

Tornado Does Immense Damage

Fine Farm Buildings at Slocum's Stock Farm Scattered Over Prairie--Damage at this Place \$10,000; Two Men Injured--Horses Killed

A terrific tornado swept the country just to the north of Minot about 8:30 o'clock Wednesday evening, doing a great deal of damage.

The Slocum farm fared the worst. This farm was provided with the most ideal stock buildings in this part of the state, and practically every one of these have been blown down, or so badly wrecked by the wind that they will have to be rebuilt.

Mr. Slocum was at the farm during the storm, having gone out in his auto late that afternoon to superintend some work. Eddie Nehr, the official umpire for the Magicians, accompanied Mr. Slocum and was quite seriously hurt by the tornado. When the wind grew the fiercest, Mr. Slocum was in the cattle barn trying to hold the door shut. The wind tore out the door and Mr. Nehr accompanied it. He was blown several rods to the hog house, and must have slid along the ground for a distance, on his back, for that portion of his anatomy is a mass of bruises. His arm was badly bruised also and has been bandaged. Mr. Nehr, by holding to a fence, was able to find his way back to the house and crawled into the cellar where he was found later. He said that at one time he gave up, and that if it was the will of Providence that he should go, he was ready. His escape was a narrow one, indeed.

Mr. Slocum took refuge from the wind first in the pump house, but when the wind grew stronger, he went with difficulty to the horse barn. The wind was so strong that it was possible to go that distance only by taking a route diagonal to the course of the wind, which was so strong that it was difficult to breathe. Fortunately, the horse barn did not blow away, and he came out of the ordeal safely.

Frank Brodin was badly bruised and can scarcely walk.

It is estimated that the damage to Mr. Slocum's buildings will amount to \$10,000. He carried an insurance against wind of \$4500, consequently the loss to him is quite serious.

The large cow barn, 65x70 feet in size, was wrecked. This building would have blown away but for the fact that a ten inch cement floor holds the silo to the ground. A large part of this barn, however, blew away, considerable of it being in the field forty rods from the original location.

The house was badly wrecked, the damage being fully \$500. The house was blown six inches out of line, and the shingles of the northwest gable blown off. The eave troughs were blown off.

The tool house was blown over, narrowly missing the auto which was standing near.

Mr. Slocum had a hog house, 16x80 feet, nearly completed, this was practically wrecked. The old hog house, which is a low building, was not damaged much. The hall broke 500 window lights 12x14 inches out of the chicken house, and 100 chickens, and a large number of ducks were killed either by the wind or the hail.

The hail which fell, covered the ground in many places, eight inches deep. The eyes of some of the chickens were beaten from the heads of the fowls. One rooster lost practically every feather that he had, presumably stripped by the wind, but is strutting around in great shape today. One little pig, four weeks old, was blown forty rods away and lodged in a woven wire fence two feet from the ground, where he was found after the storm. The pig did not seem to be hurt much and is coming out all right. Two horses in the north pasture were killed by the storm. The hail may have been the cause of their death. The horses do not belong to Mr. Slocum.

Mr. Slocum lost 100 acres of corn by the hail, forty acres of which was choice. Every bit of crop on the farm with the exception of a few rows of corn, on the north side, were ruined. The grass in the field is beaten right into the ground. A half mile of good strong fence which was put up last year was blown down, some of the posts being nearly buried in the plowed ground.

The wind carried a board nearly a mile to the home of Winn Slatky and blew it thru the roof of Mr. Slatky's house. Some of the lumber was blown clear over to the hall south of the Linha home, a mile away.

The hall was so severe that it damaged Mr. Slocum's automobile badly, breaking the wind shield and denting the lamps and the hood.

One hundred trees stand with scarcely a limb on them, and the bark is mostly taken off of them. The hall may have had considerable to do with this, but it is believed that most of the damage was done by the wind.

After the storm, a ball stone four inches across, was found near the chicken house.

A gasoline engine weighing three tons was blown upside down by the storm.

Mr. Slocum says that the horses in the barn became insane with fear. They broke their tie straps and raced up and down the alleyways, whinnying piteously. The cattle also became badly frightened.

At the time of the storm, there were a number of Mr. Slocum's choice thoroughbred Jersey cattle in the barn, and when the structure went to pieces, timbers fell in such a way that they were partially protected. The cattle were all gotten out of the barn, after the storm as quickly as possible, and none of them were seriously injured. The cows seem to be lame and bruised some.

Mr. Slocum will begin at once to rebuild. Another wind could do considerable damage in the way of scattering things. It will be remembered that only last Thursday night, his silo was blown down by a wind. The lumber had been piled up and preparations made to rebuild it, when the second storm came along, and the lumber was scattered all over the fields.

The horse barn, which is 34x66 feet, can be fixed up in a hurry. The roof is torn up some and the cupolas blown off. The horse barn was insured for \$1,000 which will cover the loss.

While Mr. Slocum thinks this was a straight wind, neighbors who saw the hissing, funnel shaped, wicked looking cloud, believe that it was nothing less than a twister. Joe Linertz, who lives half a mile north of the scene of disaster, saw the buildings going into the air. The cloud was as black as ink and funnel shaped, and hisses just like the steam of an engine.

A derrick of a well machine made of strong hickory was broken into five pieces.

The manure carrier track was blown out of the building ten rods away. A pheasant coop near the hog house was blown away, leaving the pheasant and young one peacefully in the nest, where they remained during the storm.

The Collie dog and seven puppies took refuge in the old hog house, where they came thru safely. The peacock and rabbits got into the same place and were not hurt. The big door of the hay mow was blown under the corner of the well house so tightly that it could hardly be extricated.

Considerable other damage was done in that neighborhood. Henry Reed's barn was blown away. Dr. Talor and Jack Shields lost their farm buildings.

Notes of the Storm

H. A. Monigan suffered the loss of most of his crop by the hail four miles north of the city. He had 60 acres of very promising wheat, on corn and potato ground that is a total loss. The hail broke nearly every window in his house, and blew in one side of his horse barn. Mr. Monigan says considerable rain fell, and he will at once sow oats on the place where his wheat stood.

The Linnaas, among the biggest farmers in this part of the state, lost 600 acres of wheat. Scarcely any of the farmers had any hail insurance, as their crops had not been very promising.

The hail storm continued west, doing much damage all along the route. The storm was three or four miles wide.

At the Footh ranch near Burlington, J. E. Elsberry's crops were wiped out by hail. The shingles on the house were split up by the large hail stones, and where they struck the side of the house, it looks like someone had been pounding with a hammer. Some wild plum trees in the yard were torn badly, the limbs being torn off and the trees badly barked.

Where the storm crossed the valley the trees were badly damaged and many blown down.

Joe Williamson's house was moved eight feet and his barn was blown down and scattered for half a mile. Other buildings in that vicinity were razed to the ground.

John Anderson's barn, two miles north of the city, was blown down. This was a good substantial structure.

Mrs. Balerud's house was blown down, but as it was unoccupied, no one was injured.

The barn on the Chas. Kelly farm was badly racked. Mr. Coy occupies

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Coyle Says Illinois is Dry

John J. Coyle has returned from a visit in northern Illinois. Mrs. Coyle is visiting her parents at Freeport. Mr. Coyle visited Freeport, Rockford, Chicago and Madison, Wis. At the latter place he attended the tenth annual reunion of the class with which he graduated and out of the 66 members, now scattered in all parts of the country, 52 were present.

Mr. Coyle says the crops in Illinois are badly dried up, especially the corn crop. The corn which should be laid by, by this time, is but six inches tall and as yellow as a paper sack. It crumbles in one's hands like so much powder. Fortunately there was a good hay crop, and as the farmers have plenty of cows and otherstock, they will get along.

At a meeting of the board of City Commissioners late Tuesday afternoon L. D. McGahan, the newly elected commissioner was given the place of Street and Public Improvements Commissioner, and Peter Vandover, was elected Police Commissioner, to take McGahan's place.

E. A. Aspinwall left today for Battle Lake, Minn., where he will spend several weeks in camp. The Aspinwalls have a fine summer home on the lake, and spend every summer there.

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Cochrane Satisfied with North Dakota

C. A. Cochrane and family spent several months at North Yakima, Wash. They returned to Ward county Tuesday and will probably make Minot their future home. Mr. Cochrane owns three fine quarters of land near Foxholm, which he has rented. When he left here, he thought perhaps he would find some proposition that appealed to him in the west, and had he done so, he would have disposed of his land. But he says he saw nothing that looked good to him and he has decided not to part with his North Dakota farms at any price. He says the small fruit ranches near Yakima, of from five to ten acres, sell for \$3,500 an acre quite often and that buyers are quite eager to pick them up at those prices. He believes that the price is too high and that there is no longer a chance for a good investment there. Even the raw sage brush land without water, sells for \$300 an acre. A few years ago this land sold for \$12 an acre and at that time, a man could have made good money by the investment, but now he thinks the time is past.

Mr. Cochrane has several children whom he wants to send to the Minot schools. He came to Ward county ten years ago from Stanberry Mo., where was a railroad conductor. About four years ago he was partially paralyzed and is unable to do any work, and in consequence he thanks his lucky stars that he came to North Dakota and secured some choice farms, which made him independent.

He says the climate of the west is very fine. There are 352 real estate firms in North Yakima, and besides, scores of land men who watch the trains and hotels for the arrival of strangers.

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