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dated, 10. 7. 1879

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MARINE DEPARTMENT.

26th June 1879, No. 343.

Cyclone.

Read the following paper:—

No. 53. From J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated 16th June 1879, No. 2030.

I have the honor to report the effects of the cyclone of the 19th and 20th ultimo in this district, so far at least as they have yet been reported to this office. One result was, I regret to say, the loss of several human lives in, or in the neighbourhood of, the Buckingham Canal. The Barometer had been low for several days when rain began at Tada on the 18th. Wind began to blow from the north and north-west on the 19th and it grew stronger and stronger till the morning of the 21st, when it veered round towards the east and south-east and became less violent. The Barometer then stood at 29.1. At Nellore, the wind ceased at sunset on the 21st.

2. The most severe effects were felt in the Polur and Kotah Divisions, Monapalem and Dugarazupatam being the two places where the force of the wind appears to have culminated. At these stations 5.10 inches of rain were registered on the dates referred to. At Kottapatam, a port subordinate to Dugarazupatam, a dhoney was wrecked on the evening of the 20th ultimo. The value of the dhoney and of its cargo is not known, but the crew and the greater portion of the cargo, consisting of 845 bags of tamarind, 4 gingelly-oil casks and a hundred mango plants were saved. The ship itself has been totally lost. I have already reported particulars of this wreck in my letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 324.

3. In that part of the Buckingham Canal which passes through the Sriharikotah Division, three Brahmin passengers from Madras were drowned. They had abandoned their boat after dark and on descending the bank of the canal found themselves in water and could not see their way out of it.

4. At Dugarazupatam, two boys, who sought shelter in a temporary shed erected by the Public Works Department, adjacent to the Travellers' Bungalow, were killed by the roof falling in upon them, and a boatman was drowned near a place called Kundram in the same division.

5. At Venkatagiri, an old man and a child were killed, the former while passing along the public highway, and the latter by the falling beam of the next house to his.

6. At the Camp Jail, Nellore, several hats were blown down, the debris killing one convict and injuring another slightly.

7. It will thus be observed that the actual number of deaths reported was nine.

8. In regard to property, about 70 boats are reported to have been swamped in the canal and 70,000 rupees worth of cargo lost. Some loss of life in cattle has also been reported from one of the Sriharikotah villages caused by the fall of a compound wall on a small herd collected under the wall for shelter.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1879, No. 343.

Recorded.
(True Extract.)

G. H. S.
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Nellore.
" Revenue Department.
" Master Attendant, Madras.
Exd. T. O'Connor.

