

NOTE ON THE EARTHQUAKE OF MAY 5, 1925,
IN NEGROS, P.I.

By MIGUEL SELGA

A violent earthquake shook the southern sector of the island of Negros in the Philippine Islands, on May 5, 1925, at 18^h 7^m 24^s Greenwich Central Time. From all available reports it was concluded that the origin of the earthquake lay under the sea, near the south coast of Negros, not far from 9°3' north latitude and 122°7' east longitude. About one month after the occurrence a missionary from Ilog, Reverend Matias Boonen, wrote an interesting account of his observations of the earthquake as he traveled from Antique to Ilog through Iloilo and Occidental Negros. The account of F. Boonen reads this way:

Well, what I know of the earthquake of May 5th is the following:

I was in the town of Antique, province of Antique, at the time and the earthquake was felt there far stronger than any ever before; so strong indeed that I thought it wise to stand near the staircase for safety.

When returning over the new mountain road to Iloilo province I expected to get into trouble on account of mountain slides occurring rather frequently along that road; but there were none that I could see.

Returning to Ilog via Pulupandan I first saw the beautiful church of Pontevedra practically ruined. The walls are of limestone and the whole front wall had crumbled down. At Hinigaran there was only a crack in the church wall and apparently no other damage anywhere nor to anyone. The Isabela Sugar Central plant suffered much, though the reason seems to be more a faulty way of building than the strength of the earthquake.

In Himamaylan I found some walls down along the road and inside the convento all inner walls had fallen down. In Kabankalan the very low and small convento was flat on the ground. All hacienda chimneys, not of iron, came down. Central Palma had both its chimneys ruined; both the old and the new one of reinforced concrete, and only a year old.

Part of the church walls in Ilog had fallen down and some posts were leaning over leaving the heavy bordones without support. When I asked the chief of police about damage done to others he said there was none. Practically none suffered anywhere. And yet, the description given by all people was terrifying indeed. Everyone told me that the first shock had been so strong and long continued that people simply could not remain on their legs and many actually fell to the ground. I hardly could believe this till the next day Mr. Serra also told me the same, how he had seen all around him, cows, carabaos, and men actually drop to the ground