

# WIND BLEW GREAT GUNS AND MADE OMAHA QUIVER

**With a Highest Velocity of Sixty-Two Miles an Hour Friday Night It Created Some Havoc.**

**Ex-Mayor Bemis and Several Others Badly Hurt—Roofs, Glass and Dwellings Wrecked.**

**Wind Blew 62 Miles an Hour. Persons Hurt: One Dangerously. Four Severely. Losses to Buildings \$10,000. Loss of Glass \$1,200. Loss of Sleep—Aggregate 650,000 Hours.**

Wind blew "great guns" here Friday night. The highest velocity attained by the wind was sixty-two miles an hour, which is but little short of the hurricane standard. The worst of the storm was between the hours of 5:30 and 8:30, and by 11 the clouds were disappearing in the southeast, with the moon peering cautiously over their angry edges. The list of injured includes one person dangerously and four severely hurt.

Building Inspector Carter estimates the loss done by damages to residences, business blocks, barns, schools, churches and outhouses at not over \$10,000. The Midland Glass & Paint company estimates the loss to glass windows at \$1,000 to \$1,200. Outside of these are losses to the lighting, telegraph and telephone companies, which they say are not large.

Albert Davies, a young man 20 years of age, employed as a clerk at Edwards' grocery store, was struck by a flying sidewalk at Thirty-sixth and Hamilton, and one of his shoulders crushed. He lay under the wreckage until extricated by others. He was taken to his home at 3527 Charles street, and is confined to his bed. The doctor says he has also sustained internal injuries.

Charles W. Murdock, superintendent of construction of the new federal building, was in the bill board wreck with ex-Mayor Bemis at Eighteenth and Farnam streets, sustaining a severe shock to his nervous system and some severe bruises. Mr. Murdock had been standing at Hahn's drug store, waiting for the wind to subside. During a lull he started out, closely followed by Mr. Bemis. After having gone some fifty feet Mr. Murdock heard the high bill board creaking and snapping. He realized that there was danger, and bracing himself, an instant later the great pile of lumber landed on top of him, knocking him down, bruising his head and right shoulder. He was dazed for a time, but upon being dug from the pile of debris soon regained consciousness.

## GAS POST CUT OFF.

The Omaha Gas company came in for its share of trouble. Notwithstanding the severity of the storm, the lighting boys made their rounds as usual Friday night. Every lamp that was in condition was lighted, so that the service was reasonably fair. However, the continuation of the wind wrought havoc. Several hundred mantles was broken, and fifty domes were blown off. One lamp post in the north part of the city was demolished by a flying section of sidewalk.

## HARD ON ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

The electric light company did its best but only a few of its lights were shining during the night. Broken wires and crosses demoralized the service. At different places live wires spit fire as the loose ends blew about. As the breaks were located, men were stationed at the points of danger, and pedestrians were warned to keep away.

The telephone company was inconvenienced somewhat, but the amount of damage was light. In the city a number of the aerial lines were blown down, but they were repaired before noon. Little damage was reported from out in the state. At noon all of the district points reported the lines working in good shape.

Little damage was done to the lines of the street railway company. During the early evening several poles went down on West Farnam street, delaying traffic for an hour. A section of the ornamental cornice was blown off the car barn at Twenty-fourth street and Ames avenue.

## TELEGRAPH TRIBULATIONS.

The telegraph companies were severe sufferers from the effects of the Friday night storm, the Western Union being hurt more than the Postal, on account of having more wires in the path of the wind.

Friday night and up to 8 yesterday morning the Western Union had no line working out of Omaha direct to the east. All of the business was sent to Salt Lake, and from there to Helena, Mont., whence it went to St. Paul, and thence to Chicago for distribution. Every line working direct to Chicago, St. Paul and St. Louis was down. The eighteen wires over the Rock Island were broken in several places, and the ten wires on the Northwestern were down at Arion, where a windmill blew over, striking the wires and cutting them off as though they had been threads.

As soon as it was learned that the wind had done considerable damage, working crews were sent from Davenport and Marshalltown, Ia., and put to work early in the morning. To this force was added a party of workmen here, engaged in construction. At 10 o'clock two direct wires to Chicago and one to Kansas City were working.

In the city there were a large number of breaks, but repairs were made during the morning, and at noon all of the short lines were in good working order.

All of the lines of the Postal to the south and east were blown down, but men were sent out as soon as the storm subsided, and at noon business was being handled as usual.

## TIN ROOFS FLEW.

At Seventeenth and Webster streets the

roof was blown off the Martin flats and fire in the flue added to the eclat of the occasion.

A portion of the roof was blown off the Crane-Churchill building at Eleventh and Douglas. The tin roof of the Allen P. Ely building, in the same vicinity, was rolled up like a scroll and tossed down on Douglas street.

Late in the afternoon a curious crowd stood about a wire that had been blown down at Fourteenth and Webster streets. Speculation was rife as to whether or not the wire was a live one. Officer Neilson happened along. "I will see whether the wire is alive or not," he said, and, removing his glove, he stooped down and picked it up. He is still alive, so it is believed that the wire was a dead one.

## DEMOLISHED NEW HOUSE.

A two-story frame house, just completed ready for plastering, at Thirtieth and Miami streets, belonging to Henry Larsen, was completely wrecked. It was uplifted from its foundation and blown over upon the foundation of another house being erected. Damage is estimated at about \$500. Mr. Larsen had cyclone insurance.

The roof covering a portion of Dr. Davis' residence, Twenty-sixth and Lake streets, was loosened from its moorings.

The stone porch on the north side of Immanuel hospital at Central Park was removed from its foundation and piled in a mass.

At Clifton Hill people began hunting their cellars and wind caves at the approach of the storm. But little damage was done there beyond the destruction of fences and the mischief to roofs and chimneys.

## HOUSE WRECKED AT BENSON.

The wind blew a fearful rate at Benson, unroofing houses and blowing down chimneys.

One house was totally wrecked at Benson. A five-room cottage in course of construction, belonging to Howard Grove, was torn from its foundation, carried a short distance and then twisted into kindling wood.

A barn owned by Mr. Blumberg was demolished.

The Benson school house chimney and stone capping was strewn about the ground.

Lew McGuire's brick house received a severe shake. A projecting wall above the roof was sent spinning through the air and the brick scattered.

Reports from the country indicate that the farm buildings, barns and fences suffered. A barn, 36x60, three miles west of Benson, was rent asunder and the material distributed about the farm.

## ROLLED UP IN TIN ROOF.

When the wind was blowing the hardest Judge Gustave Anderson had a startling experience. He owns and occupies one of the flats at Twentieth and Douglas streets. This building has a flat, tin roof. It was evident that the wind would blow the roof away. Mr. Anderson and his son, William, crawled through a manhole in the roof, and commenced tacking down the loose tin on the side from which the wind was blowing. Suddenly a heavy gust of wind caught the loose tin, and rolling it up, moved eastward, toward the edge of the building. In this tin blanket Mr. Anderson and his son found themselves rolled up, wedged tightly. As the roll passed along, Mr. Anderson felt that he was going to be tossed to the ground, a distance of thirty feet below. However, when the thing reached the east battlement of the roof, it stopped, and Mr. Anderson and his son crawled out, uninjured, but badly scared.

## DAMAGE AT COUNTY HOSPITAL.

The wind did several hundred dollars damage at the Douglas county hospital, where a part of the roof was torn off and a large section of the slate roofing was torn loose. A number of windows were also broken, and the feed wires, supplying current for the electric lighting, were blown down, leaving the institution without the regular lights, and necessitating the improvised use of lamps and lanterns. Three of the herd of goats recently secured to clear up some pasture land took advantage of the general disturbance to die, but their loss is not charged up to the storm. They were of the Angora variety, and Superintendent Oest submitted a report of the loss of "three of those Angostura goats." The Angostura contingent around the court house appreciated the designation immensely.

Sommer Bros., Twenty-eighth and Farnam streets, lost two plate glass windows.

A slate roof on a brick residence-building at Twenty-seventh and Farnam streets was all but stripped off.

The blowing in of a portion of the north gable of the Mason school, and the tearing up and blowing away of sidewalks around the Omaha View school, was the only damage to school property reported at the board of education office yesterday morning.

A man Saturday morning fell and broke broke his leg at Thirty-first and Hamilton on a sidewalk which has been upturned by the storm.

Up to noon no reports of any old shacks having been blown down by the storm had been received, and Building Inspector Carter was disgusted. Why the wind should play havoc with good buildings and pass around old and dilapidated barns and frame dwellings he cannot explain, except to say that most of the buildings which should blow down are protected by larger and better ones around them.