THE GLOBE, TORONTO, TUES. AUG. 21 1917
STORM DATE: MON. AUG. 20 1917.

CYCLONIC RAIN STORM SWEEPS OVER TORONTO

Centres in Baseball Grounds at Island and Causes Panic —Several Buildings Struck and Crops Are Levelled

One of the worst wind, rain and thunder storms for years centred round Toronto yesterday. Indeed, it would have been possible to indicate with almost mathematical accuracy the exact centre of the storm as the southeast corner of the baseball grandstand at Hanlan's Point. Here the wind reached cyclonic velocity, and seemed to come in "double cross currents," according to one observer. It took a large part of the roof of the stand clean off and threw it like matchwood away behind the erection. By the greatest good luck no one was severely hurt. One woman was struck by a piece of falling wooden debris, but her injuries are slight.

In violence the storm was both short and local. A few miles outside Toronto there was no thunder and only a few showers of rain. In the city, however, in the short space of about seventy minutes the rainfall was 1.36 inches—a torrentially heavy fall for the time, and rare outside the tropics.

Struck by Lightning.

Besides the grandstand, several places were struck by lightning. The residence of Mr. Fred Turling at 2110 Yonge street was struck shortly after four o'clock. Mr. Turling received a severe shock, and was treated by a neighboring doctor. The damage to the house amounts to $25. The roof of the building of the Macmillan Co. of Canada, 70 Bond street, was struck and the elevator machinery damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars. The fire was put out by the janitor, Mr. J. Mois, who started work there only yesterday. A house at 60 Spruce Hill road, occupied by Mr. E. G. Brisley, was also hit.

Injuries to Crops.

Far and away the worst material feature of the storm was that it blew down and quite stalled the cereal crops for some distance around. Noticeably was this the case in the Bowmanville district, where the wheat, barley, oats and buckwheat had already been badly thrown over. In fact, it was being reaped "all one way," to pick up the stalks, to use a farmer's expressive term. What the damage so caused may be cannot be estimated, but in this critical year for all Canadian crops it is a worse misfortune than at another time.

A second downpour about 5 o'clock kept hundreds of shoppers in the stores long after the hour of closing arrived, but they were allowed to remain in defiance of the usual rules.

Near Panic at Hanlan's.

It was, in the last resort, the spectacular side of the Island storm which was most striking. Circumstances seemed to conspire to make it memorable. About 7,000 people had gathered in the grandstand to witness the double-header between Newark and Toronto. The seventh innings had been reached with only an apparently ordinary thunderstorm brewing. Then the "bleachers" got under cover, but still there was nothing unusual. Suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, the spectators saw the huge flagstaff off the left field, carrying then naturally the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes, topple right over, buckle like a pocket-knife in a schoolboy's hand and then come down. Simultaneously the wind, seemingly arrested in its current to the north, veered round, blew sideways from the left into the open funnel of the grandstand formed by the backward leaning roof. Condensed, presumably, through being crushed into a narrower space, the wind took greater strength. A moment later a large part of the roof, about 20 by 30 feet, on the extreme right of the stand rattled like a leaf in the autumn, and, tearing and crashing, was lifted clean off its supports and blown backwards over. The mass fell near the "looping the loop" apparatus. Luckily no one was about at the time. Equally luckily it fell backwards, and not into the spectators' group. The new score board was also blown down.

Negro Calms Crowd.

The terror-stricken public had at the first sound of crashing rushed out into the open field. There they stood, in a pouring, beating rainstorm of the fiercest type, but, safe at least from injury. The effect of the terror on some of the people was singular. They were seen to sit right down in the puddles on the field, and one man was seen to be standing, after the first flush, with philosophic serenity, in a Palm Beach suit, wet as a bathing dress, clinging to his limbs. Many rushed to the upper end of the stand to get to the stairway, but, thanks to the strenuous efforts and the foghorn voice of a level-headed negro, 'who shouted " Don't get scared, people! You won't be hurt if you keep still! Don't rush down those stairs! Stand still, people!" there was actually no panic. Negroes have so often been credited with a tendency to panic that the fact was all the more noteworthy.

The damage by the storm at Hanlan's was placed by Mr. Solmon last night at $500.

Boats Upset on Bay.

For about five minutes during the storm the wind reached a velocity of 73 miles an hour on the bay, and boats with any sail set could not stand up before it. When the gale broke at 3.15 o'clock the boats at the life-saving station were sent out to patrol the bay, and for a short time it was impossible to see the length of the boat away. Two dinghys were capsized in the centre of the bay. Three men were rescued from one and two from the other, and taken to the Toronto Canoe Club. At 3.40 a 30-foot launch capsized about half-way between the life-saving station and the Yonge street dock. At the time a canopy was up on the launch, and the wind caught this, turning the boat nearly over several times. The life-saving crew rescued the two male occupants. Twenty minutes later a dinghy upset off Parkdale. The man and woman who were on board were rescued by people on the shore, and were later removed to the Toronto Canoe Club by the life-saving crew. All of the boats were towed to the Island.

Not Far From Blighty

Just after Storm No. 3 had spent its fury last evening two returned soldiers, each minus one leg, were stumping down Yonge street, with their crutches, over the slippery sidewalk. All at once the crutches of one of them slipped and spread, and in a flash the soldier was flat on his stomach on the pavement.

Spectators gasped, several women shouted in horror, and a man ran to pick up the hapless hero. Before he could reach the spot the man in khaki was on his feet—beg pardon, his foot—was humping along as though nothing had happened, and both soldiers shrieked with laughter.

"It's not far back to Blighty," said the chum of the fallen out.

Radial Service Paralyzed.

Toronto & York Radial car service between Port Credit, Mimico and Sunnyside was paralyzed during the afternoon. From 3.15 until after 6 o'clock the cars only moved for an interval of about half an hour. Hundreds of people tramped through the mud to their homes from the city limits during the rush hour before the service was resumed.

The telephone system was badly disorganized for some hours. The Parkdale exchange reported most of the breaks, but it is indicative of the narrow limits of such a thunderstorm that North Toronto reported only few and insignificant damage to wires.

Large Crane Destroyed.

A number of workmen in the machine shop of the Polson Iron Works, Frederick street, had a narrow escape from death at 3.40 in the afternoon, when a sixty-foot jantry crane used on the boats in the shipyard was blown over by the wind and storm. The massive crane toppled to the roof of the machine shop, plunging into the building. The workmen dashed into other parts of the building, just a few seconds before the crane buried itself in the building. The crane, worth several thousand dollars, was a complete wreck.

Boy and Pony Have Flight.

Many an amusing side was seen even to a severe storm. At the corner of College and Brunswick street a boy driving a light grocery waggon, drawn by a pony, were swept bodily from the one side of the street to another as the wind caught them. Trees, hoardings and windows were damaged by the storm, and it was noticeable that large hailstones fell in the city, yet considering the violence of the wind and the amount of rain to cause flooding the wonder is that more damage was not done.

THE WEATHER

Reading of the thermometer and barometer and the velocity and direction of the wind at the Observatory were :—

The Globe's Barometer on Aug. 20, 10.00 p.m.



Synopsis of Reading			
Time.	Ther.	Bar.	Wind
8 am	71	29.47	9 sw
noon	85	....	.....
2 pm	89	29.44	8 sw
4 pm	72	.....	.....
8 pm	70	29.47	4 se

Mean of day, 75; difference from average, 9 above; highest, 90; lowest, 61. Rainfall, 1.37.

Forecasts:—Lower Lakes, Georgian Bay, Upper St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valleys—Northerly winds, fair and cooler.

Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Fresh northwesterly winds, fair and cooler.

Maritime—Moderate winds, local showers, but mostly fair and warm.

Lake Superior—Light winds, fair and comparatively cool.

Manitoba—Warmer and unsettled, with local thundershowers.

Saskatchewan and Alberta—Mostly fair and continued warm, with scattered showers.

8 p.m. — Pressure is highest over the Lake Superior region and lowest in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Showers have occurred in many parts of Ontario and Quebec, but the only really heavy thunderstorm was in the vicinity of Toronto. The temperature has been quite moderate in Manitoba, and much higher farther west.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Prince Rupert, 54-56; Victoria, 56-66; Vancouver, 60-76; Prince Albert, 50-82; Saskatoon, 50-88; Regina, 53-83; Moose Jaw, 54-90; Winnipeg, 52-68; Port Arthur, 48-56; Parr Sound, 62-72; London, 62-91; Toronto, 60-90; Kingston, 66-80; Ottawa, 64-80; Montreal, 62-82; Quebec, 60-76.

TORONTO DAILY STAR, TUE AUG 21, 1917

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A MIGHTY BIFF, THEN DELUGE, STORM HIT THE BALL CROWD

Cyclonic Blast Followed by Downpour Caught 3,500 People in Grand Stand—Spectators Rushed Into the Field and Stood, Frightened, as the Skies Dropped a Flood Upon Them.

Hanlan's Point in general, and the ball grounds in particular, appeared to be the very vortex of the cyclonic thunderstorm that struck Toronto at 3.45 yesterday afternoon. The stripped roof of the grand stand, the levelled scoreboard, the doubled flagpole and the uprooted trees are mute evidence of the fact to-day. Yesterday the blanched faces of hatless men, women and children—and in some cases the fans were coatless—as they huddled within any sheltered spot, or scurried for the ferries, were abundant evidence.

Conscience makes cowards of us all, says an old adage. The three or four thousand people who went to see Bunny Hearne subdue those Bears amended the saying to include cyclones. It was a badly frightened crowd.

For half an hour or more before the storm burst the fans had watched the flickering lightning and listened to the growing rumble of the thunder. The stormclouds, slowly approaching, seemingly against the wind, promised nothing more than an ordinary summer thunder shower, hardly enough to take one's mind off the game.

Deluge at Critical Point in Game.

Then the deluge came just when the game had become interesting. The rain swept across the ball park in sheets, causing a rush from the unsheltered seats in the front of the grand stand to the back. The fans had just got seated again when the cyclone arrived.

There was but a second's warning. The people sitting behind first base saw racing toward them a solid wall of water. As it reached the steel flagpole, the structure doubled up like a huge jackknife. There was a swish, a sweep of water, and the roof over section A of the stand went sailing into the air.

There was no sound of tearing or scrunching. Probably the noise of the wind and the terrific crashing of heaven's artillery drowned that. For a moment the crowd was absolutely paralyzed. As the wind struck the stand a blinding flash and deafening detonation numbed the senses. Then there was a rush towards the stairway. As the crowd made its way along the gangway at the top of the stand, the whole structure appeared to be swaying out and out. Teeth and fists were clenched, and breath held for the terrible fall that seemed imminent, but which fortunately never came.

Crowd Rushed Into the Downpour.

As the roof went a hundred or so men, women and children rushed from the stand to the diamond, choosing a drenching rather than trust the structure. As many as could huddled under the large tarpaulins that had been stretched over the pitcher's and batter's positions. Others lay face downward in the pelting rain.

It was nothing short of miraculous that the crowd escaped serious injury. One woman alone was hurt when a flying piece of wood struck her. The frightened crowd grew calm as sturdy-voiced men near the stairway shouted reassuring words. Had another part of the stand gone, however, it is hard to say what would have happened in the panic.

The sheeting stripped from the roof turned a complete somersault and broke in three pieces. One piece landd near the roundabout, another was blown by the bandstand, while the third landed on the boardwalk near the pavilion, overturning a ticket booth and splintering the planks of the walk. Fortunately the downpour had driven everyone to shelter, and no one was struck outside the stadium.

Down Went the Trees.

After the storm the pleasure-seekers appraised the damage done. An old willow tree on the lake trrace was found to be uprooted. Three smaller trees behind the pavilion were cleft through from top to roots as though a giant axe had split them. Benches were overturned, and hats of all sizes and styles were lying everywhere. The keeper of the bathhouse on the lagoon, with frightened, halting voice, told how the electric wires had been torn from his place. In a secluded corner a group of men were observed actually ringing out their shirts.

The feature before the storm was the flock of "King Billies" that seemed to be everywhere. Batsmen were bothered by the butterflies and had to swing their bats around their head to clear them away. The feature after the storm was the hail. Some of the stones were more than an inch in diameter.

And the game? Well, no one seemed to care about that until after they were safe on the ferry. Then the fans began to speculate as to whether Toronto had one in the sixth, or whether the three runs scored by Newark in the first of the seventh really mattered. "Bunny Hearne may go back again on Wednesday," said one fan, "but I won't."

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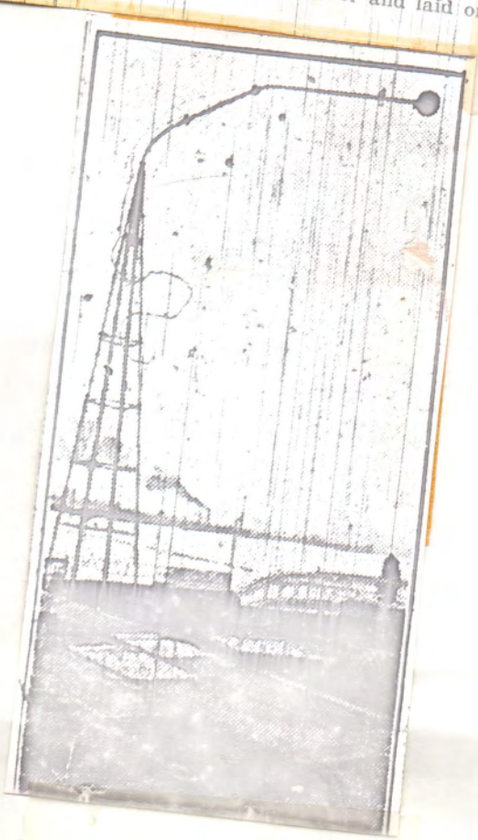
WHAT STORM DID TO ISLAND GRANDSTAND.

The young cyclone which struck the ball grounds at Hanlan's during the progress of yesterday's game, lifted a section of the roof, leaving this gaping hole. There was a wild scurry for shelter and much excitement. Women fainted but none was seriously hurt. Miraculously little or none of the timber dropped on the crowd beneath, but was lifted clear over and laid on the ground outside, upside down.



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Aug 22 1917 TORONTO TELEGRAM

DESTRUCTION BY YESTERDAY'S GALE



The huge travelling crane at Polson Iron Works was blown over.

DAMAGE BY STORM AT BALL GROUNDS

Part of the grand stand roof was carried away and the metal flag-pole bent over.

