Summary Sheet

IDTO - ID Number :1092601
AUTH - Report Author :
TYFU - Tornado Type & Fuji Code :a1
TITL - Report Title or Location :108 Mile Ranch
PROV - Province :British Columbia
COUN - Counties :Lillooet Land
REFS - References :Daily Province July 10, 12 1926, Victoria Daily Times July 17, 1926, The Globe July 16, 1926
ZOTO - Touchdown Zone Number & Easting :10615000
NOTO - Touchdown Northing :5733000
LOVA - Touchdown Error Value & Code : 5000c
DADA - Date of Data Entry :07/08/1990
ZOLO - Liftoff Zone Number & Easting :
NOLO - Liftoff Northing :
UPVA - Liftoff Error Value & Code :
DEAD - Number of Fatalities :
HURT - Number of People Injured :
HERT - Injuries Code :
DATA - Date of Tornado :09/07/1926
DAVA - Date Error Value & Code :
TITO - Time of Tornado :1200
TIMR - Time Meridian :120
TIVA - Time Error Value & Code :416s
AXDA - Maximum Path Width :
AXVA - Max. Path Width Error & Code :
AVDA - Average Damage Width :403
AVVA - Avg. Damage Width Error & Code :30c
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 :n

MEMO:Roof blown off barn, great many trees blown down. Many cattle killed.

PHEN - Associated Phenomena :
TSHP - Townships :

JAM, 07/08/1990

THE GLOBE. TORONTO. FRI. JULY 16 1926.

STORM DATE:

FAMINE MAY FOLLOW IN PATH OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CYCLONE

With Roads Blocked by Masses of Heavy Timber and Crops Battered, Remote Settlement Faces Serious Food Shortage

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Williams Lake, B.C., July 15. — Ranchers living in the Springhill district that was in the path of a recent cyclone are virtually isolated from the outside, and there is a real danger of food shortage, according to reports received here today.

Roads are reported to be practically impassable, with heavy timber and other debris scattered throughout the area. The crops, seriously damaged by the hail that followed the twister, are now being eaten by range cattle and horses that are roaming at large. The fences protecting the grain fields and the trails are in such condition that farmers have been unable to get their machinery into the fields.

Efforts are being made to bring in food supplies from the Hundred-Mile House store.

1092601

The Daily Province

Monday July 12, 1926

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TORNADO IN CARIBOO IS BAD

Many Cattle Dead - Barns uproofed and Roads Blocked

Mowed down Trees

Vancouver, July 12, - Details of the cyclone which swept through the Lower Cariboo at the week-end are beginning to come through. The correspondent of the Daily Province at 115 Mile House wires as follows:
The centre of the cyclone swept area was Spring Lake, twelve miles southeast of 115 Mile House, Lac la Hache. The cyclone was very severe in that section, and although it was severe enough all along the Lac La Hache district, no loss of life is reported.

One of the big barns at the 108-Mile House had the roof torn off and Mr. Morton, telegraph operator at 115-Mile House, found the roof hanging on the telegraph wires. The roads from Spring Lake section to the Cariboo Road are blocked with fallen timber, and it will take weeks to open them up. Many cattle were killed, thousands of dollars worth of fencing were destroyed, and a new irrigation ditch costing one thousand dollars was also ruined.

A telegram has been sent to the Minister of Agriculture asking for assistance by J.B.F. Norgues, W. L. McClary, J. and H. Wilcox and E. Tilton, all ranchers. The people of this district are doing all they can to help those in need.

Throughout the cyclone zone, even as far north as the 127- Mile House the thunder was more like the bursting of cannon than ordinary thundering. Stretches of timber many miles long, and two and a half miles wide, were mowed down like grass. Fire was started at different points, and the district is densely clouded in smoke.

The heat wave has been severe throughout the whole country, and at Williams Lake the mercury stood at 102 degrees in the shade. People fear other visitations of the cyclone type. Chief Gallagher will take several days to get a correct estimate of the value of the property destroyed.

Victoria Daily Times,
Saturday, July 17, 1926
Page 4

OLIVER INQUIRES INTO DAMAGE BY FIERCE CYCLONE

Wind Tears Gash Through Spring Lake Forest Fifty Miles Long

A cyclone which hit the Spring Lake district of the interior British Columbia last week cut a clear swath thrbugh heavy timber a quarter of a mile wide and fifty miles long according to reports received by the Provincial Government. Roads in the district are blocked and irrigation ditches have been made useless by the damage thus caused.

Settlers around Spring Lake are greatly discouraged by this setback. They are finding it difficult to move their farm machinery to harvest their crops and fear the loss of many head of stock grazing on the range nearby.

Premier Oliver is securing all information about the cyclone with a view to finding out the real needs of the settlers and meanwhile the Public Works Department is busy clearing away timber and other debris from the road of the district in order to restore communication and transportation.

Time, date & location of occurrence - on or about July 9, 1926, in the Spring Lake district in the Lower Cariboo.

The centre of the tornado swept an area twelve miles southeast of 115 Mile House, and was severe all along the Lac la Hache district. It cleared a swath of heavy timber a quarter of a mile wide and fifty miles long, blocked roads and destroyed fencing and an irrigation ditch. A barn roof was torn off and found hanging on the telegraph wires. Many cattle were killed, but no human life was lost.

This occurrence was reported in the Daily Province and the Victoria Daily Times.

The Daily Province
Saturday, July 10, 1926
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CYCLONE SWEEPS LOWER CARIBOO

Irrigation Ditches, Fences and Stock Destroyed - Farmers wire for Help

Victoria, July 10. - A cyclone swept through the Spring Lake district, near Lac La Hache in the Lower Cariboo country, destroying irrigation ditches, fences and stock, a wire received by the department of agriculture this afternoon stated. The telegram was signed by farmers of the district, who are asking for assistance in repairing the damage. Provincial police are endeavoring to secure details of the destruction.

Lac La Hache 92 P/13 5150 12131

cent of the pear crop, as well as five percent of the crabapples were destroyed by the fifteen minute storm. Some of the hailstones measured over two inches in diameter and weighed over two ounces. Glass in most homes in Summerland district was broken by the missiles, and over a million packages of fruit and vegetables were pureed in the Rutland-Winfield region. Many farmers still remember the hail storm of 1946 and shudder at the thought of a repeat performance.

(6) The Cariboo Tornado

An extremely close relative to the hailstorm is the tornado. Although occurrences of the "twisters" in British Columbia are rare, there have been documented reports of such events. Awesome and devastating, these violent storms may cause thousands of dollars of damage in a matter of seconds. One such event documented in the weather annals of the province occurred in the Central Interior of British Columbia during a hot summer afternoon in 1926.

Temperatures in the Cariboo region of British Columbia were extremely high during the first few days of July in 1926 and had inched into the mid-nineties in the afternoon of the 12th. Residents of the area sat around talking and discussing the unusually hot and sultry conditions as no work could be performed under these uncomfortable conditions. It was disconcertingly quiet and calm. Suddenly, a large dark cloud loomed up on the southwestern horizon near 115 Mile House on Lac La Hache and a snake-like extension formed beneath the black, towering cloud and plunged earthward. Within moments the air was shattered by the deafening roar of a tornado! Rain pelted down in curtains flooding the land as the sound of cracking thunder reverberated throughout the area. As far away as 127 Mile House the thunder was described as the sound of "...the bursting of cannon". Barns and many other structures literally disintegrated as the storm swept down on them. Stands of valuable timber

were mowed down like grass and bolts of lightning started many fires in the tinder-dry forests. Almost all power lines were downed and roads into the area were impassable because of the fallen timber. Many cattle were killed as they grazed in the pastures, and a recently finished irrigation ditch was completely destroyed. In a matter of a few minutes the violent storm caused many thousands of dollars of damage to property, timber, and homes. Then, as rapidly as it started, the storm moved on, dissipating as its energy was spent.

(7) An Earlier Centennial Summer

Weather records are not always concerned with violent and tempestuous manifestations in the atmosphere. Quite often periods of meteorological significance are notable due to their lack of activity. Many summers in British Columbia have been warm and dry but few can compare with the arid summer of 1958, the centennial year for the province. Celebrations began early in the year with the unseasonably warm winter but the major spectacular events were scheduled for the summer months. Summer actually commenced during the latter part of April with the cessation of the spring rains and with only the occasional shower to dampen the forests, serious fire hazards developed over large sections of the province. Lightning storms touched off several fires in the Interior and caused many thousands of dollars of damage. These fires were a prelude to the explosive situation which was to develop during the remainder of the summer. Festivities and outdoor shows were numerous during the latter part of June and July, as centennial celebrations got well underway. Few dared to think of rain. An exception were the men of the British Columbia Forest Service who maintained a constant watch on the tinder-dry forests of the province. With each mounting day without rain, the forest fire hazards soared, and in many sections of the province the Forest Service