

5 DEAD IN HAVANA, GALE LOSSES HEAVY

Adjacent Area Is Hard Hit by
Wind and Inundation—
Harbor Craft Damaged

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAVANA, Oct. 18—The hurricane which has been centered in the Caribbean Sea south of Cuba for several days swept northward across the island today, cutting a wide path of destruction. The first estimate of the authorities placed the dead in Havana at five, with some 200 injured.

High winds with heavy rains began in the early morning hours and mounted steadily to an estimated 150 miles an hour until about 11 o'clock, when the barometer began rising. Telephone service broke down, traffic was paralyzed throughout the city and electricity was cut off in all districts except the Central Park area tonight. Telegraph service was disrupted and radio stations were not broadcasting. Thousands of uprooted trees, tile and other debris blocked the streets.

Several districts were inundated by the heavy rains and overflow of small streams. The Red Cross, firemen and police worked throughout the afternoon rescuing marooned families. The authorities established hundreds of emergency firstaid stations yesterday and provided places where poorer families living in insecure houses could take refuge, thus cutting down the hurricane casualties.

No reports have reached Havana concerning damage in Pinar del Rio Province and the rest of Havana Province, but it is believed that all tobacco and other crops were destroyed and cane flattened in the two western provinces. No information has been received so far from the Isle of Pines, where the hurricane passed yesterday.

The port police reported tonight that some thirty small craft had been badly damaged in Havana Harbor. Three vessels sank and four broke their moorings and ran aground, among them the Cuban Army transport Colombia. The gunboat Juan Bruno Zayas was also damaged.

Docks and warehouses suffered severe damage and a considerable amount of merchandise was water-soaked. The San Francisco docks belonging to the Havana Dock Company were the most badly damaged.