

## AWFUL CALAMITY. San Francisco Destroyed by an Earthquake.

### AND THE FIRE FIEND.

Without the Slightest Warning the People Are Forced to Face an Awful Death in the Streets or Their Wrecked Homes. Fire Adds to Horror.

Earthquake and fire on Wednesday caused the greatest calamity California has ever known. San Francisco was almost destroyed and thousands of people in that city were killed or hurt. A dispatch from San Francisco says the dreadful earthquake shook came without warning at precisely 5.13 o'clock, its motion apparently being from east to west. At first the upheaval of the earth was gradual, but in a few seconds it increased in intensity. Chimneys began to fall and buildings to crack, tottering on their foundations. The people became panic stricken and rushed to the streets, most of them in their night attire. They were met by showers of falling buildings, cornices, bricks and walls. Many were instantly crushed to death, while others were dreadfully mangled. Those who remained indoors generally escaped with their lives, though scores were hit by detached plaster, pictures and articles thrown to the floor by the shock. It is believed that more or less loss was sustained by nearly every family in the city.

The tall steel frame structures stood the strain better than brick buildings, few of them being badly damaged. The big eleven story Monzod office building, in course of construction, adjoining the Palace Hotel, was an exception, however, its rear wall collapsing, many cracks being made across its front. Some of the docks and freight sheds along the water front slid into the bay. Deep fissures opened in the filled-in ground near the shore and the Union ferry depot was injured. Its high tower still stands, but will have to be torn down. A portion of the new City Hall, which cost over seven million dollars, collapsed, the roof sliding into the court yard and smaller towers tumbling down. The great dome was moved but did not fall. The new post-office, one of the finest in the United States, was badly shattered. The Valencia Hotel, a four story wooden building, sank into the basement a pile of splintered timbers, under which were pinned many dead and dying occupants of the house. The basement was full of water and some of the helpless victims were drowned.

Scarcely had the earth ceased to shake when fires broke out simultaneously in many places. The fire department promptly responded to the first call for aid, but it was found that the water rains had been rendered useless by the underground movement. Fanned by a light breeze, the flames quickly spread and soon many blocks were seen to be doomed. Then dynamite was resorted to and the sound of frequent explosions added to the terror of the population. All efforts to stay the progress of the fire, however, proved futile. The south side of Market street from Ninth street to Bay was soon ablaze, the fire covering a belt two blocks wide. On this, the main thoroughfare of the city, are located many of the finest edifices in the city, including the Grant, Parrott, Flood, "Call", "Examiner", and Monadnock buildings, the Palace and Grand Hotels, and numerous wholesale houses. At the same time the commercial establishments and banks north of Market street were burning. The burning district in this section of the city extended from Sansome street to the waterfront, and from Market street to Broadway. Fires also broke out in the Mission and the entire city seemed to be in flames.

The flames, fanned by the rising breeze, swept down the main streets until within a few hundred feet of the ferry depot, the high tower of which stood at a dangerous angle. The big wholesale grocery establishment of Weisman, Peck & Co., was on fire from cellar to roof, and the heat was so oppressive that passengers from the ferry boats were obliged to keep close to the water's edge in order to get past the burning structure. It was impossible to reach the center of the city from the shore for a long distance so as to get entirely around the burning district.

At 8 o'clock the Southern Pacific officials refused to allow any more passengers from Trans Bay points to land and sent back those already on the boats. The ferry and train service of the Kay route was entirely abandoned, owing to damage done to the power house by the earthquake at Emeryville.

At 9 o'clock Wednesday morning a thousand men from the Presidio arrived down town to patrol the city streets. The Thirteenth infantry, 1,000 strong, arrived from Angel Island, a little later, and went on patrol duty. The soldiers have been ordered to shoot down thieves caught in the act of robbing the dead and to guard with their lives the millions of dollars' worth of property which has been placed in the streets that it may escape from the ravages of the flames. Mayor Schmitz, who has established

his office at police headquarters, has named a committee of safety, comprising many prominent citizens. Mayor Schmitz sent out word to the bakeries and milk stations throughout the city that their food supplies must be hoarded for the homeless. Tents have been placed in every park in the city, and those who have lost their homes will be given food and shelter. Thousands of people are homeless and many are huddled into the parks and public squares beside the household goods they were able to save. The city is under martial law, and all the downtown streets are patrolled by cavalry and infantry. Details of troops are also guarding the banks. Most of the principal buildings have already been destroyed and others are in imminent danger. Over all the scene of desolation hangs a cense pall of smoke.

It will be many days before the complete story of the ruin wrought by the double calamity of earthquake and fire that visited San Francisco will be written and then there will remain untold countless tales of woe. The exact loss of life will never be known, as hundreds of unfortunates have been incinerated in the flames, which made the rescue of those buried under the totting steeples and falling walls impossible. Temporary morgues were improvised at many points only to be razed by the flames. The city resembles one vast shambles with the red glare of fire throwing weird shadows across the worn and panic stricken faces of the homeless who are wandering the streets or sleeping on piles of mattresses and clothing in the parks and on the sidewalks in these districts not yet reached by the fire. Thousands have fled the city. Forgetting for a moment the terrible sufferings, physical and financial, that trails in the wake of the disaster, the scene presented by the flames is one of unpeopled grandeur.

The scene at the Mechanics' pavilion during the early hours and until noon, when the injured and dead were removed because of the threatened destruction of the building by fire, was one of indescribable sadness. Sisters, brothers, wives and sweethearts searched eagerly for some missing dear one. Thousands of persons hurriedly went through the building inspecting the coats on which the sufferers lay, in the hope that they would find some loved one that was missing. The dead were placed in one portion of the building and the remainder was devoted to hospital purposes. After the fire forced the nurses and physicians to desert the building, the eager crowds followed them to the presidio and the children's hospital where they renewed their search for missing relatives. Up to a late hour Thursday afternoon more than 750 persons who were seriously injured by the earthquake and the fire had been treated at the various hospitals throughout the city.

A falling wall from one of the dynamited buildings on Mission street crushed out the life of Fireman Max Fenner, while many other fire fighters met a like fate. Through all the streets automobiles and express wagons are hurrying, carrying dead and injured to morgues and hospitals. At the morgue in the hall of justice, fifty bodies lie. The flames rapidly approached this building and the work of removing the bodies to Jackson square began. While the soldiers and police were carrying the dead to what appeared safe places, a shower of bricks from a building dynamited to check the flames, injured many of the workmen, and sent soldiers in procession hurrying to hospitals. The work of removing the bodies stopped and the remainder of the dead were left to possible cremation in the morgue. The debris killed and buried hundreds of horses hitched to vegetable wagons which were ready to receive the day's supplies. The dead horses were piled high and the wreckage blocked the streets until the advancing conflagration turned all that section of the town into a vast funeral pyre.

From the Barbary coast, the horrid of victims and criminal that infest that quarter poured forth and started early in the evening to loot streets and rob the dead. Fearing such a fiendish climax to this day of horrors, Mayor Schmitz and Police Chief Dineen issued orders for the soldiers to kill all who engaged in such work. Before the eyes of an Associated Press representative, three thieves were shot in the back and fatally wounded in the burning commercial district. Despite the vigilance of police and soldiers, many places were pillaged in the wholesale regions. Liquor stores were broken into and warehouses are lying in the streets. The ruin in the commission and the wholesale quarters is complete, the flames Wednesday night having completed the paralyzing work of the morning.

**Cremation Of The Dead.**  
At San Francisco two hundred bodies found in the Potrero district, south of Shannon street, in the vicinity of the Union Works, were cremated at the Six-mile House Saturday by order of Coroner Walsh. Cremation was deemed absolutely necessary to prevent disease. In the majority of cases identification was impossible owing to the mutilation of the features. The city has been divided into sanitary districts and squads of searchers for bodies of victims have been sent out to every quarter. The ruins of the burned buildings in the business and the old residences section have sufficiently cooled to make the search possible.

**Cadet Ship Sinks.**  
The Count de Smet de Naeyer, a ocean sailing ship used by the Belgian government for training officers for the government service, founded in the Bay of Biscay April 18, with a loss of 35 lives, including the captain and the other commanding the cadets. The cadets included the sons of many prominent Belgians. Twenty-six survivors of the wreck were rescued by the French bark Dunkerque.

## A CITY IN RUINS. Beautiful Santa Rosa Has Not a Building Left.

### ONE THOUSAND DEAD.

As Last Great Seismic Tremor Spent Its Force the City Topped to the Ground. Many Other Towns and Hamlets Badly Shaken Up.

Reports from the interior of California are most alarming, Santa Rosa, one of the prettiest cities of the state, in the prosperous county of Sonoma, is a total wreck. There are 10,000 homeless men, women and children, huddled together. The loss of life is not to be estimated. It will probably reach one thousand.

As the last great seismic tremor spent its force in the earth, the whole business portion tumbled into ruins. The main street is piled many feet deep with the fallen buildings. Not one business building is left intact. The destruction includes all the county buildings. The four story court house, with its high dome, is merely a pile of broken masonry. Nothing is left. Identification is impossible.

What was not destroyed by the earthquake has been swept by fire. Until the flames started there was hope of saving the residence district. It was soon apparent that any such idea that might have been entertained was to be abandoned.

This was apprehended by the citizens and they prepared to desert their homes. Not even their household goods were taken. They made for the fields and hills to watch the destruction of one of the most beautiful cities of the West.

Messengers bring the saddest tidings of the destruction of Healdsburg, Geyserville, Colvoldale, Hopland and Ukiah. This report takes in the country as far north as Mendocino and Lake counties, and as far west as the Pacific Ocean. These are frontier counties and have not as large towns as farther south. In every case the loss of life and property is shocking.

**KILLED IN A HOTEL.**

A report from San Jose, 50 miles west of San Francisco, says that the Vendome hotel annex was wrecked, 10 or 15 persons being killed. The Duherly block was burned and one woman was killed. Dr. McGrow was killed and his wife injured. The mayor deputized 500 men to watch property. It is estimated that 50 persons were killed in San Jose. The post-office was half wrecked. The First Presbyterian church was demolished and the court house is a wreck.

Passengers arriving from many other cities in California, bring tales of death and disaster. Santa Cruz, Monterey, Gilroy and Hilder are fatally wrecked. The death list at Santa Cruz is reported to be large. A report says that Santa Rosa is a wreck, ten thousand being homeless. The loss will probably reach into the thousands. Main street is piled many feet deep with fallen buildings. Not one business building is intact. The four story court house is a pile of broken masonry. Identification of the dead is impossible. What was not destroyed by earthquake was swept by fire. Citizens fled to the hills and fields to watch the destruction of Santa Rosa. The water system was destroyed by the earthquake.

**BURIED IN THE RUINS.**  
News comes from Niles, a small town in the Santa Clara valley, about 15 miles from San Jose, stating that the earthquake demolished the station house avenue at Agnew, near San Jose, burying many of the inmates in the ruins. It is stated that San Jose suffered severely. This news was brought by an automobile from San Jose to points where communication had been established to Los Angeles temporarily.

Mayor McAler, of Los Angeles, has filed messages to Mayor Schmitz, of San Francisco, offering to render any assistance possible and asking for advice as to the situation, and what aid may be needed. President Sumner and the city council, called a special meeting of that body, and forwarded a telegram to the mayor of San Francisco, offering in the name of Los Angeles to render any aid possible. Both the mayor of Los Angeles and the president of the city council request the Associated Press to communicate, if possible, their tenders of assistance, as they do not expect to be able to reach them through the ordinary channels of communication.

**SHOOKS AT SALLINAS.**  
At 5.15 o'clock Wednesday morning three shocks of earthquake shook Sallinas, lasting respectively 5, 3 and 42 seconds. They came from the northeast and south-west. The damage is \$2,500,000. No lives were lost in Sallinas.

Among the buildings destroyed in Sallinas are the Ford and Stannard buildings, dry grocery, Elms Hall, Masonic building, the Knights of Pythias building, Port and Irwings store, L. J. Gan Co. brewery, Odd Fellows building, City Hall and several smaller buildings. Every window in the city was broken. Chimneys toppled over and crashed through roofs. Sprinkles Sugar Factory, three miles from town, was destroyed, causing damage

of \$1,600. The high schools building was wrecked. Several stores lost their entire stocks. At 2.25 o'clock this afternoon, another shock was experienced but no lives were lost. Several men, women and children were out about the face by flying glass. There is intense excitement.

**SWEPT INTO THE SEA.**

From the Cliff House comes word that the great pleasure resort and show place of the San Francisco which stood on a foundation of solid rock has been swept into the sea. Not a thing stands to tell where the monster stone building once stood. It has been leveled to the foundation and only the rock lining the seacoast remains intact.

Twenty towns have reported loss of life from five to one hundred each. Outside of San Francisco the death list will run high into the thousands. As reports come in from the country about the already intense horror becomes even more intense, if that were possible.

Yet there are but few who have folded their hands. There is too much to do—too much suffering to fight and too many bodies to bury.

## KILLED BY THE GUARDS.

Prominent Member of the Relief Committee Shot Down.

At San Francisco H. C. Tilden, one of the most prominent members of the general relief committee, was shot and almost instantly killed in his automobile early this morning at Twenty-second and Guerrero streets while returning from Menlo Park. He was shot by men supposed to be members of the citizens' patrol. Hugo Altschul, a coachman who was in the automobile, was cut in the face by a bullet and another ball pierced the seat and struck in the neck of B. G. Seaman, acting lieutenant of the second company of the signal corps. The force of the bullet was spent and Seaman suffered no injury.

Tilden was a prominent commission merchant, a member of Pardee's staff, and was one of the foremost workers in the general relief work. He had taken his three children and a nurse from the Fourteen Mile house, where they had been since the earthquake, to Menlo Park, where he has a summer cottage. His automobile had been used as an ambulance in conveying sick and wounded to the hospitals and the Red Cross flag was displayed on his car. Besides this he had the Red Cross insignia on his right arm. According to Seaman, six men stood in the middle of the road at Twenty-second and Guerrero streets, separating when the car got within 50 feet of them. When the car was within 10 feet of the guard, Seaman claims, the guard began shooting without warning or challenge and kept up firing after the car had passed them.

"The machine had gone about 50 feet past the patrol," said Seaman, "when the car stopped suddenly. Tilden, who was operating the car, fell toward me, saying, 'Well, they got me—they killed me.' He then dropped back in the seat and rolled out of the car. I sprang up and fired five shots in quick succession at those who were still shooting behind us. A doctor came running from a house nearby and after examining Tilden said he was dead. Several policemen came running up and arrested three of the men who did the shooting. They were turned over to Gen. Funston." The three men under arrest are E. S. Boynton, a telephone inspector in the employ of the Pacific States Telephone company; George W. Simmons and Malcolm Vauce. They are all young men and members of the citizens' patrol. Boynton declares that he did not see the Red Cross flag on Tilden's car and when the latter died he thought he had been shot. The coachman in the car then began shooting and Simmons and Vauce replied. The killing of Tilden has created the greatest indignation.

**Gov. Hayward's Messages.**  
Gov. Hayward Friday sent these telegrams of sympathy:  
"Mayor Schmitz, San Francisco, Cal.: 'Words can not express the sympathy which the people of my State feel for your sorely stricken city. It will be indeed a labor of love for us to aid you in all that lies in our power.'  
"D. C. HEYWARD, Governor."

"Hon. George C. Pardee, Governor, Sacramento, Cal.: 'The appalling disaster which has befallen your State touches our hearts deeply. Accept our sincerest sympathy in the terrible ordeal which is yours. We are now taking steps to give practical expression to the heartfelt sympathy which we feel for you.'  
"D. C. HEYWARD, Governor."

**A White Flood.**  
Evan Waters, a white man 20 years of age, an employe of a shoveling working on the outskirts of Atlanta, has been locked in the Tower charged with criminally assaulting Miss Ruth Weaver, the fifteen-year-old daughter of C. O. Weaver, a well known tinner of Atlanta. The father of the young girl found Waters when a posse of citizens of the Grant Park neighborhood were scouring the woods looking for him and out for their prompt action and strong persuasion the man would have been dealt with roughly. Waters denied the charge.

**Seventy Drowned.**  
Dispatches received from Rayville, Louisiana, state that three Island fisherman boats sank during the recent storm and seventy of the crew were drowned.

## FIRE BURNED OUT And Stricken City Sees One Ray of Hope.

### LOSES VERY HEAVY.

Thirty Thousand Houses Are Destroyed in San Francisco Alone and One Thousand More in Balance of the State. Loss of Life Two Thousand.

A dispatch Friday night said San Francisco's darkest hour has dawned into a day of hope. Its time of overwhelming disaster and peril has ended and its future is now a subject of general consideration.

The fire is practically under control. A clear sky over the mission district shows that the fire there has been extinguished. The spread of the flames toward the western addition, the best part of the city remaining, has been stayed, and the only portion of the conflagration that demands the attention of the firemen is that extending from the Nob Hill section down to the north-western part of the water front.

The western addition danger was averted at 2.30 o'clock Friday morning by the use of gun cotton, dynamite and two streams of water. The explosives were handled by the chief runner of the Mare Island navy yard and his accomplishments proved him to be a master of his profession.

The fire at San Francisco was stopped, or practically burnt itself out on Friday afternoon, and for the first time since the first earthquake shocks at half-past five o'clock on Wednesday morning, the people of the stricken city had a breathing spell, and some sort of estimate of the disaster. One thing is certain the city of San Francisco is practically destroyed, and will have to be rebuilt. It is estimated that at least three-fourths of the city has been wiped out by the earthquake and fire together.

There is ten square miles of ruins and fully thirty thousand houses of various kinds have been destroyed in the city of San Francisco alone. Other cities and towns have also suffered severely. The entire loss in the State will amount to \$300,000,000 in money and the houses destroyed will number at least forty thousand. The money loss in San Francisco is something like \$200,000,000. The city is now under martial law, 3,000 regular troops from the Presidio acting as policemen, stopping thievery and doing all sorts of rescue and relief work.

It is estimated that the loss of life in San Francisco will reach at least one thousand when all the returns are in. At this time the people are so badly scattered that it is almost impossible to get any where near the correct figures. The loss of life in the rest of the State will reach a thousand more, which will make the total loss of life two thousand. Hospital and improvised asylums are able, with difficulty, to care for the injured, of whom hundreds have been treated.

Gen. Funston, who is in command of the United States troops in that district, sent the following telegram to the war department on Friday: "We need thousands of tents and all the rations that can be sent. Business portion of city is destroyed and about one hundred thousand people are homeless. Loss of life probably one thousand. Best part of the residential district not yet burned."

After dark on Friday thousands of persons were making their way with blankets and scanty provision to the Golden Gate park for shelter. Those in homes in Mayer valley piled household goods in the street from where they were carried by trucks and automobiles to the outskirts of the city. Everybody in San Francisco who can is prepared to leave the city, believing the town will be totally destroyed. Down town everything is in ruins. Not a business house is left standing. Theaters have been crumpled. News paper plants are useless. On every side is death and suffering.

The country between Monterey, Castroville and Tularosa shows unmistakable signs of the terrible wrenching yesterday in upheaval of earth. Great slabs extending along railroad tracks as far as the eye can reach, running from four to six feet in depth, have been left on the surface of the earth, mute testimony of the power of the internal forces. For a distance of nearly a mile, the road has sunk into the earth. Between Castroville and Monroe mud geysers have been incited into action, showing a hot bluish colored mud to the height of from ten to fifteen feet. Between Seaside and Belmont railroad tracks are twisted until all resemblance to tracks have disappeared.

The destruction and suffering is indescribable. Women and children who had comfortable homes a few days ago slept several nights—if sleep came at all—on hay on the wharves, on the sand lots near North Beach, some of them under the little tents made of sheeting which poorly protected them from the chilling ocean winds. The people in the parks are possibly better off in the matter of shelter, for they left their homes better prepared. Instructions were issued by Mayor Schmitz Friday to break open every store containing provisions and to distribute them to the thousands under police supervision.

The work of relief was started early Friday. A big bakery in the saved district started its ovens and arranged to bake 50,000 loaves of bread before night. Thousands of people were

in line Friday morning before the California street bakery. The police and military were present in force and each person was allowed only one loaf. The homeless people in the parks and vacant lots were provided. For as speedily as possible. All the stores containing provisions has been seized by the authorities. In no other way could the distressed people be fed.

Three relief stations for the homeless have already been established by the general committee. The stations are temporary home of homeless. Caravans of provisions are now on their way to the three relief stations. In the meantime the hills and beaches of San Francisco look like an immense tented city. Not alone are the parks the places of refugees, but every large vacant lot in the safe zones has been preempted and even the cemeteries are crowded. A well known young lady of social position, when asked Friday where she had spent the night, replied: "On a grave."

A few of the families who could secure willing expressman as possessors of cooking stoves, but over 95 percent of the refugees are doing their cooking on little camp fires made out of brick or stone. Kerozen utensils that last week would have been regarded with contempt are today articles of high value. Many of the homeless people are in possession of comfortable clothing and bed-covering but the great bulk of them are in need. The grass is their bed and their daily clothing their only protection against the penetrating fog of the ocean or the chilling dew of the morning. Fresh meat disappeared Wednesday morning and canned goods and breadstuffs are the only victuals in evidence.

The common destitution and suffering have wiped out all social, financial and racial distinctions. The man who last Tuesday was a prosperous merchant is occupying with his family a little plot of ground that adjoins the open air homes of a laborer. The white man of California has forgotten his antipathy to the Asiatic race and is maintaining friendly relations with his new Chinese and Japanese neighbors. The society bells who, Tuesday night was a butterfly of fashion at the Grand Opera performance, was assisting some factory girl in the preparation of humble daily meals. The family who had foregone to lay in the largest stock of foodstuffs on the first day of the disaster is rated highest in the scale of wealth.

Next to viewing the many square miles of ruins that only made San Francisco a city, no better realization of the ruin that has come to that place can be gained than by visiting the refugee camps located in the districts which were untouched by the flames. Golden Gate park was the mecca of the destitute. This immense playground of the municipality has been converted into a vast mush room city that bears striking resemblance to the feeble towns located on the border of a government reservation about to be opened to public settlement.

## TROWN ACROSS ROOM.

Gives His Experience in the San Francisco Earthquake.

Albert H. Gould of Chicago, was one of three persons to arrive in Los Angeles on the first train from San Francisco after the earthquake.

"I was asleep on the seventh floor of the Palace hotel," he said, "at the time of the first earthquake. I was thrown out of bed and half way across the room. Immediately realizing the import of the occurrence and fearing that the building was about to collapse, I made my way down six flights of stairs and into the main corridor. I was the first guest to appear. The clerks and hotel employes were running like mad men. Within two minutes after I had reached the corridor, other guests began to flock into the court. Most all wore night clothing only. Men, women and children stood as though fixed. Children and women cried. The men were hardly less affeet.

"I returned to my room and got my clothing; then walked to the offices of the Western Union in my pajama and bare feet to telegraph to my wife in Los Angeles. I found the telegraphers on duty, but all the wires were down. I sat down on the sidewalk and picked the broken glass out of the soles of my feet, and put on my clothes. All this, I suppose, took twenty minutes. Within that time, below the Palace hotel, buildings for more than three blocks were a mass of flames, which spread to other buildings.

"People by the thousands were crowded around the ferry station. They clawed at the iron gates like so many maniacs. They fought to break the bars and fall, in that, burned on each other. After a mad-dening delay, we got aboard the boat and crossed the bay."

## Sad Fate of a Doctor.

Dr. Charles F. Taggart, of Los Angeles who had charge of a corps of nurses at the Hearst Relief Hospital in the Crocker Grammer School, on Page street, near Baker, San Francisco, was instantly killed Sunday. An automatic revolver dropped out of his pocket, was discharged and the bullet passed through his heart. Dr. Taggart was one of California's prominent physicians.

## SPLITS STATES.

Prohibition a Warm Political Issue in Maine and Texas.

## TRYING TO DODGE IT.

Representatives of These States at Washington Are Not Inclined to Discuss the Question. People Divided on the Efficiency of Prohibition.

The prohibition question appears to be cutting curious capers in different parts of the country, judging from the stories told by the statesmen of the respective states says a dispatch from Washington. Now, there's good Maine. With the exception of Representative Littlefield, you couldn't get a senator or representative from that state to express his views for publication for love, or money. Why? Because the question is loaded. Then there's grand old Texas, at the other end of the country. Her statesman in congress avoid the question the same as they would a mad dog. Of course it is just as bad among the South Carolina representatives. The only man from that state who will talk at all is "Pitch," Ben Tillman. He gives voice to his convictions regardless of how they harmonize with public opinion.

In the recent spring election in Maine, according to the statements of politicians of that state here, a number of R-publican cities went Democratic because the Democrats openly opposed prohibition and denounced it as a fake and as producing more hypocritical violations of law and evasions of truth than anything ever known. Governor Cobb himself has come out against prohibition as operated in that state, and it is said to be quite certain that Democrats in state convention will make the fight on the issue of turning to the license plan of selling whiskey. They claim to have the sympathy of the majority of the cities and towns, although the country districts may be against them. The claim is boldly made that under the present laws the state is deluged with blind tiger whiskey from Canada and elsewhere and that there has not been the slightest decrease in drunkenness. The people, it is asserted, pay out large sums of money for whiskey and strong drink brought in by express and freight, while the light drinks are shut out. Propositions are pending to put out a platform showing wide discrimination in future laws in favor of beer and wines and making the tax on the strictly ardent spirits heavy, the belief being that this will encourage one class of drink in a legitimate way at the expense of the other.

Down in Texas the Democrats are terribly split up over whether the question of prohibition for the entire state is to be made an issue in the coming campaign or whether the existing local option laws shall be allowed to stand as they are. A faction of Democrats has organized to demand prohibition in the party platform, while others say that this must not be allowed. The anti-prohibitionists declare that the teetotalers and the whiskey interest are working together against the brewers and wine producers. "The whiskey people," said a Texas congressman here a day or two ago, "are selling about as much whiskey in the dry counties of the state as they ever did by means of express and freight, while the men who make beer and wine find their products shut out by reason of the fact that these drinks are too bulky to be handled by the blind ticks. There is a genuine sentiment springing up in the state to change this and give the light drinks the advantage in law over the others, as it is contended this would reduce drunkenness a great deal." The prohibitionists declare they have nothing to do with the attitude of the whiskey people and that they are satisfied with the way things are going. The whole thing is such a delicate one every Texas politician is holding off as long as he can before getting into the fray on one side or another.

In South Carolina, as known, Senator Tillman is seeking to retain the state dispensary as the best solution of the whiskey problem and charge that the liquor people and prohibitionists are working together to abolish it, the former with the belief they can bring about prohibition and the latter believing they can bring about a return of the license system or local option. In his recent hot address to the state, Senator Tillman emphasized the heavy foreign shipments of whiskey into the dry counties and declared that drunkenness was as widespread as ever.

**Congress Votes a Million.**  
On Thursday Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 for the suffering and homeless in San Francisco and other California towns, and gave the secretary of war, the secretaries of the treasury, navy and commerce, power to cooperate with the mayors of the stricken cities, that the very best results might be obtained in affording relief. President Roosevelt signed the bill at once.

**Badly Needed.**  
The State Medical Society at its annual meeting at Columbia last week unanimously adopted a resolution offered by Dr. A. S. Hydriek, of Orangeburg, calling upon the next Legislature to establish a home for inebriates and victims of the drug habit. Such an institution is badly needed.