

EIGHT KILLED, TWENTY INJURED IN SEWARD STORM

(Continued from Page One.)

been planting a small patch of corn and was returning to the house when the storm struck him. When he was killed his horses ran away and one of them came strolling down town shortly after the storm had passed.

Mother Saves Children. Mrs. August Schultz, whose husband and 4-year-old daughter were killed, snatched her two small children, Eleanor, aged 2 months, and August, aged 2 years, one under each arm. The boy was torn from her grasp in the fury of the storm, but she clung heroically to the baby girl. The mother and baby were both somewhat burned and scalded in the kitchen, while the boy received a broken arm and a hip wound.

All the dead bodies were readily recovered within a few minutes when rescuers got upon the ground. The body of Mrs. David Hoover was hardest to find. The ruins of her home were searched to no avail. She was finally uncovered from beneath a pile of timbers and rubbish heaped upon a woven wire fence, nearly a block away from her home.

The body of Mrs. William Haslinger was mutilated. The right side of her face was practically gone and all her limbs were broken. The body of August Schultz was found with many burns, especially about the face and head.

Faded to Reach Caves. Both Samuel Crim and R. Imlay had storm caves prepared, but did not have time to get into them. Mrs. Imlay was killed and a niece was injured.

L. E. Ost of the Burlington railroad, and John Martz, superintendent of the city light and water plant, were walking home together when the storm caught them. They were less than a hundred feet from where Mrs. Wasserman was killed. Each selected a stout tree and clung to the trunks. Ost's tree was broken off, but he clung to the stump. Martz's tree held firm. Both men escaped injury.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Figard sought their basement. They took their two small children with them. The barn was hurled upon the house and the two buildings crushed in a heap together. The family escaped with a slight injury to one of the children.

Two cows were found standing where a barn that had sheltered them was lifted away from them. One had lost a horn in the wreckage, while the other still carried the bleeding core of a horn where the shell had been stripped away.

Will Not Ask Troops. Sheriff John Gillan said early this morning he was quite sure no state troops would be asked for to guard the ruins.

"That will be up to Mayor Calder this morning," he said, "but I am quite sure no troops will be needed." The entire volunteer fire department of twenty men, were at once distributed over the storm-swept district to guard. They rolled in their blankets near the largest wrecked buildings and rested beside the flare of their lanterns. The entire town was in total darkness.

Last week Mrs. W. G. Edmunds' husband died following a sudden illness. His widow mourned deeply for him and expressed a wish to join him soon. Yesterday's storm claimed her in its list of fatalities. She was struck by a flying timber and was crushed into almost an unrecognizable mass.

Mayor James Calder announced this morning that he would ask for no state troops and would issue no

Wreckage of Homes Left by Tornado at Seward



call for relief. "We will handle the situation through the city council," he said. "I shall put a force of men and teams in the district this morning to clean up the streets and pick up the debris, and I believe we will have it cleared by night." The fact is the mayor had not even seen the extent of the damage when he made this statement. His mother was very ill Wednesday night, so he did not leave her bedside to go to the tornado district.

Freaks of the Twister. The wind unroofed the Lutheran college in Seward and heavy loss was entailed to the institution by the rain that followed in a deluge. Two hundred people gathered at a ball game on grounds directly in the path of the storm were saved as the game ended just before the storm broke. The Seward State leaguers were playing the All Nations team. Had the tornado swept the ball grounds, a little sooner, the loss of life would have been great.

Appeal for Help. Immediately following the tornado, an appeal for aid was sent to Lincoln, Milford and nearby towns before the one remaining telephone wire was lost. Physicians and undertakers left Lincoln on a freight train for here at 10:30 o'clock tonight. Meanwhile the sheriff deputized a corps of men to patrol the tornado section and prevent harm or loss to any of the property in the wreckage. One fire broke out, but it was extinguished without heavy loss.

Hail and Rain Follow Wind. The tornado was followed in Seward by a hail and rainstorm, which added much to the already miserable condition of the sufferers. Tonight the town was without lights and search of the ruins was being made with lanterns.

Several of the business places not injured by the storm were turned into morgues and hospitals. Many of those injured are in a serious condition and it is believed several may die.

House Blown Into River. Near McCool Junction the fine farm home of Thomas Riordan, a wealthy farmer, was blown into the Blue river some distance away. One child was drowned, but other members of the family escaped with bruises and a wetting.

A mile beyond a farmer whose name was not given was struck by lightning and killed.

The path of the tornado was from a few hundred yards to half a mile wide and cut a path fully fifty miles long, in which were many fine farm houses and other buildings. Several reports have been received of farmers in the field escaping the

TWO HURT AT SCOTTS BLUFF

Victims of Tuesday Night's Storm in Critical Condition.

MANY HOUSES ARE DESTROYED

Hail Beats Down Upon the Homeless and Mother is Seriously Cut While Protecting Her Baby.

SCOTTS BLUFF, Neb., May 15.—(Special Telegram.)—Details of the tornado of Tuesday are hard to obtain. The Scott's Bluff table east of the city was the hardest hit, and in nine miles many houses were blown down and nearly every barn is wrecked. The property loss will exceed \$50,000.

N. A. Nelson, found unconscious on the prairie and reported killed, was brought to the city and regained consciousness last evening. He probably will die.

Henry Rein, wife and child are in the Midwest hospital, all badly beaten by the hail, after their house and barn had been destroyed. The mother was seriously injured while protecting her baby, which received a few bad cuts. Mrs. Rein may die.

The Russians, lately brought to the beet fields, are severe sufferers. Their frail houses were torn from over them and their possessions scattered, all being left exposed to the fury of the storm.

Mrs. C. A. Morrill and J. F. Williams have a relief fund well started and are supplying clothes and food to the destitute.

Two and one-fifth inches of rain fell.

FIRST ESTIMATES ARE TOO LOW

Damage to Property at Seward Will Reach Fifty Thousand.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) SEWARD, Neb., May 15.—(Special Telegram.)—A survey of the tornado-swept district by daylight reveals much greater losses than were at first thought. While it is estimated that the houses totally destroyed represent a loss of some \$25,000, it is estimated that those just outside the main path have suffered loss to the extent of another \$25,000. There are perhaps some fifty of these homes.

President Joel Tishue of the First National bank said at noon: "I believe it will take \$50,000 to repair the damage. It is as bad as the Omaha tornado in proportion to the size of the town."

Mr. Tishue said he did not know of a single loser who carried tornado insurance.

"No doubt there are some who did," he said, "but they are probably not many."

While Mayor Calder organized a large band of workers to clean up debris they have made little visible progress and Mayor Calder has revised his estimate that they would have the debris cleaned up by Thursday evening.

"They will do well to have it cleaned up by July 4," was the remark of many who went over the territory in the morning.

The Commercial club will hold a meeting this evening to decide what steps shall be taken toward relief work.

Dick Coleman, an old colored man, who lived alone, was completely buried beneath the debris of his ruined home. When relief parties arrived they found him just crawling out of the wreckage with a number of small bruises and cuts.

John Etter with his wife and baby took refuge in the shallow curbing of a well whence they emerged safe after the storm to find their home practically destroyed.

STORM FORMS NEAR GRAFTON

Extensive Damage to Farm Property East of Tamora. YORK, Neb., May 15.—Traveling a distance of more than forty miles and cutting a swath from forty rods to a half mile wide without loss of life is the record of last night's tornado between Grafton and Tamora, according to messages received here this morning.

There was no loss of life until the storm hit east of Tamora. Conservative estimates made here place the property damage of the storm west of Tamora at more than \$100,000. It was reported last night that an infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Riordan, whose home near McCool was blown into the Blue river, was killed. This was contradicted this morning. Mrs. Riordan and her two children were hurt, but their injuries are not dangerous.

Several farmers and their families living between McCool and Tamora were injured, but not fatally. Several escaped by taking refuge in storm caves. Some who were caught while at work in the fields escaped by lying down in plow furrows. The storm rose and dipped at more or less regular intervals. The cloud was a mass of blackness of the usual tornado proportions. In places large

barns and houses were riddled into kindling wood. Its formation north of Grafton was rather slow, and farmers for miles watched it with much anxiety.

TAMORA AND UTICA MISSED

Many Farm Houses East of Seward Are Blown Down.

SEWARD, Neb., May 15.—(Special Telegram.)—From reports reaching Burlington headquarters here some of the neighboring towns was actually in the path of the tornado that swept Seward Wednesday evening. Telegrams received here state that the path lies some 10 miles south of Utica and Tamora and that at those places the path is in a northeasterly direction. The storm crossed the Burlington tracks half way between Tamora and Seward, demolishing telegraph and telephone poles and wires for a distance of two miles. It struck the Germantown line half way between Germantown and Seward and cut down half a mile of poles. It missed Germantown one-half mile on the north.

Approaching Seward, the tornado began destroying farm buildings as far as four miles out of Seward. The home of Levi Hafer, an old resident of this county, some four miles due west of Seward, was demolished and the outbuildings destroyed. No one was injured. The residence of Mr. Hafer's son, Elmer, also was wrecked. The buildings at the farm house of J. V. Hull southeast of Tamora were wrecked, with no loss of life or injury to persons.

Turns Due East. East of Seward the tornado again practically followed a section line for over three miles. It struck the farm residence of Leonard Holstein one and one-half miles east of town and practically demolished all the buildings. One wing of the house was completely ripped away from the rest of the house and the roof was practically all uncovered. The outbuildings were laid low. The residence of Henry Krueger one mile east of town was partially wrecked. The barn was crushed, covering fifteen head of cattle beneath timbers, debris and hay. The cattle were extricated and all but one calf were saved. Some of the horses were injured.

After leaving the Holstein place the storm seemed to jump nearly a mile as no debris is to be seen until the residence of Claude Tipton is reached. Here the barn was destroyed. The tornado leaped over the home of Frank Tipton, Sr., and his son, Frank Tipton, Jr., all of whom are large farmers.

Boy Saves Passenger Trains

Frank Tipton, Jr., living three miles east of Seward jumped into the middle of the Burlington track in a cut east of Seward shortly after the tornado and by waving his coat wildly stopped Burlington train No. 11 from crashing into a dozen telegraph poles that obstructed the track. The engineer shut down as rapidly as possible, but before he got the train completely stopped the engine had plowed through the poles and had thrown them from the track.

Had the train crashed into the poles at full speed it is thought it would certainly have been wrecked. The train runs between Lincoln and Columbus and carries some 30 passengers.

Young Tipton walked up to the brakeman after the train stopped. "I don't know whether this was the right thing to do or not," he apologized.

"It certainly was," the brakeman replied. "We are mighty glad you flagged us. You probably saved up a good many lives."

EUGENE T. LIES IS ON GROUND

Agent of Red Cross Society Looks Over Situation.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) SEWARD, Neb., May 15.—(Special Telegram.)—Eugene T. Lies, representative of the National Red Cross society, arrived from Omaha at noon. He chanced to be in Omaha in connection with the relief work there when the news of the Seward disaster reached him. He is going over the field this afternoon 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.

Seward's Mayor Says He Does Not Need Outside Assistance

Seward thinks it will not need help. Messages to J. M. Guild, commissioner of the Commercial club, from the mayor of the town declare there are only twelve houses totally destroyed, entailing a loss of \$40,000, and that the sufferers are mainly those who can take care of themselves. About six families, the messages say, need help, and the little town can take care of them.

Plans had been made to call a special session of the Commercial club to arrange for sending aid to the sufferers of Seward, but since the reassuring messages have come in, the plans were abandoned. The club, as well as the city, however, is in readiness to send aid if it is called for.

Besides the total destruction of homes there are only twelve that were partially damaged. Some of the business institutions or stores was hurt, leaving the losers with their employment.

The mayor of Seward will send further information to the Omaha Commercial club later.

Messages from McCool declare there was no one hurt there.

Half Century in School Room

STELLA, Neb., May 15.—(Special.)—The Cornell district school south of Stella closed with a surprise dinner party at the school house for the teacher, D. D. Houtz of Verdun. Mr. Houtz has been re-elected at Cornell at a salary of \$80 a month, and next year will make his fiftieth year of public school teaching. In the pioneer days Mr. Houtz was county superintendent of public instruction in this county.

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Continuation of the Seward tornado report, including details about the damage to property, the rescue of a child, and the condition of the survivors.

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