THE GLOBE, TORONTO. SAT. MAY 25 1912.
STORM DATE: ABOUT 4:30 AM. FRI. MAY 24.

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CLOUDBURST, FLOODS.
↳ STRIKES.
TORNADO?

# VAST DAMAGE DONE BY THE HEAVY RAIN

## Collingwood and Vicinity Devastated by Floods

## HOUSE STRUCK AND BURNED

**Spring Grain Crops Destroyed — Dam Carried Away, Miller Swept Off, but Rescued—Span of Bridge Washed Away After Train Crossed.**

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Collingwood, May 24.—This morning from 1 o'clock till 4.30 o'clock Collingwood and vicinity was visited by the worst and most prolonged thunder and rain storm of a great many years. From the start until the clouds cleared away the sky was one continued blaze of light, while the thunder rolled and the rain fell in torrents. Rivers and creeks were soon swelled to overflowing, and bridges were carried away, gardens and farm crops destroyed, and streets so washed out as to be impassable for traffic. In the eastern and western sections of the town fine lawns were destroyed, streets torn up, poultry and swine drowned, and buildings removed from their foundations. Great piles of driftwood brought down from the country are piled here and there, while gravel and mud were carried from the streets and thrown on to private property. The loss on this account alone will run up into the thousands of dollars.

When the storm was at its height the lightning struck a double brick residence here owned by Charles Clark, and it was burned, causing a loss of $3,500, on which there is some insurance. None of the inmates was injured.

**Grain Crops Destroyed.**

In the surrounding country, where there was a cloudburst, many farms are cut into a series of gullies, and a large acreage of crop, principally spring grain, is destroyed. At Nottawa, three miles south of here, the dam belonging to the flour mill of John A. Brackenridge was carried away, as was a large bridge a short distance below on Hurontario street, the leading north and south road. Mr. Brackenridge was on the dam at the time it gave way and was carried down the stream with the raging torrent. Fortunately he was thrown against some timbers, whence he was rescued by those assisting him. His loss will reach several thousand dollars without consideration of the time the mill will be out of commission during the reconstruction of the dam. At Thornbury the Beaver River rose many feet and caused much damage. One span of the Grand Trunk steel bridge over the river was washed away a moment after a freight train laden with wheat from Meaford had passed across it. This morning all trains to and from the north were cancelled, and a bridge crew was despatched to the scene.

**Severe at Berlin.**

Berlin, May 24.—This town was visited by one of the most spectacular and fiercest electrical storms in many years at 4.30 o'clock this morning. Lightning struck trees, poles and wires at frequent intervals, and the thunder was terrific. The tall chimney of Hibner's Furniture Factory was struck, but no damage was done beyond removing some bricks. The storm continued for thirty minutes, and after it passed over the citizens congratulated themselves that the town had escaped without loss of life and with very little damage by fire.

**Roofs Carried Away.**

Stratford, May 24.—During a severe electrical storm here early this morning the roofs of the Ballantyne cold-storage plant and the reserve ice-house of Sleet & Keane were lifted bodily and carried a considerable distance. The damage in each case will be several hundred dollars.

# LIGHTNING BURNS MILL AND BARN

**MORE THAN FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS' LOSS IN EARLY MORNING FIRE.**

Welland, May 24.—(Special.)—A destructive fire at 4.15 this morning completely destroyed the big flouring mills know as the Brown's Mills, purchased a number of years ago and still owned by Robert Cooper, who built the large Brock mill, using this one for storage, etc. The loss will be between $15,000 and $20,000, as the mill contained much valuable machinery. The building was a landmark erected many years ago. The heavy timbers were dry and burned fiercely. The firemen by good work, helped by the rain, saved the buildings nearby. Lightning started the fire.

Lightning this morning struck and burned the farm barn with contents owned by Thomas Rice, Pelham Corners. A small amout of insurance was carried. Seven pigs were burned.