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THE following Despatch from the Governor of the Bahamas, No. 193, dated 17th December 1866, was received by Lord Carnarvon on the 7th instant. It contains an account of the effects of the recent severe hurricane in the outlying islands of the Bahamas group. This Despatch is in continuation of Governor Rawson's Despatch, No. 161, which appeared recently in the London Gazette.

Governor Rawson to Lord Carnarvon.

*Government House, Nassau,  
December 17, 1866.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit as complete a Report of the injury done by the late hurricane on the several Islands within this Government, and of their present conditions and prospects, as the information before me enables me to furnish.

## 1. INAGUA.

2. The storm was first felt in the most southerly island of the group, Inagua, on the 30th September, about 11 o'clock A.M. It reached its height there about 9 to 12 P.M., twelve hours later than at the Turks' Islands. The injury to property ashore was very trifling, but three vessels were totally lost on the coast, and two others were dismasted. The extensive and valuable salt pond on this island remains uninjured, and little or none of the salt in store received any damage. Inagua therefore has escaped; and as the price of salt has risen considerably, one-third or more, in consequence of the destruction of salt in the Turks' Islands, and in other islands of the Bahamas group, the position of its inhabitants has been ameliorated by the hurricane, and the prospects of the company lately established there to construct a railway from the port to the salt pond, and a wharf at the former place, have been materially improved.

3. Reports have been received of the hurricane having been felt in Saint Domingo, on the coast of Cuba, as far westward as the Bay of Nipe, 100 miles from Cape Maisé; and at the Cay Lobos Lighthouse, on the southern edge of the Great Bahama Bank, in long 77° 35' W., 250 miles to the west of Inagua. Its greatest force was felt at this latter place at about the same time as at Inagua.

## 2. MAYAGUANA.

4. I have no accounts from Mayaguana; but as it probably lay in or near the centre of the track of the hurricane, it must have suffered severely. There are but two small settlements on the island. It is reported that all the dwellings except two were destroyed.

## 3. LONG CAY.

5. At Long Cay, or Fortune Island, the area and population of which are very limited—

1 church (Episcopal),  
28 dwelling-houses,  
41 other buildings,  
Were totally destroyed.

1 public gaol,  
39 dwelling-houses,  
Were unroofed or otherwise injured.

4 vessels,  
12 boats,  
Were totally lost.

6 vessels,  
5 boats,  
Were more or less injured.

The canal of the Salt Pond was seriously injured. Masonry which had withstood the sea and floods for more than fifty years has disappeared. Between 50,000 and 60,000 bushels of salt, or about one-third of the year's crop were destroyed. Houses to leeward of salt heaps had the salt showered upon them like hail, and all the tanks were impregnated with salt or sea-water. Fortunately it has been a favourable season for the salt-rakers, and the quantity which remains may perhaps equal an ordinary crop.

6. This island has the advantage of two or three resident proprietors of means and enterprise, who have helped to relieve the destitute by furnishing them with employment. The population, when ashore, is almost exclusively engaged in the production of salt, and, different from elsewhere, there was a good supply of provisions on the island when the hurricane came on. The supplies sent down from Nassau have been employed in part in hiring labourers to repair the canal of the Salt Pond, and thus restore the principal means of employment to the labouring classes. The inhabitants of this island will probably tide over their difficulties without further assistance.