

A Disastrous Cloud Burst.

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., July 2.—The Indian settlement in Tejou Canon was destroyed by a flood, caused by a cloud burst in the mountains. Several were drowned. Many were injured by drift timber. Farmers lower down the valley, it is supposed, have suffered heavy losses.

Overcome by Heat.

NEW YORK, July 2.—While the Twenty-third Regiment was marching to the steamer in Brooklyn, en route to Peekskill, twenty men were overcome by the heat. The decks were converted into a temporary hospital. None of the cases resulted fatally.

Kansas and Arkansas Visited— Wind Blowing 180 Miles an Hour.

OSAGE MISSION, Kan., July 5.—A tornado visited the country about nine miles east of this place Monday night, blowing down several houses and barns. The town of Beulah, in Crawford county, suffered badly, having a number of houses blown down. Girard, in the same county, suffered considerably. No lives were lost as far as heard from.

RAIN IN TORRENTS.

LITTLE ROCK, July 5.—This city was visited Monday night by a veritable tornado. For half an hour the wind blew at the rate of seventy-two miles per hour, and for one minute it made three miles, or at the rate of 180 miles per hour. These figures are given by the signal-service station here. No buildings were blown down, but signs, chimneys and roofs were blown away, while trees and fences were prostrated in all directions. Rain fell in torrents.

The Iowa Tornado.

From an appeal to the public for aid for the sufferers by the recent great tornado in Iowa we make the following extracts: The tornado made a swath of destruction through the thickly settled portion of Iowa, some 150 miles in length and an average of half a mile in width, extending from a point south of Ames, in the centre of the State, and swept in the shape of a crescent to South English, in Keokuk county, in the Southeastern part of the State. We have the names now of 69 dead and 500 wounded, half of the latter grievously hurt and probably a fifth of them fatally. Over three hundred families have had their homes totally destroyed, and there are now at least 1,500 homeless and in want. The loss in property will exceed \$2,000,000, and may reach 3,000,000. In the town of Grinnell alone over \$1,000,000 in property was destroyed, on none of which there was a cent of insurance, as in the case of fires. It will take at least \$300,000 to put the people there beyond need and distress. It will take \$100,000 at once to put the wounded people in condition to be cared for. It will take \$1,000,000 at the lowest to keep the sufferers from want and to help them to put the humbles, of roofs over their heads. The condition of other towns and farming communities is fully as pitiable and helpless. All that the people of Iowa can do will be done to alleviate the condition and repair in part the losses of the sufferers. But it will take \$1,000,000 to do it, even to half way comfort and recompense them; and the people of a State who have always borne their share and done their part in all national calamities may fitly ask the people of other communities to help them in this hour of great calamity to many of the worst of its people.

The fury and power of this utter calamity were as indescribable in their mightiness of strength as their havoc and power were cruel and complete. Many people were left of their

houses not a splinter as large as a finger, not a shred of furniture as large as a skein of silk, and hundreds have no clothing left except the night clothes they had on. Cases of exceptional horror add exceptional pathos to the piteous whole. Women in pregnancy were killed outright, others forced to a premature delivery, and little children had both parents killed, and were left maimed and wounded themselves. Every condition exists that most tenderly appeals to the pity of the human heart. The wounds inflicted by the debris that filled the air like chaos, by the electric balls of fire that seemed to traverse every inch of space and that exploded with fearfully fatal effect, will, many of them, defy all skill and nursing, even with the tenderest care.

The fury of the storm, which was clearly of electric origin, and which, indeed, may be described as having been electricity itself, precipitated in chaos, may be understood from the statement that, in various places, it took up in its greater spirals, or funnels, houses a thousand feet high, and took up and carried large herds of cattle through the air for thousands of feet and dashed them down dead in heaps. Many thousands of cattle, horses, hogs, and other animals now lie in the track of the tornado, already rotting, and adding, in the hot weather, the horror of putrefaction to the foul and pervading odors that are being given off by the millions of tons of decaying matter left in the wake of the tornado. The horrors of the storm the unspeakable cruelties that it inflicted, the pitiless woe of its coming in the night, when the dead were not known and the wounded could not be found, and the piteous state in which it has left hundreds of families, before prosperous, may not be described in words, but once known to generous hearts must command the instant sympathy of the liberal and immediate help.

Remittances may be made to Hon. J. B. Grinnell, at Grinnell, or the Mayor of Grinnell.—J. S. CLARKSON, Editor Des Moines Register.

Renovate Lawns.

However well the lawn may be cared for during the season of growth, it will often show signs of deterioration through the gradual exhaustion of the soil. A thick, matted sod over the soil is not favorable to a free circulation of air, freighted with ammonia, through it, and it becomes gradually deprived of that very important pabulum of grass. To restore the wasted ammonia as well as phosphates and potash with the least disturbance of the turf and annoyance to the family, is the question now under discussion.

One way would be to cover the ground with rich stable manure. But this course is very objectionable. To cover the soil with a thick coat of fine barn yard manure to lie through the winter and be raked off in the spring, is the method generally pursued, but it has its demerits. First it is very disgusting to the sight and smell of the family and passers-by all through the winter, especially if it be an open one. Secondly, it may deposit seeds of noxious weeds in the soil, rendering it more foul. If there is no better way of renovating the lawn than this, we must tolerate it, but we submit that there is.

A good commercial fertilizer, bone-meal, a rich, ammoniated phosphate, prepared with special reference to the wants of the lawn, would secure the desired fertilization with much less annoyance than stable manure. Have the fertilizer to cover the ground at the rate of five hundred pounds per acre.

We would say further in this connection, that it is almost impossible to preserve a uniform growth of lawn grass where trees and shrubs are growing. The shade of the tops and the

competition of the roots impoverish the soil, and the effects are visible on the lawn. On large grounds, shade trees are indispensable, but then a small patch of clean lawn can be preserved directly in front of the dwelling, and in small town lots the better way is, to devote the entire front exclusively to grass.—*American Rural Home.*

English Winters.

When frost and snow prevail at this time of year we hear a good deal about old-fashioned winters, seasonable Christmas weather, and so forth, the idea being generally prevalent that some 30 or 40 years ago winters were much colder than they are now, and that, in particular, December was of yore a month of much frost and snow. Meteorological records give no support to these views, which appear to be based solely on imperfect recollection of bitter winters in the past, winters as exceptional then as such winters are now, but remembered as though they had occurred in successive years and for many years in succession. Forty years ago men spoke of old-fashioned winters much as many of us do now. The belief was just as prevalent as now that some 30 or forty years earlier the winters had been much more severe than at the then present time. It is true this does not of itself prove that no such change has occurred as many believe in, for the winters 80 years ago might have been as much bitterer than the winters 40 years ago as these are supposed to have been bitterer than our present winters. But we should have to believe in a much greater change during the last 80 years than is assumed to have happened in the last 40 years. So that, as we have records of the winter weather 80 years ago, it becomes easier to put the prevalent superstition about the bitterness of the past winters to the test. When this is done, we find nothing to suggest that the average winter weather 80 or 100 years ago was severer than that which we now experience.

Before considering some of the evidence relating to past winters, we may as well note that, so far as Christmas weather is concerned, there is a real foundation for the theory that there has been a change, though none whatever for the theory that winter weather has changed. The old-fashioned Christmas weather—not the Christmas weather 30 or 40 years, but a century and a half ago—was, in fact, the weather of a different part of the year. Christmas-day during the first half of last century, instead of occurring as now four or five days after the shortest day of winter solstice, fell more than a fortnight after that epoch. Now the coldest part of the year, on the average, falls about four weeks after the winter solstice; so that we can very well understand that on the average of many years old Christmas-day and the old Christmas season would be colder than our present Christmas-tide. A study of the meteorological records of the last half century shows very clearly that such a difference exists between the Christmas weather of the New Style and that of the Old Style with its seasonal error of ten days. Thus, compare the weather of last fortnight in December in which our present Christmas season falls with that of the first fortnight in January to which old Christmas tide belonged. We find in 50 years seven in which the weather of the last fortnight of December was of a neutral character, mild and cold weather alternating in about equal proportions; 27 in which the weather of that fortnight was mild, and in the remaining 16 only the weather was severe. On the contrary, while there were eight years of neutral weather during the first fortnight in January, there were 15 only in which the weather of that fortnight was mild, the weather being severe in 27. We can