

One of the most severe electrical storms in many years struck several Greater Lowell towns yesterday afternoon causing considerable damage, causing fires in Pelham, N. H., and Graniteville and levelled four telephone poles in Wilmington, disrupting the electric and telephone services for some time. The storm broke shortly after 2 o'clock and, although not of long duration, was of hurricane proportions.

In Wilmington, hailstones as big as marbles fell, causing much broken glass in the various sections of the town. The storm, lasting about 10 minutes, centred near the railroad crossing in the centre of the town, and blew down four telegraph poles, one of which supported a huge transformer. Several trees were uprooted and traffic was at a standstill due to the intensity of the rain and hail. The complete damage to the town is not known as yet.

#### **Pelham Houses Hit.**

At Pelham, N. H., two houses were struck by lightning and considerable other damage was done by the storm. Rain and hail accompanied the lightning.

One bolt of lightning struck the vacant cottage at Pelham common owned by Daniel S. Atwood. Fire ensued and four rooms were damaged. All of the wiring and electrical fixtures were entirely destroyed. The bolt entered the attic, setting fire to curtains and woodwork. The blaze was noticed by persons sheltered at the post-office and firemen responded quickly to the alarm. They were able to get the flames under control before they gained much headway.

A second bolt of lightning struck the kitchen of the property of Miss Frances Hobbs, also vacant, and formerly known as the Mann place. It did considerable damage but there was no fire. A third bolt struck a number of junked automobiles at the residence of George Dionne but did no damage.