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## THE SEWARD TORNADO

Terrible Blow Dealt Prosperous Eastern Nebraska Town by Disastrous Tornado Which Destroys 28 Homes and Kills Eight People

## HERALD MAN THERE

cannon were loosed at once and in fortunate. The sight that met their less time than it takes to tell it, a eyes in the northern part of town was disastrous tornado struck the town of Seward at ten minutes to six o'clock Wednesday night of last week, killing 8, wounding many more, and destroying a total of 22 homes which were in the path of the tor-

The Herald reporter, who was in eastern Nebraska, was advised to go the scene and learn at first hand of the results of the storm for the information of Herald readers. spent part of Saturday and all day Sunday on the ground, securing large number of pictures, two which are shown herewith. Many others, including a panorama four feet long, are now on exhibition in the window of the Holsten drug store, together with a collection of interesting relics gathered by the re-He was shown every courtesy by the officials in charge, particular attention being given him by Mr. Berry, chief of police, who es-corted him through the devasted district and gave him much desira-ble information. Over 3,000 people visited the scene on Sunday, coming on trains and by automobile. Great crowds were also there on Thursday Friday and Saturday.

Beginning of the Storm The storm bit the city near the fair grounds park, and sweeping in a northeasterly direction, tore a path, from one to two blocks wide. From here it tore across country in the direction of Germantown, northeast of

The storm struck the fair grounds, northwest of town, where it did minor It then followed the line of the Northwestern tracks through the north edge of the city, finally veering off toward the northeast as it trailed out of the city limits.

Approximately one-fifth of the town a huge list of barns and other outbuildings was added to the toll of property ruined by the wind's fury.

It was shortly after 5 o'clock that the big storm clouds formed in the the clouds appeared more ominous, and twenty minutes later the storm was sweeping on its course through the roads. the town. Had it come half an hour or an hour later it would have claimed a greater toll than it did.

## Rushed to Cellar.

Many people saw the tornado coming and rushed to cellars. Others had no time to fice before the storm city squarely. was upon them.

dertakers from Lincoln to help the lo showed that no more injured persons scene of the accident, working in the ers were bearing their losses as optimto be accounted for.

Had the storm struck a little further swept through a portion more thinly other business men, took a hurried settled than the remainder of the curvey of the damage wearsh by the loss of His down.

## Only One Fire Started.

barns and outbuildings. Only one fire of the homeless, started in the path of the storm. that being at the residence of K. C. Framp ton. It was quickly extinguished by neighbors, however, without the aid of the fire department. A fire in the kitchen stove where supper was cooking ignited a bundle of papers in the kitchen. The fire spread rapidly to the wreckage roundabout but was discovered by people who were starting out to aid in relief work.

The storm was heard approaching for a considerable time. Darkness fell and the usual rearing accompany juries. ing a tornado gave many people warn ing to go to their cellars or tornado caves. Many lives were saved in this

The storm was of short duration about the head and body, Then followed a scene of great excitement. The pro-le rushed from the vere injuries. main part of the town to give against Mis. E. C. Holland, slight

With a roar as though a thousand | ance to those who had been more uneyes in the northern part of town was terrible. Houses were wrecked, trees were uprooted or depuded of leaves Many houses not in the direct path of the storm were injured. Some of them lost roofs and projections.

The cloud had the usual cyclonic appearance, accompanied by the roar which made known its nature. The fact that a large number took refuge in cellars and caves accounts for the comparatively small number of fatal. ties. Near the fair grounds park and the Northwestern railroad is located the Scholz home, where two members of the family lost their lives. This is in a block, however, with more fury jury is concerned he would go unwhere the cloud seems to have first than ever. dipped and close observers say that it raised and lowered in its mad passage up the little valley.

Guatav Scholz and family started for the cave, but were struck before getting far. Mr. Scholz was found with his head crushed and a sevenyear-old daughter dead from flying

Cloud Was Umbrella Shaped. Those who watched the storm describe it as umbrella shaped and white in color. A roaring noise accompanied its approach and many of the townpeople took refuge in cellars and going into the cellar. caves. This safeguard was the means of saving the lives of most who re-

sided in its path who were not killed. Trees were uprocted and those left standing were stripped bare or twisted out by the roots,

Property Damage Over \$100,000.

The property damage was estimated at varying figures, but by conservative two houses were totally wreched and stroyed and a like number were made upper part of the one Mr. Ost had untenantable through the ravages of hold of was blown away. the storm. Between forty and fifty persons were said to be homeless.

The storm made a clean sweep of everything in its path. Houses, furniture, clothes, stoves, books, fences, west. Many people hurried home, but lawn swings, chicken coops, telephone others pronounced the clouds harm- and electric light wires were brushed less and did not make any prepara- aside, hurled, dashed and scattered in tions for a storm. At 5:30, however, every direction. Great trees were torn out by their roots or were broken off and strewn over the sidewalks and

> No more dead have been reported, although the ruins have been thoroughly searched. The injured are all being cared for and it is not believed that more fatalities will result.

The fact that so much of the city escaped the storm has been a great thought nothing of the dark clouds factor in enabling the city to care for which came rolling up and were at its own relief work rapidly. All of the supper when the twister hit. Crashing destitute were at once taken into the through houses and tearing up trees homes of neighbors and there is nothit swept through the city and those ing like the suffering which would who had not been watching the clouds have followed had the storm hit the

The day's reports of the patrols, All the doctors in the city have been who have been in the district continu busy and a call was sent out for un ally since an hour after the storm, cal men take care of the bodies. Prac. had been reported, no pilfering had tically the entire population is on the been indulged in and that all sufferwreckage. A number of people are yet istically as could be expected under such trying circumstances.

Mayor Calder, seconded by President south it would have crashed through Miller of the commercial club, Sheriff the heart of the city. As it was, it Gillan, W. H. Smith and a number of town. This will probably hold the storm and then announced that they would endeavor to bear their burden alone. Cleaning-up squads were

> The Dead Mrs. Edward Edmonds, aged 70. Mrs. Wm. Hassinger, aged 70. Gustav Scholz, aged 30. Elma Scholz, aged 3 Samuel Crim, aged 45. Mrs. David Imley, aged 64. Mrs. C. L. Wasserman, aged 25. Mrs. David Hoover, aged 60.

The Injured John Fike, arm and ribs broken and scalp wound. Mrs. John Fike, two ribs broken.

Victor Wasserman, arm broken in we places and flesh wounds. Mrs. Gustav Scholz and two children, not sericus.

Fritz Steinbeck, serious lajeries Mrs. Steinbeck and daughter, se

## Mrs. Libby Haynes, serious. Mrs. Chas. Fredrick and son. Mrs. Aug. Ludwig.

Members of Box Butte County Grand Jury Give Herald Signed Statement for Publication

course to be demolished were those just east of the north entrance to the fair grounds. From there it proceeded northeast, mowing a path through the town about a block wide to a point just north of the college. The roof of one building of the college was torn off.
Fortunately only a portion of the section visited was compactly built lowing statement for us

up, there being a stretch thru what s known as the Spear tract and the immediate vicinity, with only a few houses, but these were practically brought before the jury will all demolished. The storm missed the business part of town by about five blocks, passing to the north of further stated as follows:

J. R. Taylor and wife, not serious The storm came from the southwest and the first houses in its

Among the homes demolished, or occupied by the following persons: would leave unpresented no person, Mrs. David Imlay, John Ficke, Fritz which means not indicted, from fear, Steinbeck, Mrs. Edward Edmunds, favor or affection or reward or hope Steinbeck, Mrs. Edward Edmunds, Gustav Scholz, Oscar Kroeger, C. L. Wasserman, Fred Kaufman, Jacob Imig, David Hoover, Henry Creighton, C. H. Wullenwaber, Henry Floard, Chris Rohlfsmeier, Wm. Hassinger, Mrs. Mary Spear, E. C. Holland, Miss Lucy Bayles, Henry Rohlfs grand jury in a case against some meter. See Crim. Aug. Ludwig, Chas.

C. H. Kroeger's home was in the and otherwise, the evidence of ser-path of the storm, but it must have lous crime on his part was evidently

At the fair grounds several buildings were demolished and the trees broken off.

car Kroeger's family was saved by going into their cellar, while a number of others in the neighborhood who did not do so were killed. Henry Figard's family was also saved in the grand jury commenced when the this manner. Mr. Figard lives in the old John Woods brick house and it was demolished. The family had to be dug out of the cellar.

Mrs. Mary Spear had a narrow es

cape. Her house was completely destroyed, but she saved herself by Storm clouds had hovered in the

southwest most of the afternoon. They suddenly approached about 5:30 when the town was struck it was accompanied by a terrific downpour of rain. There was alsoo some hail, and many persons up town sup-posed that the terrific roar was occasioned by a disastrous hall storm. news down town of the disaster. business men it was believed that it their way home, but were caught in would total higher than \$100,000. Twen-the midst of the storm. They each charges made by Judge Westover [5] ty-two bouses were completely de-grabbed a tree and held on, but the

Sheriff Gillan took charge of affairs in the stricken district. Members of the fire department were sworn in as deputies and patrolled the grounds during the night.

West of town a great deal of damage was done, but no lives are ported lost. Leonard Hallstein's farm buildings, on the old Fuller place, were demolished, but the famly excapde. The out-buildings on the farm of Frank Tipton, Jr., were wrecked, but the injuries to the house were not serious.

## Wasserman Boy Badly Hurt

The Herald reporter talked with Wm. Wasserman and his little son, the latter having been carried across the street with who was instantly killed. The little fellow stated that when they heard the storm coming his mother called to him and said, "Victor, come quick, there is a cyclone coming." When the storm struck the house she said, "God help us." Mrs. Wasserman had called up her husband, who is a jeweler, over the phone about two minutes before the storm struck. The boy was taken to the hospital and the doctors fixed him up as well as possible. He was a mass of bruises from head to foot and his left arm was broken. The doctors stated that when brought to the hospital his eyes were packed etery full of plaster and lime.

## Emley's Mother Killed

E. R. Emley, whose mother was in town. His mother and cousin John W. Guthrie will be in charge morning and continu J. with hear. introduced as evidence, signed were in the house. His mother was of the music, which will be furnishing; every evening, until eleven of Dr. Bellwood and acknowledging killed and his cousin had her arm ed by a double mixed quartet. broken and was badly hurt. His cousin was carried by the storm a dis-Twenty-two houses were totally de planned and activities were under way tance of five rods and the body of Decoration Day. All Spanish War state, and Attorneys Boyd, Barker the defense. Henry Combs, who stroyed by the storm and numberless all day in connection with the housing his mother was carried twice that Veterans and old soldiers are exdistance. A receipt which he had in a trunk in the house was found a distance of eight miles away.

## Did Not Sound Like Train

Mrs. J. F. Metz, who was in the path of the storm said that she did not think it sounded like a train but that it sounded like the storm was lifting houses and trees and crashing them to the ground. She stated that the tail of the tornado swept back and forth like the tail of cow or the trunk of an elephant. She did not have any recollection of Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, slight in what happened after the storm hit

## Mrs. Hoover Killed

Mrs. Hoover, who was killed, had a large etick drien through her neck and was rolled into a ball. Her shoes and nearly all of her clothes tern off.

(Continued on page 4, 5th column.)

Alliance, Nebr., May 22, 1913. To The Alliance Herald: On April 3rd you published a state ment given you by District Judge W. H. Westover and we, the under-signed members of the grand jury and officials of Box Butte County, ask that you kindly publish the fol-

Judge Westover, in his statement, charged that the grand jury was packed and that there was evidence brought before the jury which should have caused the indictment of parties who were charged with felonies. He

"This jury took an oath that they would indict no person through hat practically so, were those owned or red or ill-will, and also that they meter, Sam Crim, Aug. Ludwig, Chas. man for stealing a three dollar pig Fredrick, J. R. Taylor. or a call worth ten dollars, the par-Fredrick, J. R. Taylor.

These houses were all in the main path of the storm, while many others on each side were badly wrecking prominent socially, professionally, raised over it, descending again with- disregarded, and as far as this grand whipped. I want to say that in more than seventeen years on the bench in this district, I have never witnessed or seen more evidence of corrup-Many people took refuge in cel-lars and thus saved their lives. Osgrand jury or any other jury for that matter, than I have witnessed

during the past week."

Judge Westover also charged sixty names were furnished to the clerk of the court by the county commissioners and was continued down to the impanelling of the jury. We, the members of the grand jury above mentioned and officials of Box Butte County, who were included in the charges made by Judge Westover, firmly and honestly believe that the dismissal by Justice Zurn of the charges brought against Dr. C. E. Slagle, after a fair and impartial hearing in open court, lasting three days and three nights, is a vindication of our motives and that the fact that Justice Zura did not consider the evidence presented by the county attor-Elmer Rousselle brought the first new for the state as sufficient to were without foundation.

Signed by J. A. Hunter, Foreman Hallie Hagerman. Oscar Braman. E L. Bishop. J. L. Nicolal Sam Trenkle Walt Langford L. E. Cox. W. D. Zediker. Elmer Vaughn.

John Linzen.

### Ed Henry. **Decoration Day Exercises**

Big Preparations Being Made for the Occasion

Decoration Day Exercises will be band will play on the street before of the said H. H. Bellwood, going to the cemetery. Arrange to the amount and value of \$600.00, ments have been made for autos to and afterwards, then and there run to and from the cemetery to without the consent of the said H. carry those who go out at a reason. H. Bellwood, feloniously embezzle the leaving at one-thirty o'clock.

ing to hear. Three o'clock has said H. H. Bellwood feloniously steal evidence been set as the time for the begin- take and carry away, contrary to ning of services at Greenwood cem- the form of the Statute in such a Slagle leaving town.

talk at each grave and the band of the state of Nebraska. will render appropriate music as The hearing before Ju je Zurn,

raugested to close after 12:30 on tro, county attorney, represented the ovan were called as witnesses for pected to attend the ceremonies.

## Notices

LADIES AID

Aid will be held in the parlor of the over gave a statement to The Her. You credit all right, I will keep it Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, aid for publication at the close of in my hand until I get to the office."

May 28th. All members are urged the last term of district court which He stated that Dr. Deliwood turned to be present.

MOTHERS MEETING The Mothers' Meeting will be led by Mrs. Cornu on Thursday, May 29, at the home of Mrs. Dr. Bowman, who will be the hostess.

Work in the Master Mason's de gree will be given at 7:30 o'closk Friday evening, May 23rd. H. H. Hewitt, Worshipful Master, L. H. Mosher, Secretary.

## Jurors Make Statement SLAGLE IS VINDICATED

Judge Gregory Zurn Dismisses Charge of Embezzlement Brought Against Dr. C. E. Slagle. Hearing Lasted Three Days and Nights

## BIG CROWDS ATTEND

Pandemonium reigned for nearly later to \$125 per month. five minutes in the crowded officers were unable to quiet the court room for their homes.

Dr. Slagle was taken into custody about two weeks ago and his bond the day book and that there placed at \$1,000. Following is a copy of the complaint which was filed in

The complaint and information of Eugene Burton, County Attorney of the county aforesaid, made in the name of the State of Nebraska, be-fore me, the Justice of the Peace, within and for said county, this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1913, who being duly sworn on his oath, says that Charles E. Slagle late of the county aforesaid, on and between the 1st day of May 1910 and 1st day of February 1912, in the county of Butte and state of Nebraska aforesaid, then and there being an agent and employee of H. H. Bellwood, as Assistant Physician and Surgeon, and not within the age of eighteen years and not an apprentice, did then and there by virtue of his employment as such agent and Assistant Physician and Surgeon, have under his care, of the property of said H. H. Bellwood, money to the amount and value of \$2500, and afterwards, then and there, without the coasent of the said H. H. Bellwood, teleniously

bind over the said Dr. C. E. Slagle to embezzie the same, and fraudulently A. E. Ost and John Martz were on the District Court of Box Butte Co- and feloniously convert the same to h's wn use; and to the said Chas. E. Slazle, did then and there in manthe peace and dignity of the people brought in.

### of the state of Nebraska. SECOND COUNT

And the said Eugene Burton, Co. aforesaid complains:

That Charles E. Slagle, late of the Dwyer. county of Box Butte and state of day of February 1912, in the county aforesaid, then and there being the Agent and Employee of H. H. Bellwood, in the capacity of a Special-Owing to the recent quarantine it said Charles E. Slagle did then and glso called.

All places of business have been brought for both sides. Eugene Bur-The cart room was filled during the ea it hearing, and this case has ter by his testimony. He acknowl-probably attracted more attention edged that he had owed a bill of han any case brought in this county for many years, an investigation Bellwood one day while standing in Dis.ric' Judge Westover that the had asked Dr. Bellwood to be sure grand jury did not do its du y in not to give him credit for it, that A business meeting of the Ladies bringing an indictment. Judge Westwas published at that time.

## Dr. Oliver McEuen

ford, who testified that he had paid Stuckey were also called as witness-Dr. Slagle \$97 which Dr. Bellwood es for the defense. claimed was not properly entered on the books.

D. H. H. Bellwood Dr. Bellwood occupied the stand had a verbal contract with Dr. Bellas a witness a large portion of the hearing. He testified that Dr. Sla-

"Dr. Slagle, I find you not guilty." him in August, 1906, at a salary of With these words Judge Gregory \$100 per month and that the agree-Zurn dismissed the charge of emment was for three months. At the bezzlement brought by Dr. H. H. end of that time Dr. Slagle's salary bezzlement brought by Dr. H. H. end of that time Dr. Slagle's salary Bellwood against Dr. Chas. E. Slagle. was raised to \$105 per month and court was pleased with Dr. Slagle's servicroom, which was packed to the lim- es and that he allowed Dr. Slagle it, in spite of the fact that it was to make his own entries on the eleven o'clock last night. Cheer at books for payments on account and ter cheer broke forth from the for services rendered to patints. friends of Dr. Slagle, who has main-tained ever since the charges were Slagle shortly before Dr. Slagle went brought that he was not guilty of in-tent to defraud Dr. Bellwood. The early in 1912 and that he secured an auditor to audit the books while cheering crowd, which quickly left Dr. Slagle was away. He testified that all settlements made with Dr. Single were made on the figures in many entries made on the ledger which were not placed on the day book, thereby defrauding him of these sums. He also stated that he had a contractt wih Dr. Slagle the that he was not to go into business for himself in Alliance

Friends of Dr. Slagle heard while he was in the east studying last year that Dr. Bellwood was taking steps of some kind and advised him to return, which he did at once. On getting in at noon on the train he immediately went to Dr. Bellwood's office. He went into Dr. Bellwood's private office. According to the testimony of Dr. Slagle, Dr. Bell-wood locked the door. This statement Dr. Bellwood denied. Dr. Bellwood said, "Well, you've tried to me quite a package, haven't Dr. Slagle stated that he did not know what was meant and asked Dr. Bellwood what he meant by this. Dr. Bellwood then demanded a settlement, which Dr. Slagle a-greed to give. Testimony on the witness stand showed the a settlement had bever been made between the doctors price to that time.

## Dr. J. M. Willis

Dr. Willie, of Marsland, was callner and form aforesaid, the said mon- was shown that he had paid Dr. Slaey of the amount and value of \$2. gle \$22.50 at two different times but the property of the said that he had told Dr. Slagle, in the H. H. Bellwood feloniously steal, presence of his wife, that it was a take and carry away, contrary to present for him, as he had an agreethe form of the Statute in such a ment with Dr. Bellwood by which no case made and provided and against charge was to be made for patients

Other Wilnesses called for the state were Dr. Peterson, Frank Jesse, Dr. Hirschman, L. F. Smith, Clarence L. Powell, Dr. C. E. Churchill, Attorney aforesaid, who prosecutes Jessie Barge, Fred Blaine, B. F. Gilman, F. T. Helpbringer, Mrz. A. J.

Dr. Bellwood was put on the stand Nebraska, on or about and between to testify as to the handwriting on the 1st day of May, 1910, and the 1st credits and other entries on the ledger. Dr. Hirschman testified that he had assisted Dr. Slagle in surgical cases. It was shown that Dr. under the auspices of the G. A. R. ist in the practice of optometry. Slagic had stated that as each had and the Spanish War Veterans. The have under his care, of the property would make no charge. A H. Wor Slagle had stated that as each had ris was called as a witness. Here the plaintiff rested.

## Witnesses for Defence

Carl Hashman was called as the abe charge. The cars will beein same and fraudulently convert the first witness for the defense. R. M. same to his own use; and so the Hampton and C. A. Newberry were Their testimony she vhas been impossible for those who there, in manner and form aforesaid, ed that Dr. Beliwood had told thom will participate to get together as the said money of the amount and that Slagle would buy him out or nuch as has been desired, however value of \$690.00 of the property of would not start in business here. I. much as has been desired, however value of \$690.00 of the property of would not start in business here. I. the program will be well worth go- the said H. H. Bellwood, from the E. Tash was also called and gave regarding conversations with Dr. Bellwood and regarding Dr.

tery.

Hen. I. E. Tash will give a short the peace and dignity of the peacle that a contract had been drawn up by Attorney Wm. Mitchell, who was casulted by Dr. Bellwood, in which they march from grave to grave, who is Justice of the Peace and Dr. Slagle agreed to leave town and killed, told The Herald reporter he Rev. O. S. Baker will render a police magistrate for the city of Al- lay over a teriain sum of money. A was on his way home from his work short oration at the G. A. R. lot. liance, began at nine thick Monday receipt in full of all accounts was Dr. Bellwood and acknowledging the

Mrs. James Gaddis and M. F. Donand Attorneys Boyd, Barker the defense. Henry Combs, who fense, created a great deal of laugh-\$1.50 and that he had paid it to Dr. by the grand jury and a charge by front of Louis Luft's salcon, that he Bellwood said, "Oh, yes, I and entered the salton, when a man who was standing by him (Combs), whose name he did not remember. The first witness for the state said, "There, your money's gone was Dr. Oliver McEuen, of Heming-now." S. C. Soules and Miss Avis

## Dr. Slagle Testifies

Dr Slagle took the stand in his own defense. He testified that he

gle came from Illinois to work for (Continued on page 5, 5th column.)