Summary Sheet

IDTO - ID Number :692805
AUTH - Report Author :
TYFU - Tornado Type & Fuji Code :b0
TITL - Report Title or Location :North Gower
PROV - Province :Ontario
COUN - Counties :Ottawa-Carleton
REFS - References :The Globe July 30, 1928
ZOTO - Touchdown Zone Number & Easting :18444200
NOTO - Touchdown Northing :5001000
LOVA - Touchdown Error Value & Code :500o
DADA - Date of Data Entry :23/07/1990
ZOLO - Liftoff Zone Number & Easting :18446810
NOLO - Liftoff Northing :4999400
UPVA - Liftoff Error Value & Code :500o
DEAD - Number of Fatalities :
HURT - Number of People Injured :
HERT - Injuries Code :
DATA - Date of Tornado :28/07/1928
DAVA - Date Error Value & Code :
TITO - Time of Tornado :1200
TIMR - Time Meridian :75
TIVA - Time Error Value & Code :416s
AXDA - Maximum Path Width :
AXVA - Max. Path Width Error & Code :
AVDA - Average Damage Width :
AVVA - Avg. Damage Width Error & Code :
SADA - Sample Damage Width :
SAVA - Sample Damage Width Error & Code:
INTO - Initials :JAM
DFTO - Detailed Report Flag :n
JUNK - PRDA & DIMO & DALE :
CODA - Property Damage Code :
MISC - ORDE,PICS_TYPE,PICS_AVAIL,COCO : 2
MANY - Multiple Event Flag :y

MEMO:Silo blown over, windows broken, crops ruined. Hen-egg sized hail.

PHEN - Associated Phenomena :P A52
TSHP - Townships :Rideau

JAM, 23/07/1990

THE GLOBE, TORONTO, MON. JULY 30 1928 692805
STORM DATE: SAT. JULY. 28 1928.

SWATH OF Destruction Cut by Fierce Storm Through East Ontario

Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars' Damage Done as Tempest Batters Crops and Flattens 100 Silos in Four Counties

ROOFS CARRIED FROM BUILDINGS

Hailstones Big as Hens' Eggs Add to Devastation — Many Farmers Ruined as Gale Hits Fields and Barns

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, July 29.—A hail and wind storm which cut a swath two miles wide and about 50 miles long through farming country south of the Capital last Saturday did damage which, it is estimated, will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. More than 100 fodder silos were flattened by the blast, and the force with which the hail [illegible] wrought great destruction to root and field crops.

The terrific wind was accompanied by a deluge of rain and sharp lightning, while hail in places covered the ground to a depth of eight inches, and some of the stones were, on the testimony of reliable witnesses, as large as hens' eggs. So far as damage is concerned it was the worst storm the farmers in the Ottawa district have experienced within memory.

Descending first on the farm of Russell Leach, two miles north of the Village of North Gower, the storm swept on through the Villages of Kars, Osgoode Station, Vernon, Dalmeney, Chesterville, Winchester Finch, Morewood and Crysler, thus crossing the Counties of Carleton, Grenville, Dundas and Stormont.

Many Lose All Crops.

Hundreds of farmers have suffered heavily, many of them losing their entire field and root crops, which were annihilated by the wind and hail. The roofs were blown off many barns, while more than 100 silos were wrecked and their contents destroyed. It is too late now for the farmers to plant other crops, and, as wind and hail damage in this part of the Province is unusual, little or no insurance was carried.

Along many of the highways telephone poles and trees were blown down and traffic held up, as well as telephone service in the district being entirely disrupted.

Some Districts Spared.

The storm was peculiar in that it partially lifted in two sections of its path, but only to gather renewed strength and strike again with greater fury. After travelling several miles after descending first near North Gower, the storm abated somewhat for a few miles, and struck heavily again at Dalmeney. Lifting somewhat again, the storm struck in full strength in the neighborhood of Winchester.

Even sugar bushes were practically destroyed, row after row of stately maples toppling over before the blast like ninepins. The roof was torn off Lannin Hall, Winchester's community centre, and hurled to the street below. Fortunately every one had taken shelter from the elements.

So far as yet has been ascertained, no one was killed or seriously injured in the whole course of the storm.

The blow, accompanied by electrical disturbances, spent its main strength within half an hour, but in that brief period many acres of ripening crops lay beaten into the earth, houses were unroofed and barns and outbuildings a mass of kindling wood.

As the wind died down slightly, a heavy rain set in and what had been miles of ditches of dry and hardened earth were turned into rushing torrents.

50 Acres of Crop Ruined.

The storm struck the farm of Russell Leach about two miles from North Gower, coming from the west with little warning. Mr. Leach had about 50 acres under cultivation with crops of hay, grain, corn and potatoes and other root crops which were all beaten flat by the hailstones. Even the root crops were ruined permanently, with the result that Mr. Leach believes there is no possibility of an ounce of produce being raised from his land this season.

Another farmer of the North Gower district suffered severe damage to his house and furniture when all the glass in the windows on the north side of his home were broken and the curtains torn to shreds. The rain was driven inside in such sheets that it flooded the upper floor to the extent that the stairs were turned into a millrace. So far, only part of his silo has been located. A field of corn on the farm was cut off almost level with the ground.

Leaves and hail to the depth of six inches lay on the streets of North Gower when the storm had passed.

Bell Company Suffers.

The Bell Telephone Company suffered heavily, as 38 poles were blown down along the road between North Gower and Kars, and linemen were kept busy for half the night clearing the highway. In many cases the poles were carried clean across to the other side of the road by the wind. The poles which are down are all in the first mile east of North Gower, and it is thought that this was the centre of the storm.

Through the region of Kars and Osgoode Station, which suffered heavy rain but slight hail, little property damage was reported. The storm lifted about a mile and a half east of North Gower and skipped over the area in which Kars and Osgoode Station are situated. It dipped again once past Osgoode and struck with terrific force at Dalmeny.

Truck Carried 100 Feet.

On the farm of Arnold Myers, near Dalmeny, a truck, loaded with hay was caught by the first rush of wind, blown a distance of 100 feet and upset.

Within a strip half a mile long and 100 yards wide in this area, every tree is down as well as telephone wires and poles. So great was the force of the wind that an elm tree, measuring 24 inches at the bottom, was twisted from its roots and thrown across the road.

In the Capital, only 25 miles from the centre of the blast, the storm was barely felt. Rain fell heavily, but no material damage was caused.