

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 142.

The following Report of the Director of the Observatory is published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 24th April, 1886.

REPORT ON INFORMATION ISSUED DAILY, IN 1885, CONCERNING TYPHOONS.

The remarks concerning Typhoons, Meteorological Signals, and Stormwarnings published in the *China Coast Meteorological Register* * issued daily from here in 1885 are reprinted below. The basis on which typhoons were forecast is added in small print and likewise the positions at 10 a. of the centre of the typhoon, as determined from a provisional discussion of the observations subsequently collected, which positions are subject to correction on further investigation :

1885, July 11th.—'The barometer has risen. Gradients for SW winds are slight. The temperature and humidity remain high. It is possible, that there is a typhoon in the Pacific, but it is not indicated with certainty. If so, fine weather and light winds may be expected along the coast of China.'

Basis: General.—The typhoon appears to have been about 9° N, 135° E. The weather improved the following days along the coast.

1885, July 20th.—'The barometer has fallen in the East and risen in the West. Gradients are moderate for SW winds. The temperature remains high and the humidity rather low.'

1885, July 21st.—'The barometer has fallen over Luzon and risen along the coast. Gradients are slight. The temperature remains high and the humidity rather low. Fine weather prevails.'

1885, July 22nd.—'The fall in the barometer has continued particularly over Luzon, where rain has fallen. The temperature remains high along the coast, the humidity rather low. Fine weather and light winds prevail. There is a typhoon N of Luzon, but ships can still leave for Singapore without much danger.'

Red drum hoisted at 1.30 p.

Basis: Gradients indicating light NE winds but WSW gale reported from Manila.—The typhoon was about 18° N, 125° E moving NWestward.

1885, July 23rd.—'The barometer has risen over Luzon and in Shanghai, and fallen along the SE coast, particularly in Amoy. The temperature is high and the humidity low. Fine weather prevails along the coast but it is raining over Luzon. The typhoon appears to be moving NWestward.

Typhoon in 22° N, 124° E.

During the night the drum was replaced by the north cone.

1885, July 24th.—'The barometer has risen in the south and fallen in Shanghai. The temperature is high in the south. The typhoon appears to be in 29° N, 124° E or thereabout and will no doubt recurve towards NE.'

Typhoon 28° N, 125° E moving NNEastward.

North cone removed at 1 p.

1885, July 25th.—'The barometer has risen in the south and fallen in the north. The temperature has fallen; the humidity has increased. The typhoon is at present between Shanghai and Nagasaki and is moving N Eastward. It appears to be followed by thunderstorms.'

Typhoon 32° N, 126° E moving NNEastward.

1885, July 26th.—'The barometer has risen over Luzon and along the coast of China. The temperature is high, the humidity moderate and the weather overcast with rain in places. The typhoon is now quickly traversing the Sea of Japan.'

Typhoon 37° N, 130° E moving Northwards.

1885, July 27th.—'The barometer has fallen in Wladivostock owing to the approach of the typhoon, but is steady elsewhere. The temperature and humidity are high.'

Typhoon 3° west of Wladivostock.

1885, August 2nd.—'The barometer has fallen. The temperature is comparatively moderate. The humidity is high and the weather overcast except over Luzon where it is fine and dry.'

1885, August 3rd.—'There appears to be a typhoon N of Luzon. It will probably move Northwards. Rough weather may be expected about Northern Formosa. The barometer has fallen. The temperature and humidity are high.'

Basis: Gradients on S and SE coast of China indicating Westwinds, and SW breeze reported from Bolinao.

Typhoon had approached China coming up from SE after passing NEast of Luzon and Formosa. It appears to have been at the time 2° or 3° SW of Shanghai, where it blew a gale from the East but the telegram was received too late.

North cone hoisted at 3 p.

* This contains observations made at 9 a. or 10 a. and at 3 p. or 4 p. in Bolinao or Manila, Haiphong, Hongkong, Amoy, Shanghai, Nagasaki and Wladivostock but is seldom complete, as the observations have to be fetched by messenger from the other side of the harbour.

1885, August 4th.—‘It appears, that the typhoon after turning NWestward struck the coast south of Shanghai and is now proceeding Northward through Northern China. The barometer has risen. The temperature has fallen and the humidity is high. Heavy rain has fallen south of the centre of the typhoon.’

Typhoon about 33° N, 118° E moving Northwards.

North cone removed at 1.30 p.

1885, August 6th.—‘The barometer has fallen in the SE and risen in the W. The temperature is high, the humidity low and the weather fine except in Tonquin. There is probably another typhoon in the Pacific and if so, fine weather with light winds may be expected to prevail along the coast.’

Basis: General.—Nothing further ascertained about this typhoon up to date, but the weather continued fine with light winds up to the 10th or 11th.

1885, August 17th.—‘The barometer has risen in Luzon and fallen along the coast. Probably there is a typhoon in the China Sea. The temperature is moderate, the humidity great and the weather cloudy, but light winds are reported from all stations except Hongkong.’

The Gun was fired one round at 12.30 p., the red ball was hoisted at 3.30 p. and at 4 p. a telegram was issued that there was a typhoon West of Hongkong moving northwards.

1885, August 18th.—‘The barometer is rising at all stations except Shanghai and Nagasaki. The temperature is moderate, the humidity great, the sky clouded and the wind light. *The red ball was hoisted at 3.30 p. and removed during the night.* It appears that the typhoon which was moving northwards, entered the coast West of Hongkong last night, and the depression quickly lost the character of a tropical storm. Light SW winds are now expected to prevail till the next typhoon approaches.’

Basis: Local observations.—The centre of this typhoon passed between Macao and Hongkong.

1885, August 19th.—‘The barometer has risen except in Nagasaki. The temperature and humidity are rather high, the sky clouded and the wind moderate, except during local squalls connected with thunderstorms following the late typhoon.’

1885, August 20th.—‘The barometer has fallen. The temperature and humidity are high. The sky is overcast along the coast and the wind light. There appears to be a typhoon East of Bolinao. Light winds may therefore be expected along the coast.’

Basis: Observations telegraphed from Bolinao.—Typhoon about 15° N, 132½° E.

Drum hoisted at 8.30 p.

1885, August 21st.—‘The barometer has fallen in the south owing to the typhoon E of Bolinao forecast yesterday. The temperature and humidity continue high. Moderate winds and fine weather are expected.’

1885, August 22nd.—‘The temperature and humidity continue high. The barometer has fallen over Luzon and along the coast. The typhoon forecast on the 20th is about crossing Luzon. A moderate NW gale blew during the night at Bolinao. Fine weather and light winds are expected along the southern coast of China and rather rough weather in the Formosa Straits. Ships can safely leave for Singapore by keeping westward in the China Sea.

Typhoon NE of Luzon moving N Westward.

1885, August 23rd.—‘The typhoon has crossed Luzon and appears to be moving towards the Straits of Formosa. It blew in furious squalls with very heavy rain at Bolinao last night. The barometer has fallen. The temperature and humidity are high. The weather is fine along the coast. Ships can safely leave for southern and western ports but only large steamers should start for the north.’

Typhoon NE of Luzon moving NWestward.

1885, August 24th.—‘The barometer has risen over Luzon and in Shanghai and has fallen elsewhere. The temperature continues high but the humidity has decreased. The typhoon appears to be about entering the Formosa Channel. Ships can safely start for Western, Southern and Eastern ports but only large steamers should start for Northern Ports. Fresh NW to SW winds are expected here.’

Typhoon entering southern Formosa.

The drum was removed and the north cone hoisted at 8 p.

1885, August 25th.—‘The typhoon has entered the mainland near Amoy, with which communication is in consequence interrupted. It will now move northwards. The north cone was hoisted at 8 last night. This signal implied that sailing vessels should lose no time in starting for the north. The barometer has risen in the south. The temperature is high, the humidity moderate and fresh SW winds are expected.’

Typhoon about 27° N, 117° E, moving NWestwards.

1885, August 26th.—‘The barometer has risen. The temperature and humidity are moderate. Fresh SW winds, forecast yesterday, are expected to continue. The centre of the typhoon is situated on the mainland in about 26° N, 116° E. It will move northwards. It is followed by thunderstorms.’

Typhoon about 29° N, 113° E moving Northwards.

1885, August 27th.—‘The barometer has risen. The temperature and humidity are high. Overcast and wet weather with fresh S winds prevails.’

North cone removed at 1.13 p.

Typhoon about 34° N, 115° E.

1885, August 28th.—‘The barometer has risen in the south and fallen in the north. It appears that the typhoon is about turning NEastward. It will probably traverse the sea of Japan. The temperature is moderate, and the humidity high. Overcast and wet weather—with moderate SW winds—prevails over the China sea.’

Typhoon about 37° N, 122° E moving NEastward.

1885, August 29th.—‘The barometer has fallen in the East and risen in the West. The temperature is moderate, the humidity great and the weather overcast and wet. Light or moderate winds are expected.’

1885, August 30th.—‘There appears to be a typhoon SE of Luzon. The barometer continues falling over Luzon and rising in Tonquin. The temperature is low, the humidity high and the weather overcast and wet. Steamers leaving the port may expect light winds and favourable weather.’

Basis: General.—Typhoon about 16° N, 135° E moving N Westward,

1885, August, 31st.—‘The barometer has fallen a little in the south and risen in the north owing to the approach of the typhoon forecast yesterday. The temperature and humidity are rather high. The weather is improving and light winds are expected to prevail over the China Sea for the next few days.’

1885, September 1st.—‘The barometer has fallen in the south. The typhoon forecast on the 30th appears to be approaching Luzon at the slow rate with which typhoons generally move in that locality. The temperature is moderate, the humidity rather low, the weather improving and light winds are expected to prevail in the China Sea.’

1885, September 2nd.—‘The barometer has fallen generally. The temperature and humidity are rather high, the weather cloudy and wet and the winds light.’

1885, September 3rd.—‘The typhoon appears to have passed Northwards while yet E of Formosa. The barometer has risen over Luzon and fallen along the SE coast. The temperature and humidity are moderate. Cloudy weather with moderate SW winds are expected in the China Sea.’

Typhoon E of Formosa is about 131° E long. moving NNWestward.

1885, September 4th.—‘The barometer has risen except in Japan. The temperature is rather high and the humidity moderate. Cloudy and squally weather prevailed yesterday. Moderate winds are expected.’

1885, September 5th.—‘The barometer has risen in the south. The temperature is high, the humidity moderate, the weather cloudy and moderate winds are expected.’

The typhoon passed Port Hamilton.

1885, September 7th.—‘The typhoon appears to have passed near SW of Japan. It is probably now traversing the Sea of Japan. The barometer has risen. The temperature is moderate, the humidity high, the weather overcast and wet, and the wind light.’

1885, September 8th.—‘The barometer has risen in the north and fallen in the south. The typhoon is now felt in Wladivostock, but only a strong breeze is reported. The temperature and humidity are high, the weather cloudy and showery and the winds moderate.’

1885, October 14th.—‘The barometer is still falling. The temperature has risen, the humidity has decreased and the weather is fine. There appears to be a typhoon E of Luzon. A fresh N breeze is reported from Bolinao.’

Basis: Observations in Bolinao.—Typhoon NE of Luzon moving northward.

1885, October 15th.—‘The barometer has risen in the south but is still falling in Foochow. The typhoon is moving northwards. The temperature continues rather high. The humidity is moderate and the weather fine except in Tonquin. Winds in the China Sea and along the coast are light. Fresh winds may be expected.’

Typhoon appears to have been E of Formosa moving Northwards.

1885, November 7th.—‘The barometer has fallen quickly over Luzon owing to the approach of a typhoon, which will probably traverse the China Sea. The temperature and humidity are moderate. Overcast but fine weather with light winds prevails along the coast, but it is squally over Luzon. It blew a fresh NNE breeze this morning at Bolinao, where also a heavy ground swell was observed.’

Basis: Observations in Bolinao.—Typhoon E of Bolinao.

1885, November 8th.—‘The barometer is falling. The typhoon announced yesterday crossed Luzon last night. A strong NNW gale was reported from Bolinao at 9 p. Fine weather is expected here. *The south cone was hoisted at Tsimschatsui last night.* The temperature is rising, the humidity is moderate and the weather fine along the south coast of China. It is overcast and sultry NE of Hongkong.’

This typhoon was very destructive over part of Luzon, but its progress has not yet been investigated for want of sufficient observations.

1885, November 9th.—‘The barometer has risen. The typhoon has disappeared from observation, moving probably towards SW. The temperature and humidity are moderate, the winds light and the weather fine.’

South cone removed at 1.20 p.

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Hongkong Observatory, 14th April, 1886.