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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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UNUSUAL WORLD WEATHER

Occasionally we read of a "record-breaking" flood or drouth in some foreign region. And thereby we gain the impression that the weather of this season or this year is very unusual. Perhaps it is, but other record breaking conditions have been occurring year after year in various parts of the world. Better reporting rather than more weather may be the reason for some of the apparent increase of extraordinary weather in distant parts of the world. In however disconnected fashion the reports may reach us, we find that meteorologically produced disasters do not occur in haphazard fashion, but are closely related to departures from normal in major wind systems.

The Eurasian wind systems from June to September, 1924, for example, appear to have been developed with extraordinary intensity. The southern and central interior of Eurasia, becoming unusually hot and dry, seems to have been partly responsible for the strong indraft and heavy rains over western and central Europe. American tourists who were in Europe the past summer have not yet stopped complaining of the frequent and enduring rains there. In southeastern Asia the unusual strength and wetness of the onshore monsoon was associated with a rather free passage of that wind all the way from the sub-tropical belt of high pressure in the southern hemisphere across the equator and into Asia. Very great floods, especially in China, occurred in consequence.

(Tomorrow: Recent Floods and Drouths Abroad)

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