

TIDAL WAVE HAVOC IN ORMARA AND PASNI

KARACHI, Dec. 6.—The havoc wrought by the recent tidal wave on the fishing townlets of Ormara and Pasni is described by a correspondent of the A.P.I., who visited in H.M.I.S. 'Hindustan.'

Ormara, an area of one and a half square miles with a population of 5,000 lies 140 miles west of Karachi in the Las Bells State and is an important fishing port. Pasni, an area of two square miles with a population of 8,000 lies 70 miles from Ormara in the territory of the Kalat State. Cotton, piece-goods and seeds are exported via this port to Iran. In this area of 300-mile coast-line from Karachi to Makram about 100 persons died, 50 have been injured and 12,000 have been rendered homeless. The material damage is estimated at 12 lakhs of rupees.

In Ormara 180 people died and 170 were injured. Seventy-nine bodies have been recovered from the debris. The rest are believed to have been carried away into the sea. The villagers, mostly fishermen have lost everything and have nothing to eat. Their fishing boats and nets have all gone. Seventy per cent of the houses have been damaged. The Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind, Mr. H. L. Jerath, who immediately rushed to the scene from Karachi has managed to restore communications. The offices have been located.

ARRIVAL OF RELIEF SHIP

The H.M.I.S. 'Hindustan', which was the first relief ship to arrive there on December 2, carried flour, sugar and tents. The medical officer aboard the ship treated the injured. As we walked through the village of Ormara, writes

the correspondent, we noticed some fissures on the main road leading to the Posts and Telegraphs Office. The whole village gave a pathetic appearance.

AT ORMARA

After dropping relief and a detachment for rescue work at Ormara the Hindustan sailed for Pasni arriving there on December 3. Here the whole village has been completely razed to the ground. The Customs House, the Guest House, and other Government buildings have been destroyed. About 7,000 people have been rendered homeless and destitute. 50 persons died and 50 others are injured. Forty-seven bodies have been recovered. The villagers who have survived are now encamping in tents. In the panic that ensued after the disaster some looting and rioting took place.

The Minister of Makram Province, Khan Abdul Karim Khan, who rushed from Kalat by a motor lorry on December 2, to render assistance reported that the State treasury deposits amounting to Rs. 1,40,000 were recovered from the safe which was buried under the debris.

The 300-mile coast-line from Karachi to Makram has been affected by the tidal wave. While there can be no two opinions about the material damage caused. The estimate of human loss varies widely. The Congress relief workers' estimate of loss of life at 4,000 on the Southern Sector, is considered exaggerated, but it is admitted that several hundred fishermen have perished so far as the north-western region from Karachi to Pasni is concerned. The death-roll may not exceed 200. The Government of Sind has not yet received full reports from the area that is affected under its jurisdiction. A communique on the damage caused is expected to be issued in a few days.—A.P.I.