

A BORE'S PROGRESS: THE TIDE-WAVE FROM WHITE STREAK TO WATER-WALL.



1. THE NOISE OF THE TIDAL BORE APPROACHING UP HANGCHOW BAY TURNS ALL EYES IN THE DIRECTION OF A WHITE STREAK IN THE DISTANCE, ADVANCING WITH GREAT RAPIDITY.



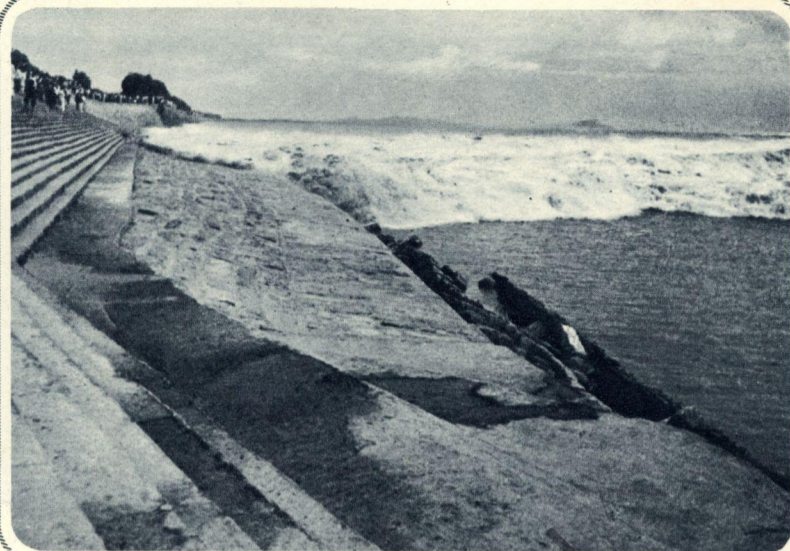
2. AS THE COAST NARROWS ON EACH SIDE OF THE BAY, THE TIDAL WAVE, BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMPRESSED, GAINS IN HEIGHT AND SPEED WHAT IT LOSES IN WIDTH.



3. THE WHITE STREAK RESOLVES ITSELF INTO A WALL OF BREAKING WATER, OVER TWELVE FEET HIGH; THE WATER IN ADVANCE OF IT REMAINING COMPLETELY UNDISTURBED UNTIL THE ACTUAL ARRIVAL OF THE WAVE.



4. WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR, THE WAVE RUSHES NEARER AND NEARER, STRETCHING ACROSS THE WHOLE WIDTH OF THE BAY, WHICH IS MORE THAN A MILE ACROSS AT THIS POINT.



5. THE IMMENSE PRESSURE OF THE TIDAL WAVE CAN BE JUDGED FROM THE FACT THAT THE SEA ITSELF IS PUSHING IT ALONG AT A HEIGHT OF OVER TWELVE FEET.



6. THE WAVE REACHES THE POINT WHERE THE SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS WAS TAKEN; REVEALING A SEA OF FOAMING WATER TOSsing IN ITS WAKE AND CRASHING AGAINST THE PARAPET.



7. YELLOW WAVES BREAKING HIGH AGAINST THE SEA WALL: AN EXTRA-ORDINARY CONTRAST WITH THE UPPER LEFT-HAND PHOTOGRAPH, ALTHOUGH TAKEN ONLY A FEW SECONDS LATER.

ONE of the most impressive of the world's tidal bores is that which periodically advances up the mouth of the T sien Tang River, near Hangchow. It will be recalled that in our issue of September 1 last we gave photographs of similar phenomena on the English rivers of Severn and Trent, both of these having been exceptionally fine during the week-end of August 25 to 27. We explained there that a bore is caused by flood-tides driving an immense volume of water from the sea into a river, and that this water, accumulating in the estuary more rapidly than it can flow upstream, rises in a ridge that rushes over the surface. We added that one of the biggest bores in the world is that on the Brahmaputra, which reaches a height of about twelve feet. The photographs on this page (which should be "read" in order of numbering, from top to bottom) indicate that the Brahmaputra bore must be rivalled by that at Hangchow. A roaring wall of water twelve feet high rushes up the T sien Tang estuary at more than twelve miles an hour, providing, when it is at its height, a spectacle so grand that thousands of Chinese gather to watch it and to celebrate at the same time a feast of the tidal dragon.