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EDITORIAL

Disaster usually strikes swiftly, dealing its lethal blow and then departing to leave the victims wondering what happened. Nature seldom gives the kind of performance a great many people were fortunate to witness Tuesday. Before their eyes a powerful unseen force moved with deliberate menace to destroy what most of us would accept as a strong and durable bit of man's ingenuity. Streams of seemingly powdery dirt eroded in a matter of hours what it took many men a great many months to construct. Here for all to see was a slow-motion demonstration of the ravages by the elements of the puny efforts of man. No wonder a number of civilizations have vanished from the earth, leaving only buried remnants of buildings to be discovered thousands of years later. What we saw was a natural phenomena, a demonstration of the irresistible force of many little grains of sand against a firm block of rock-hard material. The monetary loss will be great in this case, yet due to the whim of timing there was no loss of lives that normally would have added People who witnessed to the tragedy. Tuesday's spectacle will talk for many years about "the day time gave the minutes in hours".