

# BIG DAMAGE DONE BY FLOODS, WIND AND LIGHTNING

**HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF  
DOLLARS WORTH OF PROPER-  
TY DESTROYED BY WATER—  
CATTLE, HOGS AND CHICK-  
ENS ARE DROWNED BY  
THE HUNDREDS.**

**Lightning and Wind Add to the  
Destructiveness of the Worst  
Calamity Ever Experienced  
in the County.**

Lac qui Parle county was visited by one of the worst storms in its history last Saturday evening, and as a result thousands of acres of fine crops are under water, pastures are flooded, bridges and grades are washed out and considerable live stock has perished.

Madison and the towns west of here as far as Watertown have been shut off from the rest of the world on account of washouts of the railroad track, making it impossible for trains to go farther west than Boyd and farther east than Strandburg, until Tuesday night when a work train came through to Madison.

The heavy rainfall began Saturday afternoon and continued until midnight, being at its height about nine o'clock, completely flooding all low land to the depth of several feet. Various estimates as to the rainfall are from six to twelve inches.

The dam in the Yellow Bank river gave away during the storm and the water rushed down upon this section and made matters still worse, carrying away culverts and bridges in the way, finally finding its way to the river and ditches, which were already filled to overflowing. The result was that the water backed over the banks and flooded thousands of acres of land that gave promise of a good crop.

Madison did not suffer greatly from the flood. Two families only were compelled to leave their homes and seek refuge on higher ground, but cellars and basements were generally filled with water, much of which backed up from the drainage pipes, which could not carry the water off fast enough. By Sunday morning, however, the drainage system was functioning in good shape and water began to go down.

heavy losses between Dawson and Strandburg. The large trestle near Strandburg was practically destroyed, and it will take several days yet before trains will be going through to Aberdeen or Watertown. The

bridge at Dawson was moved out of place and a large stretch of track on the east side washed out. That damage was repaired Tuesday so that Tuesday's night train reached Dawson. Between Dawson and Madison considerable of the road bed was washed out, and between Madison and Marietta the track was destroyed in many places. One bridge was taken out west of Madison.

Several wild rumors were afloat of farmers losing all their stock and barely escaping with their lives, but these were not true in this section.

It was reported, among other rumors, that the body of an aged man had been found floating in the river at Dawson and that a man and two teams had been drowned in the river south-east of Ortonville. We have not been able to verify these rumors.

Every ditch bridge in the county was washed out and the approaches to the river bridges were more or less damaged, making it almost impossible to get across the river at any point.

Several residents of Garfield, Freeland and Hamlin were unable to get home until Tuesday afternoon on account of the high water in the river, which destroyed the approaches to the new bridge at Martin Bauler's place. They succeeded in getting home Tuesday afternoon by going several miles west. They had been here since Saturday, but were able to keep in communication with their families by telephone.

## OSCAR ANDERSON SUFFERS HEAVY LOSS BY CYCLONE

The storm last Saturday evening did not confine itself entirely to destruction of property by rain and lightning, but in the town of Arena also did damage by wind. A cyclone on Oscar Anderson's farm south of Haydenville destroyed his cow barn and machine shed, moved the chicken house from its foundation, blew down the windmill and tore the shingles

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Dawson suffered most from the downpour, for the river overflowed its banks and covered practically the entire south and east parts of town. Many families were compelled to leave their homes in the middle of the night, and did not have time to remove any of their furniture or wearing apparel, so rapidly did the water rise. On the south side of the river the water reached to the second story windows in some cases, and many houses were damaged almost beyond repair. The Power Accumulator Company's building was partly carried away and all the stock in it destroyed. Many hair-raising experiences are related by some of the residents of the area affected. No one can remember the time when the river was so high at Dawson.

It is impossible at this time to give any list of the people who lost part or all of their live stock, as farmers from the south and west have not been able to come to town. From Dawson comes the report that cattle, hogs, horses and chickens floated down the river in large numbers all day Sunday.

Lightning killed several head of stock and struck a number of buildings during the afternoon and night. John Borman had three head of horses killed, Oscar Skallerud lost one mule, Hans Ludvigson four head of cattle, Grant Hegg one critter, Peter Nelson one cow, one of the Slinde boys a colt, Peter Lillejord a hog and others.

The Ratrum school house in Garfield was struck by lightning, the barn of the Evangelical church was struck, the granary on the J. P. Hauck farm, J. E. Forbørd's barn and A. F. Hauck's hog house were damaged; the barn on the Bogan farm near Haydenville was struck twice, the second time catching fire, but the rain saved it from burning. The silo on Mrs. P. L. Peterson's farm in Garfield was blown down by the heavy wind which passed over sections of the county southwest of Madison. Most of the property destroyed by lightning was insured in the Lac qui Parle company, but that company does not insure against wind or flood.

The railroad company sustained

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Mr. Anderson's loss will amount to several hundred dollars.

### \$500,000 DAMAGE IN ORTONVILLE DISTRICT

Ortonville, Minn., June 23.—The flood pressed Minnesota and Wabash rivers are tearing through the Ortonville district and have caused damage estimated at \$500,000. Many farmers worked all night in water up to their waists to save live stock and household effects. The Minnesota river bottom is a huge lake. Damage is reported from many towns and villages on the Minnesota river between here and Appleton. The city of Ortonville escaped with small loss.

Both rivers have been at flood stage. Rain last night was almost of cloudburst proportions. Flood conditions are worse than they have been since 1897.

Three small bridges were carried away in the Ortonville-Appleton district. Reports from Milbank, S. D., a short distance west of here, indicate that some damage was sustained there. No casualties have been reported.

### G. A. R. RANKS THINNING; ASSOCIATION TO DISBAND

Pipestone, Minn., June 23.—Because of the continual thinning of its ranks, members of the Southwestern Minnesota G. A. R. association are making plans for the dissolution of the organization after 24 years of existence. A meeting has been called to be held in Pipestone on July 2 and 3, when it is expected all affairs of the post will be wound up.

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