

THE GUIANGA WHIRLWIND OF OCTOBER 27, 1928

A storm swept over the Guianga district in the Gulf of Davao on October 27, 1928, and damaged approximately two million and a half hills of hemp. Almost all the abaca plantations for which the province of Davao is famous, extend several miles inland around the Gulf. The Guianga plain lies to the northwest of the town of Davao and ascends from 300 to over 600 meters altitude.

At approximately two o'clock in the morning of the 27th of October 1928, a strong and confused wind started from the upper reaches of the Lipadas River on the eastern slope of Mt. Apo, blowing with very strong gusty blasts coming at intervals of from fifteen to thirty minutes. At five o'clock the blasts became one continuous current blowing violently for two hours until seven o'clock in the morning. From that time until four o'clock in the afternoon the wind settled down to a steady southwest, only it was much stronger than the ordinary current of this wind. At four o'clock that afternoon the storm again assumed its proportions of the early morning, although not quite as violent. It continued thus for several hours after which it gradually died down. The storm was dry, in the sense, that although there was an abundant rainfall on the 24, 25 and 26, yet during the passage of the violent wind early in the morning of the 27th there was only a fine drizzle and no more rain during the rest of the day.

AREA - The area covered by the storm is a stretch of land, about 30 kilometers long and widening out from 5 kilometers at the eastern slope of Mt. Apo to 10 kilometers at the eastern boundary of the Biao Plantation. The devastated area is crossed by two rivers; the Lipadas in a WNW-ESE direction and the Talum flowing from N by W to S by E. The agricultural concerns included in the area