

RIVIERA DISASTER.

Calamity almost beyond imagining afflicts Frejus and nearby St. Raphael. Inland from the sea acres of water, mud and wreckage sprawl over the area. Desolation on this scale stretches for eight miles up the valley of the river Rayrand, where the shattered Malpasset Dam marks the starting place of the disaster. It was a new dam. Only the day before had the impounded lake, five miles long, been filled to capacity. And only three hours before it burst did apprehensive engineers partly open the flood gates. It was too little, too late. At about nine-thirty that night the lake surged into the valley. A wall of water thirty feet high roared down. In less than five minutes, sweeping all before it, it swamped Frejus, eight miles away.

As these pictures were taken no one knew exactly how many people were drowned, it was estimated the number could not be much less than five hundred. This little town, so well known by Riviera holiday-makers, is a ghastly ruin. Our own Lymeouth in Devon has offered help. Meanwhile, France, angered by the tragedy, demands an inquiry upon how it could possibly have happened. Heartfelt sympathy of all who love France goes out to her in this tragic hour.