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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE LAKES AS STORM MAGNETS

The storminess of the Great Lakes in autumn results largely from the storm making facilities of the Lakes at this season. The Lake surface waters are relatively warm compared with the coldness of the surrounding lands, and provide not only a smooth surface for the winds to blow over and a local supply of moisture for increased storm energy, but also by their warmth tend to keep the air over the region expanded and of lower pressure than over the surrounding land. Low pressure areas, therefore, crossing the continent on lines that must come more or less near the Lakes find there a greater opportunity to develop than elsewhere.

The increased winds and precipitation are most detrimental to Lake shipping, and are not inconsequential to the inhabitants of the Lake shore cities and the railroad lines skirting the Lakes. Population centers on the south and east sides of the Lakes, must at this time of year and till well along in January go without more than 2 or 3 hours sunshine on the average each day, and they must endure not only occasional burying snowstorms, but also periods of continuous light snowfall, altogether, on the average, some 60 or more days with measurable snowfall during the cold season. One storm may not clear off before the next one has flung its forward cloud sheet overhead.

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