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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TORNADOES DURING A DUST STORM

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Kansas has a reputation for tornadoes. Likewise for dust storms. On May 22 of this year the western part of the state staged both of these brands of weather at one time. S. D. Flora, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, says of this exhibition:

"Dust, picked up by high winds over the entire western third of the State, filled the air and in the southwestern counties it was reported as dark as midnight at mid-afternoon. Two violent tornadoes struck during this period of darkness at a time when people had no warning of their approach. One, at Liberal, Kansas, killed four persons, injured approximately 150, and caused a property loss of three-quarters of a million dollars. The other, a few miles west and north of Garden City, killed one man, injured ten others, and caused a loss of \$25,000 in property. Besides these especially violent storms, wind damage running into tens of thousands of dollars was reported in other sections of western Kansas."

The next day the air was generally calm, but great numbers of dust whirls were seen over the plains. According to the Topeka Daily Capital,

"Hundreds of small whirlwinds formed, raged a few minutes, spent their force and disappeared. Some of the smaller whirlwinds appeared only a few feet wide at the base and extended straight into the air several hundred feet, resembling a great plume. The larger ones swirled and whirled great clouds of dust into the air until they appeared a perfect picture of a funnel shaped tornado cloud. Others resembled a burning oil well with a great column of whirling dust extending hundreds of feet high. In many places 15 or 20 of these whirling disturbances could be counted on a quarter section of land and many reached sufficient force to change the course of a large automobile."

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