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7 WHY THE WEATHER 7

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

THE TOLL OF HAILSTORMS

Some years ago the U.S. Department of Agriculture published estimates of the damage done by hail to ten of the leading agricultural crops of this country - wheat, corn, oats, barley, flaxseed, rice, potatoes, tobacco, hay and cotton - during the eleven years 1909 to 1919, inclusive. The average annual hail losses for these crops alone amounted, in round numbers, to \$47,500,000, with a maximum in the year 1915 of \$69,000,000. These figures are, of course, far from representing the total damage inflicted by hail on property of all kinds in the United States. Losses on other agricultural and horticultural crops probably mount up into the millions every year. Greenhouse glass comes in for a heavy share of damage. In a recent year the Florists' Hail Association of America, which insures its members against this hazard, paid losses on shattered glass amounting to \$89,000.

That hail can work great havoc in a city as well as in the country was strikingly shown in the case of the famous Dallas, Texas, hailstorm of May 8, 1926; the most destructive that has thus far occurred in any one of our cities. The total damage in and about Dallas was estimated at \$2,000,000 and the brunt of the destruction was experienced in the business center of the town.

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