

instance, the possibility of collapse from a lightning stroke is a risk that cannot altogether be overlooked. No longer ago than April 29th, a happening of this sort occurred on the premises of the Oak Park Power Co., Flint, Mich. According to a special report by the Boston Manufacturers' Mutual, there had been considerable thunder and lightning during the evening, but the wind, though strong, was in no way remarkable. At 10.30 p.m., a terrific crash was heard throughout the town, and the manager of the Oak Park Power Co., who happened to see the flash, described it as having a spiral appearance and that its direction was horizontal rather than vertical.

Immediately following the flash, the 50,000-gallon wooden sprinkler tank on the 90-foot trestle collapsed, releasing the water, which in falling swept away the one-storey brick gas house with its contents, wrecked the coal yard and electric traveling crane, and damaged the end of the boiler house and the coal bins. It is said the falling of the tank and the flash of the lightning were simultaneous and could not be separated.

When the remains of the wooden tank were examined it was found that every stave and bottom plank as far as could be seen was badly broken and shattered so that the pile looked like kindling wood.

The tank was of modern design with round steel hoops, with malleable iron lugs. The staves were two and three-fourths inches thick. Everything fell straight down. The hoops fell lying together. The iron in the trestle was bent, doubled and twisted, and several members were driven into the ground many feet. So far as learned, no burned wood or fused metal was found. All the wreckage was examined and salvage allowed on everything having value, including six tanks in the gas house. The loss was \$10,000.

The structure falling the instant the bolt struck the tank, it seems certain that lightning was the direct cause of the accident, but just how the failure took place cannot be stated positively. The most reasonable theory seems to be that the tank itself was struck and shattered to such an extent that the water and tank, in falling, struck the stay rods and girth beams, which in turn destroyed the four legs of the trestle. The lightning probably went to the ground by way of the 8-inch riser, which accounts for the fact that the concrete piers on which the legs rested were not shattered, as they would have been had the lightning escaped by one of these.

Insurance Engineering, of New York, comments upon the Flint happening in its July issue, as follows:

"Tanks located on trestles have collapsed in the past, but such accidents have been due chiefly to poor design and poor workmanship in erecting them. As it is possible that elevated tanks may again be struck by lightning, it might be well for engineers to consider the question of protecting them against such danger, and Insurance Engineering will be glad to receive any suggestions along that line.

"Even the temporary loss of a supply of water intended for fire protection purposes may be a serious matter. This case illustrates the value of a second source of water supply to fall back on in an emergency."

MANAGER OF GREAT WEST LIFE VISITS MONTREAL.

Mr. J. H. Brock, managing director of the Great West Life Assurance Company, Winnipeg, spent some days in the city this week. Before coming to Montreal, Mr. Brock visited the agencies of his company at Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Victoria and Vancouver, in all of which he found business quite active. Building operations, he states, were more extensive than in any previous year.

Mr. Brock is of the view that while a heavy yield of grain is not expected this year, a good average crop is now fairly sure throughout the whole Western prairies. It is expected that the harvest in Manitoba will be commenced by the 15th August, and in Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta by the 1st September. In Southern Alberta, the enormous yield of fall wheat last year will not be repeated in 1909 as about sixty per cent. of the fall wheat area was winter killed. A certain portion of this area was sown with spring wheat and barley, and the spring grain is looking well. In the sections where the fall wheat escaped damage, the usual heavy yield is expected. The immigration of farmers both from the United States and Great Britain, continues to be in excess of the estimates. There is every appearance of a steady growth in population, and business men are well pleased with the conditions so far this year.

The live stock industry is in a prosperous condition, and the demand being in excess of the supply, stock raisers are able to take advantage of the high market prices. The display of British Columbia fruit at the Seattle exhibition this year, is very much admired both for its excellence and the manner in which the exhibits are arranged. The Canadian section is attracting a great deal of attention. More than one million people had visited the exhibition up to the 15th July, and the financial success of the enterprise is already well assured.

The Selkirk Centennial exhibition proposed to be held in Winnipeg in 1912 has already attracted great attention, not only throughout Canada and the United States, but also in Europe; and enquiries have been received from Germany, Japan, and other enterprising countries.

Mr. Brock states that the building operations in Winnipeg this year will amount to about double the expenditure for 1908. The Great West Life is putting up a handsome and commodious four storey, steel and marble structure in a central and prominent location, and the Bank of Montreal will erect a building next year in keeping with that institution, on the site at present occupied by the Great West Life. The population in Winnipeg is steadily increasing; at present it is over 125,000 within the city limits. Mr. Brock was greatly impressed with the evidences of prosperity in Vancouver. Success seemed to be enjoyed equally in all lines of business.

The life companies are pretty generally represented in the West and all report a good business this year. The financial institutions transacting business in the West are well supplied with funds, and the demand for money continues to be very great. The investments are steadily increasing