

# SEWARD DEVASTATED BY VIOLENT TORNADO

## EIGHT DEAD, MANY INJURED AND GREAT PROPERTY LOSS.

**Over Score of Houses Demolished—Many Victims are Caught in Wreckage—Work of Reconstruction Already Begun—Will Bear Financial Burden Alone—Loss by Fire Fortunately Suppressed.**

Seward, Neb.—Eight people were killed and many injured by a tornado which swept through Seward at supper time Wednesday. The eight dead are all that have been recovered, although the list may be greater than that. Homes were torn up and hurled long distances and the injured will probably be large.

The storm hit 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 here.

The storm struck the fair grounds, northwest of town, where it did minor damage. 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 was in the path of the storm. Twenty-two houses were totally wrecked and a huge list of barns and other out-buildings 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 west. Many people hurried home, but others pronounced the clouds harmless and did not make any preparations for a storm. At 5:30, however, the clouds appeared more ominous, and twenty minutes later the storm was sweeping on its course through the town. Had it come half an hour or an hour later it would have claimed a greater toll than it did.

Seward, Neb.—Awakening to a realization of the catastrophe which pounced upon their city Wednesday evening, Seward people began immediate plans for cleaning up the wind-swept district and for providing shelter for those whose homes were wrecked by the tornado.

Mayor Calder, seconded by President Miller of the commercial club, Sheriff Gillan, W. H. Smith and a number of other business men, took a hurried survey of the damage wrought by the storm and then announced that they would endeavor to bear their burden alone. Cleaning-up squads were planned and activities were under way all day in connection with the housing of the homeless.

The day's reports of the patrols, who have been in the district continually since an hour after the storm, showed that no more injured persons had been reported, no pilfering had been indulged in and that all suffer-

ers were bearing their losses as optimistically as could be expected under such trying circumstances.

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The devastation resulting from Wednesday night's tornado grows as the ruins are carefully surveyed by families and friends of the sufferers. 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 fatalities. Near the fair grounds park and the Northwestern railroad is located

Property Damage Over \$100,000. The property damage was estimated at varying figures, but by conservative business men it was believed that it would total higher than \$100,000. Twenty-two houses were completely destroyed and a like number were made untenable through the ravages of the storm. Between forty and fifty persons were said to be homeless.

covered 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 roaring accompanying a tornado gave many people warning to go to their cellars or tornado caves. Many lives were saved in this way.

The storm was of short duration. Then followed a scene of great excitement. The people rushed from the main part of the town to give assistance to those who had been more unfortunate. The sight that met their eyes in the northern part of town was terrible. Houses were wrecked, trees were uprooted or denuded of leaves. Many houses not in the direct path of the storm were injured. Some of them lost roofs and projections.

Formed West of Sutton, Neb.—The tornado which is reported to have done considerable damage farther east and north of here, seems to have formed almost directly west of Sutton. The clouds accompanying the storm were a very unusual sight and were watched by hundreds of people. When it was west of Sutton, masses of clouds were flying in all directions, sometimes sinking and sometimes rising. Only once, however, was there anything in the form of a funnel observed from town and that was when a great mass of clouds



Wreck of home of Henry Figard. Barn was blown into house, but family escaped serious injury.

seemed to suddenly sink to the ground. For a time the main part of the storm seemed to be coming directly toward town, but later changed its course, going north and seemingly following the Blue river. When the storm had passed to the northeast the funnel of the tornado was plainly visible to many from here, but seemed to be several miles north. Excepting a few gusts there was absolutely no wind in Sutton.

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 town people took refuge in cellars and caves. This safeguard was the means of saving the lives of most who resided in its path who were not killed. Trees were uprooted and those left standing were stripped bare or twisted out by the roots.

Severe Hail at Valparaiso. Valparaiso, Neb.—One of the severest hail and wind storms of the season, accompanied by a heavy downpour of rain, struck Valparaiso and vicinity Wednesday about 5:30. The storm came up from the southwest, accompanied by a terrific roar, and for a little while it was feared that there would be a bad tornado. People took refuge in their cellars and caves. Hail fell so thick that the ground was covered in a short time. There were lots of hail stones an inch in diameter, which did lots of damage to the fruit and beat the gardens down even with the ground. Rain fell in torrents for about fifteen or twenty minutes after the hail.

Red Cross on Ground. Eugene T. Lies, representative of the National Red Cross society, arrived from Omaha at noon Thursday. He chanced to be in Omaha in connection with the relief work there when the news of the Seward disaster reached him. He went over the field and says he is ready to make any recommendation to the Red Cross for relief funds that the case may warrant. Accompanying Mr. Lies were two trained nurses, Miss Florence Clark and Miss Alice Barker.

Buried in Ruins but Escapes. Henry Creighton was lying on a bed in his house when the house went to pieces, the side of the house blowing away and the contents of the room being left intact. Other members of the family in another room were left unharmed on account of the roof lodging in an angular position. A number of the victims were buried in the debris and dug their way out with only slight injuries.

homes of neighbors and there is nothing like the suffering which would have followed had the storm hit the city squarely.

The sheriff has sworn in a large number of deputies, who were at once assigned to duty patrolling the destroyed part of the town to prevent looting. Governor Morehead notified the town officials that he had ordered a company of state militia be held in readiness for service in the event of its presence being required here.

# IN THE LIMELIGHT

## GARRISON WITHOUT MILITARY EXPERIENCE



"Secretary Garrison of the war department has had no experience in military affairs, but that is no reason why he may not turn out to be one of the best secretaries we have had," said a man who was at one time closely associated with the war department.

"When I was a young man I thought the secretary of war should know all about military organization, and all about the munitions of war, but, of course, I know now that executive capacity is what is chiefly needed. If the secretary is a man of insight he soon selects the right sort of advisers.

"Secretary Garrison has been in office nearly two months and he probably knows now enough about details to render him efficient. The late Dan Lamont made an admirable secretary of war and his training had been in the newspaper office. He was managing editor of the Albany Argus when he became secretary to Mr. Cleveland, as governor of New York. Elihu Root made a great secretary of war and he probably had taken less interest in military life than the average citizen. He had constructive ideas and he carried them out in the reorganization of the army."

## KING OF ROUMANIA LONG IN OFFICE

King Charles of Roumania has granted an interesting interview to a representative of the Echo de Paris. Having now reigned forty-seven years, he exercises a personal influence such as no minister can hope to attain. And he was elected by a plebiscite and has not come to the throne by mere heredity, his influence is all the greater. His paternal aunt was a Murat and his maternal aunt was a Beauharnais, thus showing his French connection. And yet King Charles is the head of the house of Hohenzollern and the Emperor William belongs to the junior branch. He is now seventy-five, but still very vigorous. He married Elizabeth, Princess de Wied, forty-four years ago. Elizabeth is the queen who is known in the literary world as Carmen Sylva.



Queen Elizabeth holds that the lot of kings is a hard one, because they cannot resign and are released from their burden only by death. To the representative of the Echo de Paris the king said: "Politics have been the ruin of the Turkish army. People speak of peace, but there are many questions yet to be settled. For instance, there is a war indemnity which interests those countries that are creditors of Turkey. I am in favor of three years' military service. There is going on at this moment in France a very interesting evolution. The law of three years' military service is necessary to build up the army. By hard work soldiers can be formed in two years, but it is too short a period in which to make the best of the material at the country's disposal."

## NEW HEAD OF CORPORATIONS BUREAU



Joseph E. Davies of Madison, Wis., secretary of the Democratic national committee, has declined to be governor general of the Philippines, and has been selected for commissioner of corporations to succeed Luther Conant, Jr.

Mr. Davies was disinclined to take any federal post, but at the solicitation of some of his political advisers, took under consideration the offer to be commissioner of corporations, and called at the executive offices early the other day to signify his acceptance.

Mr. Davies qualifies as an original Wilson man. He was the Wisconsin member of the Democratic national committee, and succeeded in capturing a majority of the Wisconsin delegates to the national convention for Wilson. In fact, long before the Baltimore deadlock ended the delegation was voting as a unit.

## COL. "J. HAM." LEWIS, THE VERSATILE

Now comes Colonel James Hamilton Lewis! Sounds simple on the face of it, but is one of the most bewildering, complicated and scintillant facts of recent political history. Col. James Hamilton Lewis, now United States senator from Illinois, has finally arrived. His coming has been scheduled, forecasted, promised, threatened, prayed for and hoped against. And he has come.



Old Multum in Parvo was the veriest piker alongside of Colonel Lewis—a sort of irreducible minimum, an example of indissoluble simplicity. If you don't believe it, pause and gaze upon the awesome multitude of Lewisian accomplishments. He is an author, lawyer, politician, soldier, self-confessed statesman, traveler, guide, philosopher and friend of various constituencies, law-maker and last, but not least, the exemplar of the last word—aye, even the final shriek—in sartorial adornment. He made Francis Bacon his model in taking all knowledge as his province. He improved upon Lord Brougham in raising versatility to its highest power. And he added to all this an ambush of alleged pink whiskers that would make the average prairie fire hide its diminished head.

Colonel Lewis first saw the light of day in 1866, in the state of Virginia. Later he went to Savannah, Ga. Thence he drifted to the state of Washington. In 1897 the people of that state sent him to the fifty-fifth congress, Illinois in 1908.

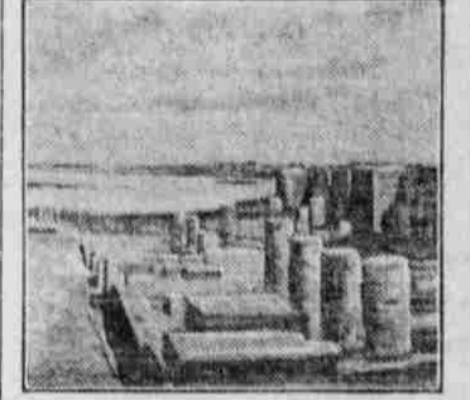
When the time was ripe Colonel Lewis went after the long term senatorship from Illinois, and after a remarkable deadlock got it.

## CEMETERY OF SACRED IBISES

Birds Embalmed in Jars Found in Ancient Egyptian Ruins by Explorers.

Cairo.—During the season's work of the Egypt exploration fund at Abydos the explorers discovered a cemetery of sacred ibises a quarter of a mile from the edge of cultivation and adjoining a human cemetery, both dating from the Roman occupation of Egypt, about 300 A. D.

The cemetery contained about a hundred large earthenware jars, made in most cases of unbaked mud, the mouths of which were closed with large bricks of the same material. The jars themselves were either cylindrical or barrel shaped, the larger ones being built in two or three sections. Each jar contained on an average twenty-five birds. Most of them had been preserved with some bituminous material and then wrapped in several layers of linen bandages, the outer covering being in many cases quite a work of art, accomplished by the skilful use of narrow strips of



Cemetery of Sacred Ibis.

black and brown linen arranged in a wonderful and varied series of patterns, chiefly geometrical in design.

Many of the most carefully bound examples were found to contain not a completed bird, but only a bunch of feathers; others again consisted of a few bones and feathers mixed, and in one case a single egg. The careful preservation of not only complete birds, but of eggs, bones, and even odd feathers is good evidence for supposing that the worship of Thoth and the veneration for the bird, which was sacred to him, still had a strong hold upon the minds and imagination of the people of Egypt, even as late as the Roman period.

## POLICEMAN DRESSED AS GIRL

Has Trouble in Adjusting Finery, but Disguise Deceived Flirting Adorer.

London.—Dressed as a woman, a fresh-complexioned young Wokingham (Berkshire) policeman named Albert Sellwood so completely deceived John Butler, a local painter, that he did not know until after his arrest that he had attempted to flirt with an officer. At Wokingham police court recently Butler was sentenced to two months' hard labor for sending objectionable letters to Miss Bartholomew of Wokingham.

These letters, it was stated in court, asked Miss Bartholomew to meet him outside her home. She did not read the letters, her mother opening them and her father informing the police. To identify the writer and arrest him Superintendent Goddard conceived the idea of dressing Sellwood in clothes belonging to Miss Bartholomew. So disguised, Sellers kept the appointment made for Miss Bartholomew.

Sellwood told in an interview how he played his part. "I dressed as Miss Bartholomew's house. I wore a tight-fitting light brown serge skirt, a white blouse, a dolly varden hat, motor veil, feather box and a long gray ulster. Dressing was not an easy matter. The skirt was rather tight round the waist and the movements of my legs were much restricted. The hat went on easy enough, but I had a little trouble with the blouse.

"Walking down the drive, I found myself tripping through trying to do the regulation 36-inch stride. I soon came down to eighteen inches. I saw Butler standing near the gate and I walked up to him. Then I thought of my voice, which is rather deep. I pitched it as near to the falsetto as I could and said, 'Good evening.' He was delighted to see me, called me 'dearest' and suggested a walk, which we took. He never doubted my identity until he was arrested later."

## WOE FOR NUT IMPORTER

His Shipment Seized as Unfit, and He Is Thrown Into Jail Penniless.

Washington.—These are the tribulations of one importer of chestnuts as displayed by government records: More than a year ago he brought in a consignment upon which he paid \$18 duty. Immediately the department of agriculture seized the shipment as unfit for consumption and ordered it destroyed. It has remained since in private bonded warehouses, where \$42 storage charges have accrued. Comptroller of the Treasury Tracowell decided that the cost of destruction should be paid from the \$18 paid to the government for duty and the \$52 should be a lien on any future importations by the importer. To fill the importer's cup of sorrow, he is in jail and penniless.

## Three Die in Prairie Fire

Selling, Okla.—Rev. John Leslie, his wife and their son were burned to death, when they were overtaken by a prairie fire which swept a large section of Major county. Their bodies were found.