

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

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TOLL OF DEAD IN TORNADO OVER 800

Exact Number of Casualties
Probably Will Never Be
Known.

Chicago, Ill.—Casualty totals reported for the tornado which swept through southern Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Indiana after lashing eastern Missouri showed 638 killed in Illinois, 93 in Indiana, 54 in Tennessee, 22 in Missouri and 13 in Kentucky. Murphyboro, Ill., headed the list with 189 known dead. The exact toll of the storm, Red Cross officials admitted, probably never will be known. There were some victims actually annihilated in the wind terror. Others were removed to different towns. And there have been scores of visitors in the section who will not be missed for weeks.

Saturday and Sunday the giant, hollow-eyed survivors in the storm area of Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee stood solemnly by the yawning death pits in their last good-bye to wives, mothers, children, sweethearts, snapped into eternity in a twinkling by the awful force of the cyclone.

Everywhere in the five states which felt the death laden breath of the storm, the victims, many unidentified, were committed back to the earth from which they came—laid to rest separately, by twos, by threes and by dozens, in soldier dug graves. And simple white crosses, conjuring up a picture of other such symbols across the sea, stood forth to mark the trail of devastation.

The total property loss has not been compiled, but will likely be more than \$12,000,000 in Illinois alone. With some \$3,000,000 in Indiana and about a million each in Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky, the property loss is likely to exceed \$18,000,000.

TORNADO FORECAST IS NOT POSSIBLE

Washington, D. C.—One of nature's most deadly and costly freaks—the tornado—will never be understood or investigated to the point where science can accurately forecast its beginning or its path, according to C. L. Mitchell, forecaster of the United States weather bureau here.

Mitchell said weather bureau experts were frustrated on all sides in their efforts adequately to acquaint themselves with the "whirls." The only information they can now obtain about tornadoes is by investigating and inspecting stricken areas.

"If we could be up in the sky," said Mitchell, "at the exact spot where a tornado was about to be conceived, there is a bare possibility that we might in time be able to make a fairly close forecast of tornadoes. But there is no other way we could."

Because of possible panics and riots the weather bureau does not even attempt to forecast tornadoes. The extent of the bureau's predictions of tornadoes now is limited to "unsettled disturbances."

STATE HELD NOT LIABLE

Negligence of Officers No Grounds for Action Against Washington.

Olympia, Wash.—A survival of the theory that "the king can do no wrong," has placed the state in the peculiar position of admitting negligence in highway construction and escaping liability, according to an opinion issued by James Allen, highway engineer, by John H. Dunbar, attorney-general.

The modern rule of law is that the state cannot be sued for tort, and is not liable for negligence on the part of its officers or agents, Mr. Dunbar pointed out.

The question was brought up by Mr. Allen after the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway company had presented a bill for damages resulting when earth and rocks from the government slide on the North Bank highway covered railroad tracks and necessitated employment of watchmen and removal of the debris by the railroad company.

Nebraska Dry Law is Drastic.
Omaha, Neb.—Nebraska will be drier than the driest bone dry state in the Union, state officials predict as a result of the celebrated "pint of liquor law," which passed the Nebraska legislature. Under the provisions of the bill, possession of more than a pint of liquor will be prima facie evidence that its possessor is a bootlegger.

13 Killed in S. P. Train Collision.
New Orleans, La.—Thirteen persons were killed and five seriously injured Sunday when two Southern Pacific fast trains collided head on in a fog. The accident occurred near Richoe, La. The official report of the accident said that the eastbound train saw a signal in a fog.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS BEAR OUT ESTIMATES

Official Reports on March
Payments Will Equal Per-
centage Forecast.

Washington, D. C.—Official reports on the March tax payments indicate to treasury officials that their estimate of receipts for the quarter and for the fiscal year ending next June 30 will be borne out.

The March installment had been calculated at \$420,000,000 and receipts for the fiscal year placed at \$1,660,000,000 in the treasury department. Secretary Mellon and Under-Secretary Winston also had expected that 80 per cent of the March payments would be in the hands of collectors by March 31 for certification to the treasury and their figures, they said, showed that the total on Saturday approximated 80 per cent of the \$420,000,000.

While the trend thus indicated has given the treasury a feeling of security as to the income for the government in the current fiscal year, no one, in the secretary's opinion, can tell at this time the full effect of the reduced rates carried by the present tax law and he regards it as unlikely that the treasury will be able to compute its producing power until after the June payment is received.

The fact that the treasury will not know definitely concerning the present law has not, however, delayed its plans for going ahead with a study of the changes in preparation for further tax revision next fall.

SECRETARY JARDINE ORDERS GRAIN QUIZ

Washington, D. C.—Instructions to examine the books and trading records of all grain exchanges in the country and those of a number of large brokers were sent by Secretary Jardine to field agents of the grain futures administration.

The action constituted the agriculture department's first step in its investigation of the causes of the recent fluctuations in the price of wheat.

The orders went to Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and other points. The examination will cover trading accounts since the price decline began a few days ago. Records of the exchanges and brokers are expected to show plainly whether buying and selling were the result of abuse of trading privileges.

The right of the department to inspect such records is held to be established by the grain futures act. Officials here expect no objection.

FARMERS LOANED \$289,331

402 Applications for Seed Wheat
Loans Have Been Approved.

Salem, Or.—The state of Oregon, according to a report prepared here, has loaned to the farmers in the frost devastated districts east of the Cascade mountains approximately \$289,331. The loans were made under a so-called relief act approved at the recent session of the state legislature.

Under the provisions of the law the money borrowed from the state must be used for purchasing seed to rehabilitate lands which were devastated of crops as a result of the unusual cold weather that prevailed in eastern Oregon a few months ago.

A total of 436 applicants for these loans have been received, with an aggregate of \$327,613.49 involved. Of these applications 402 have been approved.

Federal Court Reverses Rum Case.

San Francisco.—The United States circuit court of appeals held that a peace officer cannot arrest a man without a warrant for carrying a suspicious package, even if the officers' suspicions are justified. Ernest Brown had been arrested by a policeman in Portland, Or., for carrying a package which a policeman suspected contained liquor. The policeman was right, according to the evidence, and Brown was convicted of a Volstead law violation.

1924 Crop Value Exceeds 12 Billions.

Washington, D. C.—American farms produced \$12,404,000,000 in 1924, according to estimates prepared by the department of agriculture, indicating an increase of \$56,000,000 over 1923. The department attributed the increase to higher market values for certain crops, as contrasted with the reduced value of livestock products. Cereals accounted for \$5,220,000,000 or 45.8 per cent of the total, compared with \$3.8 per cent in 1923.

Coolidge Holds Up More Guard Funds.

Washington, D. C.—Appropriations of \$3,074,000 for the national guard in excess of the amounts recommended to congress were ordered held up by President Coolidge pending an inquiry to determine the necessity for the expenditure.

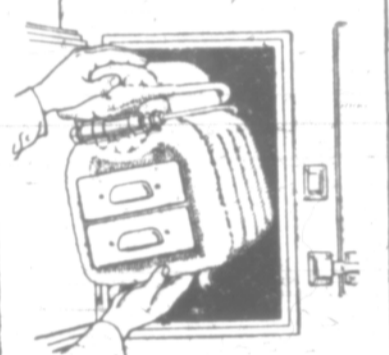
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