

## DUSTSTORMS IN THE UNITED STATES, JUNE 1936

By J. P. KOHLER

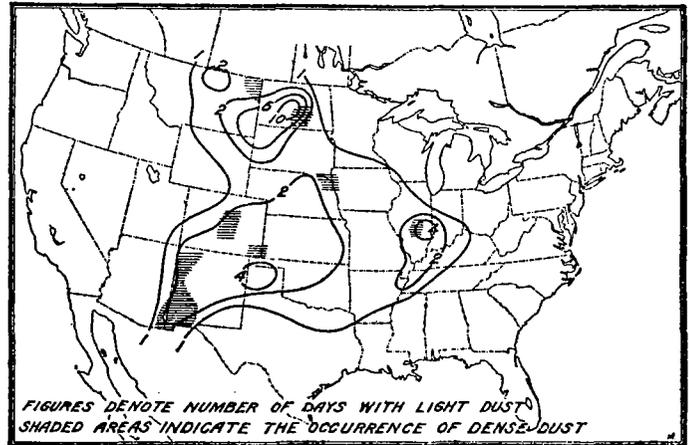
Duststorms were somewhat more frequent, but less severe, in June than in the preceding month. The increases in number of duststorms are directly attributable to subnormal precipitation. Percentages of normal rainfall, given by preliminary but rather complete records, support this contention. The Dakotas, Minnesota, Kansas, Tennessee, and Indiana had less than 40 percent, and Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas 60 percent or less, of the normal monthly rainfall.

Comparison of the accompanying chart with that for May brings out several notable differences. The eastern boundary of the dust area receded from western Pennsylvania to the extreme western portion of Ohio; Pennsylvania received approximately 94 percent of normal rainfall. Similarly the northwestern limits migrated toward the interior because of above normal precipitation over the States of Idaho and Wyoming. Further, three maxima of light dust were centered in the following sections: North Dakota and southeastern Montana; central and southern Illinois; Oklahoma, New Mexico, and portions of adjoining States. Areas of dense dust, delineated by cross-hatch lines, are small and widely scattered—the direct consequence of weak cyclonic movement during the summer months.

Duststorms effected no material damage to crops, partly because of advanced deterioration due to drought conditions and the weak character of the duststorms. However, in several instances, dense duststorms attained sufficient force to cause discomfort to inhabitants. On the 26th, Sioux City, Iowa, had a duststorm of considerable severity. The storm approached from the northwest,

visibility was reduced to 200 feet for a period of 10 minutes, and the wind maintained a velocity of 67 miles per hour from northwest for a period of 5 minutes. One and twenty-three hundredths inches of rain was recorded at the Weather Bureau Station. Damage was confined mostly to windows and trees. A dense duststorm on the 12th in northeastern Montana reduced horizontal visibility to nearly zero and effected considerable soil erosion.

There were no reports of loss of life due to duststorms in the month of June.



Number of days with duststorms or dusty conditions, June 1936.

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C. FITZHUGH TALMAN, *in Charge of Library*

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