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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AMERICAN TORNADOES IN 1928

Preliminary figures announced by H. C. Hunter, the tornado specialist of the U. S. Weather Bureau, show that more tornadoes occurred in the United States in 1928 than in any previous year since the Bureau began collecting detailed statistics of these storms. As compared with an average of about 100 a year, there were 185 tornadoes reported up to December 1. This enumeration may be regarded as nearly complete, as tornadoes rarely occur in December.

In contrast to the large number of storms, the attendant loss of life was exceptionally small -- viz, 78 -- whereas the average in past years has been about 150 deaths for each 50 tornadoes reported. The total property losses for the year are estimated at between twelve and fifteen million dollars. This figure is somewhat above the average but far below that of the worst years.

In losses of both life and property the most disastrous tornado of 1928 was the one that occurred at Rockford, Ill., in September.

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