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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SOME TORNADOES AND HAILSTORMS

Among some of the unusual features of the past four months have been the occurrence of great tornados and hailstorms. June 29 a tornado of the utmost violence swept parts of the south shore of Lake Erie, killing 83 people and destroying \$13,000,000 worth of property, mostly in Lorain, Ohio. September 21 another northern tornado killed 56 in central and northern Wisconsin. July 17, Lawrence, Mass., and vicinity were visited by a tremendous hailstorm in which some of the stones were larger than baseballs and knocked people unconscious. An hour later a tornado swept through Fitchburg, Mass., and vicinity, killing two people. August 15, two hailstorms swept across the northeastern corner of Wyoming on about the same path, the second one, with stones as large as hen eggs, destroying most crops and small animals over a strip several miles wide and over 80 miles long, and on the 17th, another hailstorm, with stones even larger, cut another path through this region, and developed into a tornado. During the hailstorms those people in the open who could lie in the ice water under their autos were fortunate. One man in danger of drowning under his machine came out and was knocked down several times by hailstones coming through an egg case he was holding up for protection.

These violent storms occurred in each case, except the Wyoming storms, when a warm, and mostly very muggy southerly wind was being violently displaced and whirled aloft by a strong and much colder wind from almost the opposite direction. These conditions marked the inner portions of some intense "lows". That of September responsible for the Wisconsin storm was a combination of two lows from the southwest. The first prepared the temperature contrasts, and the second intensified them and made the local storm.

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Tomorrow: "Travels of Air".  
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