

FURY OF A TORNADO

SWEEPS THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF TOWN.

Leaving Devastation in Its Path—Driving Park Buildings Damaged.

Frightened Residents of That Section of the City Flee for Their Lives—Storm's Path.

The southeastern portion of the city was visited last evening by a tornado which did considerable damage for the few minutes it lasted. All afternoon yesterday the wind blew at a terrific rate, and the climax came about 6 o'clock, when the lightning began to play in the southern portion of the heavens, and the thunder following each stroke reverberated with a peculiar sound.

It was shortly after 5 o'clock, when the wind was the heaviest in this section of the state, that a dark cloud was noticed rising towards the south. The air became heavy and oppressive, and a peculiar darkness settled over the city. The tornado, for such it was declared to be by the local weather station observer, came in over the southern part of the city. It did not settle down towards earth until it had reached a point southeast of the city, and then the devastation began.

The first notice had of the cloud which formed the tornado was when it approached the earth about two miles southeast of the city. The miniature tornado cloud was funnel shaped in appearance, and as it pursued its journey it seethed and foamed, and rolled in a peculiar manner. Not much attention was paid to it by the residents in the central portion of the city, but to those living in the section of the city where the effects of the storm were felt, the cloud had the appearance of some monster which was approaching the earth for the purpose of crushing everything in its path.

Residents of that section of the city visited by the funnel shaped mass became alarmed, and preparations for safety were commenced by all who saw the seething monster, in its approach towards the earth. Some people ran to their upstairs windows, and in the fear which overcame them could do no more than watch its approach. Others who had control of their actions ran for places of safety. A resident of that portion of the city, in describing the tornado, stated that the first object to succumb to its fury was the grand stand at the Capital City league hall grounds, just south of Livingston avenue, and a short distance west of Miller avenue. The entire stand is probably 150 feet in length, and but a small portion escaped the storm. According to measurements, just 112 feet of this structure collapsed. The work of destruction occupied but a few seconds, and was complete. Piled in a conspicuous mass, the lumber which formed the major part of the grand stand, now lies strewn about the ground in the vicinity of the position it formerly occupied, as evidence of the fury of the elements.

Next door to this place the tornado caught up a small shed in the rear of the lot and separated the entire structure from the south wall and carried it a distance of 20 feet or more, landing it upside down on the ground.

By this time the residents in that vicinity were almost panic-stricken. Some ran this way and some that way. Others who had evidently read of the safety of cellars during cyclones and tornadoes ran for these apartments and huddled closely together in the corners, fearing destruction of their homes each minute.

Accompanying the tornado was a roaring, rumbling sound, much resembling the vibration of thunder after the first shock had passed.

Preceding the approach of the cloud, which hung low over the earth for some distance, as is evidenced by the destruction which followed, was a heavy sheet of rain. Torrents of water fell upon the ground, and the streets thereabout presented the appearance of miniature streams. The water flowed several inches deep in these thoroughfares, and even at noon time to-day small gutter streams carried off the surplus which had failed to find exit into the sewers during the night.

Continuing in a northeasterly direction, the funnel-shaped demon next took in its clutches the new home of Mr. Charles Orr, on Miller avenue, about 200 feet south of Livingston avenue. The building is under course of construction, and th ecarpenters had just completed the frame work preparatory to putting on the slate roof. This frame work was torn loose from its fastenings as if it were straw. Along with this devastation was the collapse of a portion of the brick walls. The greatest damage of this character was on the southwest corner of the building, where a triangular-shaped, jagged wall, half way up the first story, is all that remains. Fortunately, the workmen employed about the building had quit work a few minutes before, and were safely out of danger, or injury to person, and perhaps death, might have resulted.

The next obstacle of any size to come in the path of the storm was the main entrance building to the driving park. From all appearances the storm had reached its utmost fury when it struck this building. At the present time, this beautiful frame structure which graced the entrance to the driving park is laying on its side in the middle of the Livingston avenue road, just at the terminus of the street car line. The tornado placed it in this position, and from the reports of persons who witnessed the removal of the building from its foundation, and its placing in the present position, there must have been considerable force behind the storm when this was done. The storm, or tornado, struck the building, coming almost directly from the south. It lifted it gently off the foundations, and turned it completely over on its side in the middle of the road.

Along with its fall, went several poles holding the trolley wires of the Columbus Street Railway company. As soon as the live trolley wires struck the wet pavement, there was a display of electrical illumination which far eclipsed that presented by the lightning which accompanied the storm.

Word was at once sent to the offices of the street railway company, and the current in that locality was cut off from the wires. A force of workmen were sent at once to the scene, and in a short while had the damage, as far as the company's property is concerned, temporarily repaired.

The storm seemed to lose its fury after doing the damage to the building at the entrance to the driving park. The only evidence of its fury discovered for quite a distance northeast of this point is a collapsed fence on the farm a short distance from Livingston avenue on the north.

Aside from the damage above recorded, a number of small objects such as out-houses, chicken coops, dog sheds, etc., were destroyed. The storm cloud carried with it a great quantity of light debris and chaff. No evidences of severe destruction, other than the uprooting of small trees, and the breaking off of branches from the more sturdy growths, could be discovered beyond Livingston avenue to the north. The wind blew a terrific gale immediately following the storm, but the fury of the funnel shaped cloud seemed to be lost

beyond this point. It rose somewhat after it crossed Livingston avenue, and soon lost itself in the upper elements.

WEATHER BUREAU OFFICIALS

Had No Official Information as to the Approach of the Storm.

The data at the office of the local weather station shows that the wind reached a terrific speed while the storm was in progress. At an early hour in the afternoon "Old Boreas" began his maneuvering, and started in with a 20-mile an hour gait. From this force, which prevailed at 2 o'clock, the wind had increased by 4 o'clock to a 24-mile an hour gait, and at 4:45, there was blowing about 27 miles of wind per hour. This is considered a heavy gale by the weather bureau officials. All afternoon it ranged from 18 miles to 24 miles per hour, with the heaviest point at the time above mentioned.

With the approach of the storm the barometer fell slightly, and the index marked off little jagged impressions on the register sheet, showing that a heavy barometric pressure prevailed. The amount of rain which fell in the vicinity of the weather station office in the Eberly block, was evidently not as large as that which preceded the tornado. According to the measurements taken as soon as the rain had ceased, it was disclosed that in 20 minutes over a quarter of an inch of rain fell. The rain continued for some time after, and a total of .34 inch fell during the evening.

Observer Richardson was in the neighborhood of his North Broadway home when the storm had approached its highest ebb. He was a close observer of the storm, and states that it was a peculiar one in many respects. He said the rain seemed to fall only in spots. He has not yet investigated the storm, or its causes, but states that he noticed that there was every indication of a tornado. The atmosphere was of a yellowish cast, which, he states, is a sure indication of a disturbance of the kind which occurred in the southeastern portion of the city last evening.

Another feature of the storm which was noticed by many persons was the double rainbow, which came shortly after the elements had subsided in their fury. Occasionally two rainbows, one above the other, are seen, but last evening the one was in front of the other, and both were clearly defined and beautiful.

The air cleared up considerably after the storm, and as late as 7 o'clock a beautiful white streak, throwing its rays of light over the entire earth, was observed. The wind settled down considerable, and at 10 o'clock last night there was but a brisk breeze blowing. The weather continued fair until early this morning when a light misty rain began falling which continued for little over an hour.

FRUIT GROWERS SUFFER.

Fruit growers whose orchards lie within the path or close to the storm will suffer materially from the storm. In many instances young fruit trees have already begun budding, and these buds are stripped from the trees. It is not thought the damage will be severe, however, as the path of the storm was very narrow, and its fury did not continue long enough to cover much territory. But there is no doubt whatever but what much damage in this direction has been done. The fragile buds, just peeping from their covering, were not strong enough to withstand the fury of the storm and succumbed.

While the total loss from the storm is not very heavy, there was considerable fright occasioned by its approach and passage. The Driving Park association will no doubt have to erect a new entrance building to the park, as the timbers of old one have been wrenched, and the overturned building is a mass of debris, and almost a total wreck. The fiery steed which surmounted the whole, and proclaimed to all visitors the entrance to the park, is no more. In the fall of the building, this silent steed suffered utter destruction. This morning a part of its head was found about 100 feet across a lot from where the remaining portions were.

In all the damage can be estimated at less than \$1,000. The Capital City Baseball league people have \$350 insurance on their grand stand, carried by the Lauterbach & Eilber agency. Whether this insurance carries with it protection against tornadoes was not known by one of the officials of the club, who visited the scene this morning.

The large wire sign which was placed on the roof of the McAllister & Mohler Furniture company's building was displaced by the strong wind, and it was removed entirely this morning.

STORM IN THE NORTH.

About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the northwestern heavens became as black as ink, and long, straight shafts of lightning began to shoot earthward. Closely following each flash there was a dull boom of thunder, with no reverberating echo. The reports were so peculiar that many people became greatly frightened and gazed with awe at the approaching inky clouds. With the clouds came a mighty wind that uprooted trees, blew down fences and tore shingles from roofs. Just before the cloud covered North Columbus, and shot over Clintonville and Worthington, the sky was filled with scud flying like passenger pigeons. With this there was a stinging dash of rain, and then the storm broke in all its fury. The rain fell in torrents, and driven by a gale fell in a slant that soon drove all the traffic from the streets.

As the storm swung over the Ohio State Fair grounds, it seemed to meet the cloud from the southwest, and then ensued a battle of the two storm kings that was grand. No matter which way the driver or pedestrian turned, the storm twisted and struck him in the face.

For nearly half an hour the street cars north were delayed by the furious wrath of the elements, and then the sun came out and a beautiful rainbow swung across the eastern sky.

Between North Columbus and Clintonville the streets ran with water like rivers, and broken branches and debris showed how great had been the force of the blast. Northwest of Worthington the damage by storm was greater, fruit trees suffering to a considerable extent. The amount of water that fell materially swelled the tributary streams and caused the Olentangy to rise rapidly.

Faster Sale of Kid Gloves.

Greatest Bargains at Geo. S. Beall's.

INCORPORATIONS.

A Big Loan Association Organized in Cincinnati.

The German-American Loan and Building company, of Cincinnati, secured from the secretary of state today a certificate of incorporation with a capitalization of \$1,000,000. The La-bold & Newburgh company, also of Cincinnati, was incorporated for the purpose of engaging in the wholesale and retail liquor trade on \$50,000 capital, divided into 500 shares of \$100 each. The incorporators are A. S. Labold, A. Newburgh, Alfred Mack, Jacob Levy and Charles Newburgh.

The Concord Crystal Spring company, of Cleveland, was incorporated for the purpose of dealing in natural waters. The capital is \$25,000, divided into 250 shares of \$100 each. The incorporators are R. N. Polloch, G. W. Downer, James Lawrence, E. Lindale Smith and J. M. Estep.

J. E. McPherson, counsellor No. 18, order of the United American Mechanics, of Mineral Point, was incorporated by Chas. H. Sawyer, T. E. Wilson, F. C. Binder, Andrew Leidlaw and A. L. Moffit.

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