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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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INSTRUCTIVE HAIL STATISTICS

Generally speaking, the amount of damage wrought by hail in the United States from year to year is a matter of great uncertainty. Iowa is said to be the only state in the Union for which reasonably complete and accurate statistics on this subject are available. The data in that state are gathered by the tax assessors and are assembled and tabulated by the Weather and Crop Bureau of the Iowa Department of Agriculture. The statistics for Iowa are probably typical for the middle Plains states, where, however, the amount of hail damage is decidedly greater than the average for the country as a whole.

During the eight years ending 1930, Iowa's annual hail losses averaged \$4,513,760, which was 1.15 per cent. of the value of the crops exposed to this risk. The greatest losses for a year amounted to \$7,975,686 in 1925, when a single storm, on August 18, caused a total damage estimated at \$5,000,000 - a figure that, if correct, would make it the worst hailstorm in American history. The least damage was \$1,598,963 in 1930.

The greatest county damage was \$1,076,280 in Woodbury County, in 1929, and the greatest township damage was \$321,380 in Liberty Township, Keokuk County, in 1924. The average annual number of townships reporting hail damage was 563, or 35 per cent. of the total number in the state. During the eight years, 159 townships, with about 10 per cent. of the total area of the state, reported no hail losses.

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