Tornado Destroys Town.

MARQUETTE, Kan., May 9.—Following a terrific rainstorm, a tornado from the south tore a path through the residence part of this town at midnight last night, destroying almost every house in its path and causing the death of 29 and injury to 44 persons, several of whom will die.

An unusually hot and oppressive afternoon during which the atmosphere was loaded with electricity, was followed by a night peculiar for a deluge of rain. This continued until 11:55 P. M., when the tornado, which had formed about three miles south of town, spent its full force among the best residences, dashing them into ruins, in which their occupants were entombed. It was gone in five minutes and continued to mark its path with devastation for many miles northward.

Dead or mangled bodies were found pinned down among piles of lumber, which had been houses, some crushed beyond hope of their holding a spark of life, others pinned down by an arm or a leg, in which the homes were smashed and only a shred of flesh held them.

The main path of the storm was through the residence section west of the main street, and it wrecked completely every house, with two or three exceptions. The Swedish Lutheran and Methodist Church and the Methodist parsonage were demolished. When the Associated Press representative arrived, just when day broke, he found six injured in one room of the parsonage, while in an adjoining room were eight bodies of persons who had died of injuries. There were similar scenes in half a dozen other homes.

When the missing in Marquette shall have purged themselves of fear, the survivors directed their attention to the surrounding country. Soon half a dozen wagonloads of dead and injured had been brought to the town from the district adjoining it on the south.

The sufferers tell of many narrow escapes from death. Irene Sallven, the infant daughter of Charles Sallven, was lifted in her bed and carried to the middle of the street, receiving only a few scratches. Sallven and his wife were dangerously injured.

The mattress upon which the baby daughter of the Rev. Mr. Smith lay was doubled up in such a manner as to cover the child and protect it from falling timbers. In spite of the destruction of the Smith house, the entire family escaped injury.

Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Elfvin were carried on their bed a distance of 500 feet and laid down without being seriously injured.

The tornado cut a clean swath 100 yards in width through the town's entire length. As it came at midnight, the people were caught without a moment's warning. Some of the victims were killed as they lay asleep; others, maimed and bleeding, awoke to find themselves buried in the wreckage of their former homes.

In several cases entire families have been killed. A man named Switzer, a night watchman at the railroads yards, lost his three children. N. P. Nelson, his wife and three children were found dead. Two other children were not at home and escaped injury.

Marquette is a town of 1500 people in McPherson County. It is in the exact center of Kansas, and in the richest farming country in the state.)

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Charles Hatfield, a "rainmaker" who has been working since December 15, last to produce 18 inches of rain for Southern California by May 1, on a pledge of a number of Los Angeles merchants to pay him $1000 if he succeeded, has completed his demonstrations and was paid a large proportion of the sum promised. The remainder of the amount guaranteed him will be paid shortly, it is said.

The fall of rain in Los Angeles during the season ending May 1 has been 18.96 inches, which far exceeds the fall of last season, and is above the normal annual precipitation for this section.

Hatfields established his "rain making" plant in Altadena, in the foothills of the mountains, some 20 miles from Los Angeles, December 15 and the amount of rainfall from that date in the immediate locality of his plant has been 20.49 inches. Hatfield's method is a generation of gas and its discharge into the atmosphere from a chimney, which has the result, he claims, of attracting forces of nature which compel moisture to form and be precipitated in the shape of rain.

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