More Woollen Goods for the Civil Market

Now that the Japanese War is over, it has been possible for the Government of India to switch a considerable proportion of India's woollen manufacturing capacity from Defence requirements to the production of goods for civil market. The quantity of Indian woollen goods available in the market in the coming year will be more than double what it was this year.

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AAA 508

HEAVY TOLL OF TIDAL WAVE

WHOLE VILLAGES WIPED OUT

EYE-WITNESS STORY OF HAVOC

KARACHI, Dec. 4.

Over 40,000 people have been rendered homeless. 4,000 villagers have died and several villages have been washed away along the 100-mile coast from Karachi to Keti Bunder. These are estimates of the havoc wrought by the recent earthquake and tidal waves, made by a party of nine Congress workers who visited the scene.

In a statement, the General Secretary of the Sind Provincial Congress Committee gives the following account collected from the victims of the disaster.

The villages of Chan, Sanhri, Turstan, Hajamro, Jarwari, Napio, Pettani, Usman Ratri and Dabo have suffered heavy casualties and the last named two places have been entirely wiped out.

In the village of Usman Ratri, near Keti Bundar, it was stated that out of a total population of 300 persons, only three survived. In Nukhar village, from a family of 23 persons, only one survived to tell the bitter story. At yet another place only one out of a family of 13 has survived. The fury of the tidal wave was so great that survivors were half dead and they recovered only after several days.

When the tidal wave struck thousands of pebbles shot into the air like volleys of bullets. Villagers snatched at tree-tops as they were tossed about in a mighty onrush of water. The wave struck before dawn, the darkness adding to the horror and confusion. Some people who took refuge on boats and rafts were swept out far into the sea and back again with their clothes torn off like victims of a bombblast.

EYE-WITNESSES' ACCOUNT

One of the eye-witnesses describing the disaster said that at about 3-30 a.m. the sky changed its colour. It became reddish in the west and a column of fire shot up from the waters to the sky. The faint sickle of moon was covered with reddish mist and a deafening thunder roared that shook them off their feet. They cried out to the sleeping villagers to rise and to rush out for their lives, but hardly had the cry been raised, when they were all felled down by a towering splash of water, rushing forward with the fury of a giant, sweeping everything in front of it—man and beast, houses and trees. The place was echoing with the poignant and heart-rending cries and all around there was confusion and destruction. Those who slept soundly in their huts never knew that a great disaster had overtaken and they must have perished without gaining consciousness. Daylight revealed the ugly and ghastly results of the disaster and people were terror-stricken. With tears in their eyes, they narrated their grim tale of woe of how they had to dig out half-buried bodies of men yet alive, though unconscious of what had happened to them. Not a drop of drinking water was available for the victims, and many died through sheer thirst. Some drank salt water and suffered the consequences.

Later on, they were picked up by a boat coming from Keti Bunder to Ibrahim Hydari and even to-day they are there with the surviving members of their families. There was one very aged woman, nearly 80, whose only earning member, a young son, had gone on the eve of the disaster, to buy a boat, carrying with himself the family's life savings of Rs. 400. Neither the boatman nor the new boat arrived, having probably met their doom in the disaster.

CONGRESS SECRETARY'S APPEAL

The General Secretary of the Sind Provincial Congress Committee, in his statement, points out that two villages were wiped out and seven others suffered heavy casualties. One village, which stood on a hillock, vanished altogether and even the hillock was levelled to the ground. The coast is still strewn with wreckage with more corpses being daily washed up.

"We gave to such indigent families foodstuffs and rendered monetary help to tide over the times. But what they need very badly to-day is cloth to cover their bodies, cotton yarn to weave new fishing nets and above all cloth for making new sails, to set their broken boats in order once again and to ply them in the fishing season which is now on and thus to wipe out the scars of this earthquake havoc. Both the Government and public must supply their needs at once, if they are to be saved from further misery and misfortune."

EMERGENCE OF TWO ISLANDS

RESULT OF SUB-MARINE VOLCANIC ERUPTION

KARACHI, Dec. 5.

The earthquake shock—and the disastrous tidal wave that followed it—that occurred in the early hours of November 28 were the result of a sub-marine volcanic eruption, writes the Special Correspondent of the Associated Press of India, who travelled in an Indian naval vessel H.M.I.S. Hindustan, visiting the scenes of the disaster.

Two eruptive rocks of granite colour have appeared in mid-ocean about 180 miles west north-west of Karachi. These islands are about three miles apart, one rising about 30 feet above the surface and the other about 100 feet. In shape, they are oval. The first rock is about one and a half square miles in area and the other is about one square mile.

Describing the phenomenon that preceded the tidal wave, villagers told me that, immediately after the earthquake, a deafening rumbling noise was followed by a huge sheet of flame accompanied by columns of smoke. This was followed by the unprecedented tidal wave, rising to a very great height.

When the officer commanding the H.M.I.S. Hindustan, the first relief ship to reach the affected area, noticed the eruptive rocks, he focussed his apparatus and spread his chart. In the end, he gave the following signal to his naval authorities: "Two uncharted islets appeared in approximate position 25 degrees 07 minutes north, 64 degrees 15 minutes east"—The above signal has been widely notified by the Admiralty to all concerned.

Some experts are expected to fly from Karachi to survey the eruptive rocks.

QUAKE SHOCK FELT IN BALUCHISTAN

The earthquake shock is also said to have been felt in many parts of Baluchistan. It was experienced at Kalat, Sibi, and Mastung, 40 miles from Quetta. It is also reported to have been felt at Lora Lai. On the west coast, it was so intensive as to cause fissures in Ormara and is said to have been felt as far away as Gwadur. When we reached Ormara on Sunday morning, we witnessed a landslide at a distance of half a mile. Landslides have also taken place at Pasni. These places again experienced earthquake shocks on the night of 2-3 December. These were of slight intensity.—A.P.I.

NO OFFICIAL FIGURES RECEIVED IN DELHI

NEW DELHI, Dec. 4.

No official figures have been received in Delhi of the earthquake and tidal wave casualties on the Karachi coast. The Government of India will get no official information until the Provincial Government collects full details and sends up a report.—A.P.I.

ALL-INDIA STATES PEOPLES' CONFERENCE

UDAIPUR, Dec. 4.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has accepted the Presidentship of the session of the All-India States Peoples' Conference at Udaipur to be held on December 31, 1945, January 1 and 2, 1946.—A.P.I.

INDIAN LABOURERS' PLIGHT IN BURMA

MR. JAMNADAS MEHTA'S STATEMENT

BOMBAY, Dec. 5.

AID TO INDIAN NATIONALS URGED

RANGOON, Dec. 3.

KOLHAPUR STATE ASSEMBLY

TOWN PLANNING OFFICER FOR INDIA

NEW DELHI, Dec. 5.

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NEW DELHI, Dec. 5.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING CERTIFICATE

WESTCOTT FUND

NEW DELHI, Dec. 2.

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Sat. 8th Dec. 10 a.m.—5-30 p.m.

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This may be an imaginary conversation between a proud father and a happy son 12 years from now, but there is nothing fanciful about it. Our country is on the threshold of great achievements and fine opportunities lie ahead for our young men. India will need capital for development, and younger generations money for education and training. By economy and thrift now you can help provide it.

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