

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
May 19, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 12, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

HAIL THAT COST MILLIONS

Probably the costliest hail disaster thus far recorded from the United States or Canada was the one that struck the corn belt of Iowa August 18, 1925. It formed, says S.D. Flora, of the U.S. Weather Bureau, in the southeast corner of Foweshiek County and moved over portions of Iowa, Keokuk, Washington, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines and Lee counties, and then crossed the Mississippi into Illinois. The next day another storm occurred over portions of the same area. The total damage was estimated by officials of the Weather Bureau at \$5,000,000 in Iowa and \$510,000 in Illinois.

"Some of the stones," says Mr. Flora, "were of unbelievable size. Some, disk-shaped, were four inches across and two inches thick. Passenger trains caught in the storm did not have a whole window left. Fields of corn up to 75 acres in extent did not have a single stalk left standing. The damage to crops was so complete that many tenant farmers abandoned their leases and sought other employment."

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