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KANSAS TORNADOES

It is hard to get rid of a bad reputation. Kansas continues to be associated in the public mind with tornadoes, though accurate statistics have repeatedly been published to show that it is no more subject to these storms than several of its sister states. S. D. Flora, of the Weather Bureau, a well-known tornado authority, says:

"Not long ago the Weather Bureau made a careful count of tornadoes over the country in the 8-year period ending with 1923. In that time Kansas had 69, Arkansas 76, Iowa 66 and Missouri 57. Kansas, however, is larger than any other of these states, and when relative areas are considered we find both Arkansas and Iowa have more tornadoes than Kansas, while Missouri comes very close to Kansas in the frequency of these storms. Another fact that is being established in late years is that the greatest tornado damage to property and loss of human life has occurred in other states than Kansas. There is nothing in the history of Kansas parallel to the disasters at Murphysboro, Ill., the two St. Louis tornadoes, or the Omaha storm of 1913."

Mr. Flora also points out that tornadoes do not, on the average, travel so far in Kansas as they do in some of the states farther east, where the paths in many cases have been from 100 to 300 miles long. In Kansas a path as long as 50 miles is very rare.

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