

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION—FOUR PAGES

VOLUME XXVIII

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1909

NUMBER 177

## VERY DESTRUCTIVE WIND STORM

### Sweeps Down Upon This City and Does Much Damage

From Friday's Daily.

The worst storm in the history of Nebraska swept down yesterday afternoon and last night. With a gale blowing not less than fifty miles an hour the storm tore through the state spreading devastation in its wake and causing a loss of thousands of dollars to the inhabitants of this community.

This storm which is unprecedented in the annals of the state swooped down last night and yesterday afternoon. The start was a summer rain storm, the like of which no man has seen since the year One. This storm started with the characteristics of a storm brewing in mid-summer. First, came the lightning, then the thunder and after that the deluge. And for the time of year it was a deluge. It was rain and then rain and after it quit it was rain. Water was everywhere and there was no doubt that there was something doing in J. Pluvius special line.

It was rain and then more rain until night closed down and then came the snow and sleet which continued until gray light of the morning peeked in on everyone who lived in the city.

The storm did widespread damage in the city and reports from the country are more discouraging. Wires are down in every direction and there is no chance of communication being restored in several days.

The morning papers report communication between points east and west paralyzed and trains on all roads are moving principally by phone communication. From every direction comes reports of trains being late and little likelihood of anyone getting where they started for on schedule time.

The storm seems to be worse both east and west of the city. From the east comes the report that the trains from that section are badly delayed by the wind and snow and from the west the trains are indefinitely late. The train service is doing all that can be done to get trains through on time but without success.

There is reported a heavy snow from McCook west and the trains from that section bear out the report.

There is an estimated snowfall of six inches all over the western part of the state and Colorado. This means a tremendous amount of moisture distributed over the arid regions of the middle west and excellent crops.

While the damage in the city is much it amounts to nothing as compared to the floods of other years. They swept away the fruits of years while the blizzard can take no more than stands in front of it.

In the city the damage done was tremendous. It would take many pages to calculate the damage done by the storm.

Fences were overthrown, out-houses were toppled over and there was no end to the many strange things which took place in the night.

In the city the damage is not as great as many imagine. There are many windows blown in and in many cases great damage has resulted to stocks of goods. Taken as a general rule, however, the total loss from the storm will not approximate as much as generally supposed.

The force of the storm hit the city between three and four o'clock in the morning, at an hour when everyone was in bed and asleep. It was of the tornado variety, swirling and twisting about and searching out the corners of the city. In the outskirts of the city it played much havoc, reports from every quarter coming in of damage to outbuildings and small houses. Everywhere reports say the wind was of great violence and there was great loss to property.

In the country the loss was principally windmills and like fixtures. From reports it can be estimated that at least ten thousand dollars damage was done in the farming communities adjacent to the city. Trees were blown over and in many cases they were uprooted and scattered to the four winds. The fury of the storm seemed centered in the trees and shrubbery of the smiling lands which lay so close to the city. The

many fine orchards and groves which everyone compliments Cass County upon are great losers because they have not the same splendid growth they had one day ago.

This has all been blasted by the winter's storm. From every point comes news of great destruction of field products and a setback to industry in this vicinity of one hundred per cent.

The truth is the storm has crippled the business of the community a great deal. The loss to Plattsmouth people taken as a whole, has been almost as great as a flood would have been.

On the avenues the damage was not so great except on Washington avenue where the storm swept down in unrestrained fury. Trees were snapped off like reeds and houses were literally pillaged of their contents. This was the result of the wiles of the winds. Windows were blown in no matter where they were as old Boreas is no respecter of persons and he simply did what he intended to do when he swept down on the city.

The fine residence of F. G. Egenberger was struck by the storm's blast and the windows on the north side blown out resulting in a loss of several hundred dollars.

At the second ward school house the damage consisted in blowing down the fence and demolishing the chimney and other small losses while there are numerous reports of other chimneys being destroyed by the fury of the winds.

The third ward was in line with the others and reported that out-houses and small buildings were turned over and in this way much damage was done. A number of persons reported chimneys down and in many cases real damage to their property.

The First and Fourth wards seem to have fared alike as both suffered more or less in the devastation. In the First there were any number of trees leveled to the ground by the wind and chimneys galore were scattered far and wide. The Fourth ward added its share in the fact that while many residences were more or less damaged the Burlington shops were in even worse shape and suffered a loss of many hundreds of dollars by reason of losing smoke stacks and the like.

In the Fifth ward reports indicate that the principal damage was on account of falling limbs from trees and like accidents.

On Main street the damage was not so great although it was the occasion of some excitement at times. The new Burlington undergrade crossing which has been in progress of construction for some time got its initial bath and it did well, carrying the water off in good shape. In addition the men employed did their share and the water which poured down Main street in a torrent, was cleverly diverted into the open sluiceway and allowed to drain out to the Missouri. This resulted in saving the new pavement undoubtedly and was in itself a saving to the city.

Up the street there was evidence of some damage at different places. At D. P. Jackson's furniture store the show window was blown out and he suffered a severe loss by reason of the water and rain which came in on him. It is figured that his loss will amount to several hundred dollars.

J. E. McDaniel suffered a loss of several dollars also in the blowing in of his storm doors. While this did not seriously inconvenience him, it meant a property loss which he regretted.

Continuing up Main street the Journal got its. Owing to the storm Frank H. Smith, one of the compositors, decided to stay in the office for the night and with this end in view, he retired. In the early morning, the storm broke in its full fury and destroyed the transom over the Main street door, causing a panic to Mr. Smith who thought of Reggio and Messina and figured out that the world was about all in. He discovered soon where the real trouble laid and hurried out for help, securing Dick Osborn who came across the

street and assisted him in patching up the big window.

In the Rockwood block or Masonic hall as it is better known, the storm blew out a window and the same was true of the Nebraska Telephone Company which lost a window in the shuffle.

The worst damage suffered was that of the Nebraska Lighting Company which had a dynamo burned out yesterday afternoon. It is figured that the cost of replacing the machine will amount to several hundred dollars. At the time of the accident, Supt. Clabaugh who was looking after the work, was busy in another room and he failed to hear the warning noise of the machine when it began to make trouble. The first intimation of trouble the men knew was a great ball of fire over the dynamo. According to those who saw the display the ball of fire was some six feet across. It was of a bright blue color and from this fact, it is thought that the trouble did not start from lightning but from a short circuit. In any event the figures given by the electric light authorities are that it will cost at least fifteen hundred dollars to replace the machine.

Another heavy loss is the Parmelee Theater which sustains a loss of several hundred dollars by the destruction of the roof of the building. When it tore loose last night it aroused all the boarders and transients at the Hotel Riley who verily believed that the end of the world was at hand. The rattling of the roof and the noise of the wind coupled with the sweep of the storm at the unearthly hour of the morning, all served to make the guests uneasy to say the least. They fled pell-mell into the halls and corridors and for several hours the greatest difficulty was experienced by Landlord Dunbar and his force in handling the panic-stricken guests. The whole trouble came up on account of the flying timbers and tin from the theater roof.

There was a number of other heavy losses reported which have not yet been verified, and for that reason no mention of names is made, but it can be stated in all confidence that the storm was the worst in the history of the city for a winter storm.

Throughout the state the storm seems to be to have been very severe and there is no indication of the total amount of the damage done. The storm throughout the state was much as it was in this city. Starting with rain it changed to snow and sleet and soon put the wires out of business.

In addition to the severe losses mentioned above the Masonic Home lost a large portion of the roof from the main building and the property loss will be several thousand dollars. Later and additional reports from Omaha indicate that the severity of the storm cannot be estimated. There is no communication west of Omaha and nothing working between Omaha and Chicago and Kansas City.

In Omaha telegraphic dispatches tell of more than one hundred plate glass fronts being blown out while Nebraska City reports seven big windows being destroyed. The only wire operating out of Omaha is that of the Plattsmouth Stock and Grain Company which has a private wire to Omaha and Nebraska City. From Mr. Frank Gobelman, the manager, it is learned that there is no communication between Omaha and Kansas City and nothing between Omaha and Chicago.

#### Returns From Maine.

William H. Miller returned this morning from his trip to Westbrook, Me., where he was called by the serious illness of his brother Noah. Mr. Miller had many novel experiences during his brief visit in the Pine Tree state. He visited several of the larger cities in the state and found them to be far behind the times so far as progress in concerned. During his trip Mr. Miller states that he saw more drunken men on the streets of prohibition cities than he ever saw in Nebraska and in addition there is no sign of progress in the cities, the sidewalks being worn out and dilapidated and in fact everything in poor shape.

Mr. Miller stated that his opinion of the people who come here and delivers talks about the virtue of prohibition don't sound right to him and he is firmly of the opinion that that they are hypocrites and "Hars" to use his exact language. He was thoroughly disgusted with the workings of Prohibition and comes back stronger than ever for a free country.

Mrs. Jack Dorothy of Omaha is spending several days in the city, the guest of Wm. Hirschman and wife.

#### Moves to Elmwood.

On Tuesday J. T. Liston loaded his household goods and sent them to Elmwood where he has been stationed as agent for the Missouri Pacific railroad.

Mr. Liston has been agent here for the past four years and he and his family have made many friends who are sorry to see them go, yet all are glad to see him get a better paying position and sent to a larger town. Mr. Liston is a good trustworthy man and one that tends to his business.

On Tuesday evening the Royal Neighbors gathered at the home of Mrs. R. B. Morgan and gave Mrs. Liston a surprise farewell party. This was a grand success as she never once thought of such a thing. Mrs. Liston is an honored member of this lodge and Mr. Liston is a member of the M. W. A.

The ladies spent the evening in social visiting and having a general good time and when it came time to serve lunch they phoned for the men who had been placed under the care of Frank Clements, to come over as they were ready for them. When there is a chance for anything to eat the men never refuse. There was a delicious two course luncheon served by the ladies to which all did full justice. The crowd stayed until a late hour and although the evening was greatly enjoyed by all there was a shadow of sorrow for all were filled with regret to think that they were to lose two of their best members.

Mrs. Liston and children left Wednesday morning, quite a crowd gathered at the depot to see them off the school children came down to bid farewell to the little girls.

This estimable family will be greatly missed by all, yet we are glad they are not going so far away but that they can come up and see us once in a while. We feel that what is our loss is Elmwood's gain.—Eagle Beacon.

#### One on Hyers.

A humorous story has filtered out in connection with the dissolution of the partnership that has long existed between A. A. Hyers and James Biddlecom. Recently a sheriff's sale notice appeared in one of the Lincoln papers, announcing the approaching sale of two Havelock lots, situated in the southern part of the city, by Sheriff Hoagland. The "ad" was seen by both these crafty real estate men and each secretly resolved to possess himself of these lots without the knowledge of the other member of the firm. On the day of the sale "Gus" betook himself to Lincoln, where he intended to secure the lots as low as possible, setting the mark at about \$200. "Jim" however, dallied around the telephone until Gus was beyond ear shot when he called up Deputy Sheriff Dawson and authorized a bid of \$450 in case other bidders forced the price to that figure. The sale opened and Hyers began to bid and each time Dawson would say that he was authorized to bid \$25 at a jump. Finally, Gus said: "Dawson, who the deuce is bidding against me?" and when informed that it was his partner, Biddlecom, the atmosphere became so warm the woodwork of the court house was threatened by spontaneous combustion. When Hyers got back to Havelock he was mad through and through and notified Biddlecom to gather together his six feet and a half of slender anatomy and vamoose. Jim did as requested, and this, it is said, is the cause leading to the dissolution of a partnership that has lasted so long and lovingly. Biddlecom is now erecting a new office in the east part of the town.

#### Mrs. Hesse Breaks Ankle.

This morning Mrs. Aug. Hesse suffered a severe fall on an icy sidewalk, occasioned by slipping on the icy walk. Mrs. Hesse, who is the mother of Henry Hesse, who has been having a sad experience at the hospital in Omaha recently, was up at the hen house and in coming back to the house she slipped and fell breaking her right ankle. While the injury is serious it is not necessarily dangerous and Mrs. Hesse's many friends hope to soon see her out and about.

George Murray who has been spending several days in the city with his mother Mrs. John Murray, departed this noon of the fast mail train for Stanton, Neb., where he has been working for Albert Frickler another Cass County boy. George had a very enjoyable visit during his brief stay in the city.

Mrs. Mark White came up today from her home near Rock Bluffs to look after business matters.

## TO HOLD MASS CONVENTION

### Farmers of Nebraska Winter Wheat Belt to Meet

As a result of a number of conferences, participated in by many farmers of the winter wheat belt, it was decided to call a mass meeting at Hastings, Neb., and invite the farmers of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and eastern Colorado, to unite in a co-operative movement with a view to establishing and maintaining a better system of marketing than that which has prevailed in the past. To this end the undersigned committee was appointed and instructed to make all necessary arrangements and advertise the meeting. We, your committee, realizing that the public press is the farmers' friend, have decided to ask the newspapers within the territory embraced, to assist us in giving publicity to this convention. Without the generous aid of all the press we can accomplish but little. The paper in which this notice appears has agreed to publish and send a copy containing the same to every other newspaper in Nebraska with a request to copy and republish it. Representatives in Oklahoma and Kansas have been instructed to appeal to the press of their respective states in the same way. It goes without saying, that the farmers interested in this movement will appreciate whatever may be done. We think it is time the farmer should have a word to say about the price of what he has produced. If the laws of supply and demand were allowed to operate without being interfered with, no one would have just cause to complain. But it is a firm belief of many that the interests of gamblers on the board of trade have much to do with the fluctuations which occur in the prices of farm products.

This is not right and would not be so if the farmers were organized so that they could market their products gradually, just as the consumers' demand calls for them. Farmers are getting fair prices now. But how often have we seen it this way when without an apparent cause prices would break all to pieces? Gamblers can not always control prices but they are organized in such a way that they can do entirely too much in that direction. The only way in which the farmers can protect themselves is through organization and a harmonious system of co-operation. Farmers' elevator companies and farmers' shipping as-

sociations are doing an immense amount of good. But they could do much more good if they could combine with regard to the final selling end of the line also.

But all these matters will be fully and ably discussed at this convention and you will be free to join in the discussion if you attend. Farmers, you have made it possible for others to combine and become fabulously rich! Why should you not take a little time off and spend a few dollars combining for your own welfare? If you don't look after your own interests no one else will. Hastings and the farmers of Adams county will be glad to meet you at the court house, February 11, 12 and 13, and show you a good time. Come the first day. Some of the most important business of the convention will be transacted in the forenoon of that day, and at one o'clock in the afternoon the mayor of Hastings, Hon. C. J. Miles, who is always a happy speaker, will deliver a cordial address of welcome. Some of the most prominent men who have consented to be present throughout the convention are Theo. G. Nelson, of North Dakota, president of the National Grain Growers' Association; J. C. Davis of Wisconsin, national director and lecturer of the American society of Equity; H. E. Holmes of Kentucky, general salesman for the Tobacco Growers' Union of America. Mr. Holmes will probably tell something about the night riders and is in a position to give us the real facts about them; J. S. Canady of Minden, one of the best informed men in Nebraska on the subject of farmers' elevators, will be an active figure in the gathering.

We deferred this notice until the time should be close up to the convention date so the matter will be fresh in your minds. Remember the dates, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 11, 12 and 13 and let nothing stand in the way of your taking a step in which the business world will applaud as wise and your own conscience will approve as just.

Yours respectfully,

J. S. Canady.  
W. N. Thompson.  
E. P. Hubbard,  
T. R. Varah.  
A. W. Vreeland.  
G. A. Wheeler, Pres.  
A. C. Tompkins, Sec.

#### Smooth Lodge.

From Saturday's Daily.

Yesterday afternoon two tramps invaded the clothing store of Westcott's Sons and while one of them engaged E. H. Westcott in conversation at the rear of the store while looking over the stock, the other secreted four pairs of the most expensive trousers in the store under his coat. Mr. Westcott was watching the proceedings although he was not observed and when the men started to leave the store, he quietly stopped the one with the trousers and searched him discovering the pants under his coat. He summoned the authorities who at once placed the men under arrest, taking them to jail. County Attorney Ramsey was consulted and a complaint will be filed against them charging one with grand larceny, Mr. Westcott placing the value of the stolen property at thirty-six dollars. A complaint will no doubt be filed the fore part of the week.

#### No Wonder it Stormed.

Within a year Grand Islanders will know how it feels to walk upon paved streets.

A broom maker stole another man's wife and pocket book, and made good his getaway. Evidently he believed in making a clean sweep.

A noted scientist says that in the future battles will be fought in the air. There are many battles now being fought with hot air.

Mayor Miles captured the state poultry show for next year. It goes without showing that Hastings was "laying" for that convention.

That Aurora editor who thinks flirting is all right, because it gets people in the habit of going to church is apt to have much to answer for before he fully realizes where he is "at.—Hastings Tribune.

#### Big Success in New York.

Two of the leading papers of New York City announce that Miss Alice Dovey scores a decided success in the big eastern city, where but few professionals escape severe criticism from the press as well as the patrons of the various leading theaters. In their mention of the "Stubborn Cindrella" the New York American says that Miss Alice Dovey was an "individual success," and the Sun critic says that she was the one bright and shining spot in the play. The balance of the company received a severe "roasting" from both papers. The company being a western one, they have feared receiving just what came when they appeared in New York. Plattsmouth people should feel justly proud of the little lady from home, receiving the only praising mention of the entire company.

#### Good Citizen Makes Visit.

Monday morning Frank Gustin of Elmwood, who is one of the regular panel of jurors, dropped into the Journal office and added his name to the list of his subscribers at the hustling west end town. This was done without needing the inducement of premiums or anything save the merits of the paper. Mr. Gustin is one of the prominent citizens of the west end, a man of high standing and excellent character in his home community and one who enjoys the friendship and esteem of everyone who knows him. He has been chafing somewhat over having to spend his time on the jury as he has farming interests requiring his early attention but he has not yet been able to convince Judge Travis that he ought to be released.

Simon Clark, wife and daughter spent Sunday in Omaha visiting with relatives, returning in the evening.