

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 399.

The following Extract of Meteorological Observations, made at the Hongkong Observatory during the Month of August, 1898, is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 10th September, 1898.

EXTRACT OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, MADE AT THE HONGKONG OBSERVATORY DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1898.

DATE.	BARO-METER AT M.S.L.	TEMPERATURE.			HUMIDITY.		CLOUDI-NESS.	SUN-SHINE.	RAIN.	WIND.	
		Max.	Mean.	Min.	Rel.	Abs.				Dir.	Vel.
	ins.	°	°	°	p. c.	ins.	p. c.	hrs.	ins.	Points.	Miles. p. h.
1,.....	29.65	89.0	82.2	76.3	79	0.87	59	11.6	0.490	E	8.9
2,.....	.61	86.3	81.9	76.6	80	.87	92	1.4	0.030	N by E	4.3
3,.....	.49	88.2	83.3	78.9	71	.82	85	6.1	0.130	NE	17.5
4,.....	.30	83.4	80.9	77.6	78	.83	93	1.0	1.330	NE by N	33.6
5,.....	.37	82.2	79.8	78.0	89	.90	100	0.6	0.840	ESE	33.4
6,.....	.57	86.6	81.8	79.5	82	.89	66	3.2	0.005	SSE	6.5
7,.....	.58	86.8	82.6	79.4	83	.93	89	8.2	...	WSW	9.9
8,.....	.52	89.7	84.2	81.4	83	.98	99	5.7	...	SW	12.9
9,.....	.60	85.6	82.7	80.9	85	.95	91	0.0	0.045	SSW	11.9
10,.....	.71	87.6	82.5	78.7	80	.89	84	8.9	...	SE	8.6
11,.....	.70	85.4	81.1	78.4	84	.89	71	7.8	0.055	ENE	12.2
12,.....	.62	87.8	82.4	78.9	76	.84	75	5.7	0.010	NE by E	13.3
13,.....	.57	83.6	80.3	77.6	80	.84	72	5.4	0.410	E by N	33.5
14,.....	.65	84.0	80.1	74.7	86	.88	85	3.8	1.240	ESE	23.0
15,.....	.73	85.2	81.5	79.4	84	.90	39	11.1	...	E	12.7
16,.....	.71	88.8	82.9	78.3	81	.91	14	11.8	...	ESE	6.7
17,.....	.59	85.2	80.6	76.2	81	.85	99	3.1	1.250	ENE	40.4
18,.....	.79	82.1	79.5	77.0	84	.84	76	5.0	0.380	SE	22.8
19,.....	.86	86.3	80.9	77.7	82	.86	61	8.1	0.030	SSE	9.1
20,.....	.80	88.4	81.0	76.1	84	.88	20	11.3	...	W	5.2
21,.....	.77	87.1	80.7	77.1	78	.82	64	7.2	...	SSW	8.7
22,.....	.78	86.9	81.4	76.6	76	.81	63	8.6	...	W by S	9.0
23,.....	.76	87.4	81.8	78.4	77	.84	55	8.7	...	WSW	9.3
24,.....	.71	89.4	82.4	79.4	81	.89	69	8.6	0.020	WSW	7.0
25,.....	.70	80.7	77.1	74.9	94	.88	88	1.3	2.585	E by N	4.8
26,.....	.73	85.9	79.0	76.3	89	.88	90	4.0	0.175	E by S	5.0
27,.....	.75	84.2	79.0	75.1	90	.89	91	2.6	0.870	E	5.6
28,.....	.74	89.3	81.1	76.9	85	.90	54	7.5	0.005	SW by W	4.8
29,.....	.68	83.8	83.3	78.9	80	.92	50	10.6	...	W by S	12.1
30,.....	.70	88.9	84.2	81.0	77	.91	56	9.8	...	W by S	9.8
31,.....	.72	90.4	84.4	81.0	79	.93	62	10.2	...	W by S	4.9
Mean or Total,	29.66	86.5	81.5	78.0	82	0.88	71	203.9	9.900	E by S	13.1

The frequency of typhoons during the month of August was most unusual. Between July 28th and August 18th no less than four passed to the South of Hongkong, causing gales in the Colony. In addition three were experienced in Formosa and neighbouring waters. Thus between July 28th and the end of August seven typhoons occurred in the China Seas, or on an average one in about every five days. With regard to Hongkong the frequency was much the same for the period September 18th to October 6th, 1894, when four typhoon centres passed near the Colony; two whole gales and two gales of full typhoon force being experienced in the harbour during the period named.

The following notices have been issued by Mr. FIGG during the month:—

On the 31st July at 11.55 a.—“The barometer has risen a little in Haiphong, but the recent typhoon exists still as a shallow depression to the N of Tongking. Pressure is again giving way on the China coast, and there are slight indications of the existence of low pressure in the Pacific to the SE of Formosa. Gradients mostly slight for E winds on the China coast.” Forecast:—“moderate E winds; showery.”

On the 1st August at 11.55 a.—“The barometer is inclined to fall on the China coast. Pressure remains low in Tongking and the existence of low pressure, apparently lying in the neighbourhood of N Luzon, is still indicated. Gradients slight to moderate for E and NE winds on the China coast.” Forecast:—“moderate E to NE winds, fair.”

On the 2nd at 11.10 a.—Red Drum hoisted. At 11.45 a.—“The barometer has risen in Haiphong, and continues to fall slowly on the S and SE coasts of China. Probably the depression is situated to the W of N Luzon, apparently moving WNW.” Forecast:—“moderate N winds, probably increasing; weather becoming unsettled.”

On the 3rd at 9 a.—Black South Cone hoisted. At 11.0 a.—Gun fired. “The typhoon seems to be situated about 200 miles to the SSE of Hongkong, moving towards WNW.” Forecast:—“NE to E winds, increasing to a gale; squally, showery.”

On the 4th at 11.0 a.—“The centre of the typhoon lies to the SE of Hongkong and it will probably enter the coast not far from, and to the Eastward of the Colony.” Forecast:—“gale most probably from the N and W with rainsqualls.” At 5 p.—“Present indications are that the centre of the typhoon will pass near and to the South of the Colony and that the gale will be a severe one from NE to SE.”

On the 5th at 8.20 a.—Black Ball hoisted. At 11.15 a.—“The centre of the typhoon is entering the coast probably a little to the West of St John's island. The barometer is rising in Hongkong, falling in Haiphong.” Forecast:—“SE winds, decreasing; squally, showery.” At 4 p.—Black Ball lowered.

On the 5th at 3 p.—“There is another depression in the Pacific to the East of the Bashee Channel.”

On the 6th at 11.25 a.—“The barometer has risen considerably in Hongkong, fallen moderately about the N part of the Formosa Channel. The late typhoon is passing to the North of Pakhoi, and the depression in the Pacific seems to be moving Northwards to the E of N Formosa.” Forecast:—“moderate S to SW winds; showery.” At 4.50 p.—“The depression seems to be situated in N Formosa moving NW.”

On the 7th at 11.35 a.—“The barometer has fallen in the North, particularly about the N part of the Formosa Channel. The typhoon appears to be about to enter the coast to the North of Foochow.” Forecast:—“moderate to fresh SW winds; fair to unsettled, thunderstorms probable.”

On the 8th at 11.25 a.—“The barometer has fallen on the China coast generally, particularly in the N part of the Formosa Channel. The centre of the typhoon, moving slowly Westwards, is entering the coast near Foochow.” Forecast:—“fresh to strong SW winds; squally and showery with thunder.”

On the 9th at 11.20 a.—“The barometer is rising in, and to the Southward of the Formosa Channel, falling in Shanghai. The typhoon is moving Northwards on the mainland to the NW of Foochow.” Forecast:—“fresh SW winds; showery with thunder.”

On the 10th at 11.35 a.—“The barometer has risen in S China, fallen in the extreme North. The typhoon exists now as an ordinary depression, moving Northwards, to the North of Chinkiang. Gradients slight for S winds on the S and SE coasts.” Forecast:—“moderate S to SE winds; showery.”

On the 11th at 11.25 a.—“The barometer is rising on the E coast of China, and is inclined to fall on the S coast. The depression in the North is recurving in the Yellow Sea. In the South a trough of slightly low pressure seems to be lying in the N part of the China Sea. Gradients slight for NE winds in S China.” Forecast:—“moderate or fresh E and NE winds; unsettled, showery.”

On the 12th at 11.0 a.—“Pressure remains low in the North, and the barometer is falling on the S and SE coasts of China with indications of the existence of a depression in the NE part of China Sea.” Red Drum hoisted. Forecast:—“NE winds, probably freshening; unsettled, some rain.”

On the 13th at 8 a.—Black South Cone hoisted. At 10.35 a.—“The typhoon seems to be situated about 150 miles to the SSE of Hongkong, moving WNW.” Forecast:—“NE to SE winds strong, possibly a gale; squally with rain.” At 4.30 p.—“The centre of the typhoon seems to be now situated about 100 miles to the SSW of Gap Rock, moving WNW.” At 6.10 p.—Black Ball hoisted.

On the 14th at 10.10 a.—Black Ball lowered. At 11.25 a.—“The typhoon appears to be entering the Lienchau peninsula near Kwongchauwan Bay. The barometer is rising on the S and SE coasts of China, falling in Haiphong.” Forecast:—“SE winds, decreasing; squally and showery at first, improving later.”

On the 15th at 11.35 a.—“The depression is passing to the North of Tongking. The barometer has risen and almost attained the normal on the China coast. Gradients slight for SE winds.” Forecast:—“moderate SE to E winds; fair.”

On the 16th at 11.30 a.—“The barometer has risen in Haiphong and on the E coast of China, and is inclined to fall again over the S and SE coasts. Pressure remains low in the extreme North, and there are indications of the existence of low pressure in the neighbourhood of N Luzon. Gradients at present slight for NE winds on the S and SE coasts of China.” Forecast:—“moderate NE winds; fine.”

On the 17th at 6.40 a.—Black South Cone hoisted. At 10.25 a.—“The typhoon appears to be situated about 200 miles to the SSE of Hongkong, moving WNW.” Forecast:—“NE to SE winds strong, possibly a gale; squally, showery.” At 12.20 p.—Gun fired. At 3. p.—“The typhoon to the Southward of Hongkong appears to be moving Northwest. The gale will probably be severe from East.”

On the 18th at 5.10 a.—Black Ball hoisted. At 10.10 a.—Black Ball lowered. At 11.15 a.—“The typhoon, moving quickly, appears to have entered the coast this morning between St. John’s island and the Lienchau peninsula. The barometer has risen rapidly and is again normal in Hongkong.” Forecast.—“SE winds, decreasing; squally and showery at first, improving later.”

On the 20th at 11.35 a.—“The barometer is steady on the E coast of China, and falling on the S and SE coast. Pressure is normal on the coast generally, but there are slight indications of the existence of low pressure in the Pacific to the SE of Formosa.” Forecast.—“W, or varying winds, light to moderate; fair.”

On the 21st at 10.30 a.—Red Drum hoisted. At 11.30 a.—“The barometer has risen a little on the E coast of China, fallen slightly on the S and SE coasts. Pressure is still near the normal on the China coast, but a depression probably exists in the neighbourhood of the Balingtang Channel.” Forecast:—“moderate N or varying winds; mostly fair, but possibly some thunder showers.”

On the 22nd at 10.10 a.—Red Drum lowered. At 10.55 a.—“The depression seems to be situated near N Formosa, moving Northwards. The barometer has fallen in the Formosa Channel, and is inclined to rise on the S coast.” Forecast:—“moderate W winds; fair.”

On the 23rd at 11.40 a.—“The depression appears to be situated to the NNE of N Formosa, moving slowly Northwards. The barometer has fallen slightly on the E coast of China, and has commenced to rise in the Formosa Channel.” Forecast:—“moderate SW winds; cloudy, probably some thunder showers.”

On the 24th at 11.40 a.—“The barometer has fallen in S China, and remains almost steady in the North. The low pressure area seems to be still lying between Formosa and the Loochoo islands.” Forecast:—“moderate SW winds; fair to showery.”

On the 25th at 11.30 a.—“Barometric changes are slight. Pressure is high in the N part of the Sea of Japan; still low, apparently, between Formosa and the Loochoo islands. Gradients moderate for NE winds over the E coast and Formosa Channel, slight for SW winds in the China Sea.” Forecast:—“S to E winds, moderate; unsettled, showery.”

On the 26th at 11.45 a.—“A small depression entered the S coast of Japan yesterday evening, and this morning another depression is situated to the SE of the Loochoo islands, moving Northwards. Pressure is high to the E of Japan. The barometer has fallen slightly on the E coast of China, risen a little on the S coast. Gradients moderate for NE winds on the E coast, slight for SW winds over the China Sea.” Forecast:—“moderate SW winds; showery.”

On the 27th at 11.45 a.—“The barometer has risen slightly on the S coast of China, and is inclined to fall on the E coast. The depression is probably moving Northwards near the Northern Loochoos. Gradients rather steep for N winds on the E coast of China, slight for SW winds in the China Sea.” Forecast:—“moderate S to SE winds; showery.”

On the 28th at 11.55 a.—“The barometer has fallen between the Formosa Channel and the E coast of China. The typhoon is probably situated to the West of the Loochoos, apparently now moving towards WNW. High pressure covers E Japan.” Forecast:—“moderate W winds; probably some thunder showers.”

On the 29th at 9.10 a.—“The centre of the typhoon is approaching the coast near Foochow, moving westwards.” At 11.30 a. “The barometer has risen slightly in Shanghai, fallen rapidly at Sharp Peak. Pressure remains high, apparently, between N China and Japan. Gradients rather steep for SW winds between Hongkong and the S part of the Formosa Channel, with bad weather farther North.” Forecast:—“fresh W and SW winds; fair to unsettled.” At 5.10 p. “The centre of the typhoon is entering the coast to the South of Foochow.”

On the 30th at 11.45 a.—“The barometer has fallen in Shanghai, risen in the Formosa Channel, except at Amoy. The observations from Amoy and Sharp Peak are contradictory, but in general the coast observations indicate that the typhoon is situated to the NE of Foochow, moving NE, recurvature apparently having taken place near that port last night. Sharp Peak reports “wind terrific” last evening.” Forecast:—“moderate W winds; fair.”

On the 31st at 11.45 a.—“The barometer has risen slightly in S China, fallen a little on the E coast. The low area probably lies in the neighbourhood of the Loochoos. Pressure is high over Manchuria.” Forecast :—“moderate W winds ; mostly fine, but possibly a thunderstorm.”

On the 1st September at 11.50 a.—“The barometer has risen moderately on the S and SE coasts of China, and remains almost steady on the E coast. The low area, moving NE, passed into W Japan yesterday afternoon ; but pressure seems to be low still between the E coast of China and the Loochoos. Pressure continues high in Manchuria.” Forecast :—“moderate or light W winds ; fair.”

On the 2nd at 11.55 a.—“The barometer has risen on the China coast, fallen in the Sea of Japan. The depression, lying near the Loochoos yesterday, has probably reached the S coast of Japan. Gradients slight on the China coast.” Forecast :—“moderate or light W winds ; showery to fair.”

On the 3rd at 11.30 a.—“Barometric changes are slight. The depression is probably moving NE over E Japan. Pressure is high over the S coast of China and the N part of China Sea, with slight gradients on the coast generally.” Forecast :—“light or moderate SW winds ; fair to showery.”

W. DOBERCK,
Director.

Hongkong Observatory, 9th September, 1898.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 400.

The following are published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 10th September, 1898.

ASIATIC STATION.

SQUADRON NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 1.

U. S. FLAGSHIP OLYMPIA.
MANILA, P. I. August 26, 1898.

(1) PHILIPPINE ISLANDS--Luzon--Corregidor Island light re-established.--The 2nd order light on the highest part of Corregidor Island, Manila Bay, which was extinguished about April 23, 1898, has been re-established.

The light is flashing white and red ; alternate flashes every ten seconds, separated by total eclipses.

(2) PHILIPPINE ISLANDS--Luzon--Manila light re-established.--The 6th order fixed red light at the mouth of Pasig River, North side of quay, which was extinguished about April 23, 1898, has been re-established.

(3) PHILIPPINE ISLANDS--Luzon--Pasig River open to Navigation.--The obstructions in the Pasig River have been so far removed as to give a practicable channel of 15 feet depth at high water. Pilots must be employed. Work will be continued in removing the remaining wrecks at such times as not to interfere with navigation.

GEORGE DEWEY,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U. S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station.

Government of China.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No. 69.

Whistling Buoy,
replaced in position.

Notice is hereby given that the Whistling Buoy, having been painted, was replaced in position on the 27th August.

EDWARD STEVENS,
Tidesurveyor.

Approved :

P. von TANNER,
Deputy Commissioner-in-charge.

Custom House, Foochow, 1st September, 1898.