French steamship General Chanzy, off the Island of Minorca, 168 lives.

Few railroad disasters were of magnitude in 1910. January 21 a passenger train on the Canadian Pacific railway plunged into the Spanish river near Sudbury, Ont. 40 or more persons being killed. March 2 there were 47 killed in the wreck of a Rock Island passenger train near Green Mountain, Iowa.

March 2, more than 100 persons were killed by the burying of a Great Northern railroad train under an avalanche in a gorge near Wellington, Washington.

The explosion of 3,000 pounds of dynamite in the barracks of the Rural Guards at Pinar del Rio, Cuba, killed 100 soldiers.

## AUSTRIAN RULER IS TO ABDICATE

Report Has Been Revived Because of Serious Illness of Emperor.

(American News Service) Vienna, Jan. 2.—The report that Emperor Franz Josef of the Austro-Hungarian empire is planning to abdicate in favor of Archduke Ferdinand was revived today by news of the serious illness of the emperor and the consequent cancellation of all official engagements. While it was announced this morning that the Emperor is suffering only from a severe cold, it is known that he is unable to leave his bed and a court physician is constantly in attendance. Owing to the monarch's advanced years grave fears are entertained and it is believed that at the best he will never be able to bear the burdens of the crown again.

Recently during the conclave at Budapest, archduke Ferdinand was delegated to receive them. This was the first time in the reign of Franz Joseph that the monarch did not welcome the delegates in person and was the source of the original rumor that Franz Josef is quietly preparing to step down and give the reigns of government into the hands of his heir.

The state reception which was to have been held today has been indefinitely postponed.

## King Alfonso Leaves For Africa



## RICHMOND QUIETLY GREETED NEW YEAR

Excessive Revelry Not Noticeable Saturday Night—Today a Holiday.

With a reverent spirit no more noticeable than on any Saturday night 1910 quietly faded into 1911 for Richmond. A few church bells rang, several factory whistles blew and there were bonfires built in different sections of the city but little of the merry spirit that marks the end of an old year and the beginning of the new was shown.

Watch parties were in abundance, the largest of which was at the Country club, where a great many members of the club danced the old year out. Several lodges of the city held socials on Saturday night in observance of the passing of the old year. The police only made one arrest for intoxication on New Year's eve, but instead of a celebrator this person was a mere tramp. It was the most orderly New Year's eve in many years, the police say.

The principal observance of New Year's took place today, and a number of the larger functions will continue until midnight. The Entre Nous club began its open house at 12:01 Monday morning, and the festivities will end at twelve o'clock tonight. At six o'clock a splendid banquet will be laid for members of the club and several invited guests.

The Elks' club, Druids and Eagle lodges are keeping open house today, and entertaining many of their members. Lunch is being served. The Y. M. C. A. is also keeping open house, to the public as well as members. Lunch is being served at the "Y" also.

#### Sumptuary Laws of Cape Town.

Cape Town once lived under so severe a code of sumptuary laws that anything like display was restricted to the governor and his immediate circle. Thus runs article 6 of the Dutch laws against luxury and ostentation: "No one less in rank than a junior merchant and those among the citizens of equal rank and the wives and daughters only of those who are or have been members of any council shall venture to use umbrellas." In practice this restricted the possession and use of umbrellas to about fifty persons in Cape Town.

This was the decision reached today by Alfred Moissant, the dead man's brother.

"No other human being shall ever ride in the machine which brought death to John," declared Alfred Moissant. "But the monoplane will be placed on view in the great museum at Washington, and in the future when flying has become safe and practical means of travel, people can look upon that aeroplane, and it will recall to the dangers of the pioneer period and the unselfish bravery of one man who gave up his life to further the science."

Alfred Moissant, the financial backer of the group of aviators who are giving flying exhibitions, departed from her last night for Jacksonville, Fla., with the intention of going to Havana where the troupe will give a long engagement. Before leaving he received a long cablegram of condolence from Louis Bleriot, the maker of aeroplanes.

The body of Moissant today lies in a temporary receiving vault in Metairie cemetery. Telegrams and cablegrams were still arriving today expressing regret over the tragic end of America's most daring birdman.

## City Statistics

### Deaths and Funerals.

BITTERS—Laura V. Bitters, aged 34 years, died from tuberculosis at her home, on Ratliff street, in Benton Heights. The husband, Edgar, and two small children survive. Funeral services will be held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock from the home. The Rev. Smith will officiate. Following the services the body will be shipped to Eaton for burial.

### Cautious.

Mrs. R.—Do you believe in a uniform divorce law? Mrs. N.—Let's see the uniform.—Smart Set.

### LIQUOR LICENSES

Liquor licenses were issued to Harmon H. Engelbert, John J. Steele, John M. Vosmeler and Henry Pardieck, all of this city, on Monday by the county commissioners.

## A BAILING ORDER ISSUED BY COURT

Securing to Be Required by Wayne Court to Range from \$100 to \$2,000.

Amount of bail which violators of the law during the year will have to furnish in order to gain their release until the trial is held was announced by Judge Fox of the circuit court on Monday. The bail ranges from a hundred dollars to two thousand dollars, or the amount may be increased at the discretion of the court. Murder in the first degree is not a bailable felony and with the exception of treason is about the only felony regarded in this attitude by the court.

The ruling in regard to amount of bail to be furnished follows:

In ordinary misdemeanors, one hundred dollars; in petit larceny and misdemeanors of a malicious character, three hundred dollars; in grand larceny, receiving stolen property, embezzlement or charges for obtaining property or money under false pretenses, where the sum embezzled or received, or the value of the property taken is one hundred dollars, or less, five hundred dollars; in grand larceny, receiving stolen property, embezzlement, or charges for obtaining money or property under false pretenses where the amount embezzled or the value of the property taken or received is five hundred dollars or less, and in excess of one hundred dollars, one thousand dollars; in all other bailable felonies, two thousand dollars, unless otherwise ordered by the court or the judge thereof, or where bail has been previously fixed by some judicial officer.

## ATTORNEY REELLER CHOSEN BY JUDGE

Attorney Will W. Reeller was named pauper attorney on Monday morning by Judge Fox. He will serve during the ensuing year, his appointment having been conferred because of the excellent record which he made during his first year's tenure in the office. The board of commissioners have had this appointment for several years, but on the request of the court turned the matter over to him.

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## HOUDINI RECEPTION AT WHITE HOUSE

Birth of New Year Celebrated at the Capital in Brilliant Fashion.

(American News Service)

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.—The birth of the New Year was celebrated in the nation's capital today with all the brilliance which the custom of many years has attached to the observance of the day. Public interest as heretofore centered in the President's reception at the White House. Although not so largely attended as in some previous years, the function was most successful in every respect, inasmuch as it furnished the only opportunity of the year for several thousand visitors to greet the President and Mrs. Taft and see the interior of the always interesting old mansion.

The function began at 11 a. m. and continued until well along in the afternoon. The first greetings of the day were extended to the President and Mrs. Taft by the Vice President, members of the cabinet and their ladies. Then followed the diplomatic representatives accredited to the United States, in the prescribed attire of their respective courts. The line was led by the dean of the diplomatic corps, Baron Hengelmuller, the Ambassador from Austria-Hungary. Others who attracted attention in the brilliant assemblage were Baron Rosen the Russian Ambassador; Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador; Baron Uchida, the Japanese Ambassador; M. Jusserand, the French Ambassador; Senor de la Barra, the Mexican Ambassador; Viscount d'Alte, the

minister from Portugal, and Mr. Arcos, the minister from Panama.

Chief Justice White and the associate justices of the supreme court of the United States led the entire judiciary present, after which came senators and representatives in congress. The army, the navy, and the marine corps also were well represented. The officials of the government, representing all important bureaus of the various departments, were followed by representatives of various patriotic societies and the members of the Oldest Inhabitant association of the District of Columbia. Shortly after 1 o'clock who had stood patiently for hours in long queues winding up to the entrance of the executive mansion, was admitted to the presence of the president and his party.

As in former years the reception was held in the Blue Room, which had been tastefully though not elaborately decorated for the occasion. The full Marine band was stationed in the lobby and played almost continuously during the three hours of the reception.

## ATTORNEY JOHNSON SLOWLY IMPROVING

Attorney Henry U. Johnson, former congressman from this district, is slowly improving from a serious illness. He had been confined to his bed until Saturday for several days and under the care of a trained nurse. He is now able to sit up a few hours each day. Pneumonia was threatened but the attending physician believes he has passed the critical stage and that all danger is now past. He is much exhausted, however.

If this concerns you, read—Syrup. Dr. Charles Syrup. Peppermint is positively guaranteed to cure Indigestion, constipation, sick headache, offensive breath, malaria and all diseases arising from stomach trouble.

## Start the New Year

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