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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RAIN OR SNOW?

Grown-ups, as well as children, are often eager to know whether an expected storm is more likely to bring rain or snow. A few degrees difference in temperature may cost a city tens of thousands of dollars, if it means a heavy snowfall which must be removed from the streets, instead of a rain which runs away of its own accord. Or, an ice storm may prove even more costly.

Heavy snows accompany a well-marked "low" with a cold, well-marked "high" north of it. Temperatures below freezing should prevail north of the storm center, temperatures from 24 degrees to 30 degrees Fahrenheit being probably most favorable for heavy snowfall. In general, snow falls to the north of the path of the center of the low, the heaviest occurring in a belt about 100 to 200 miles from the central track.

Sleet may occur with the same pressure distribution as snow. Sleet starts to fall as slush drops or rain, formed in a warm, moist, southerly wind aloft, and freezes as it falls through a lower stratum of cold air. If such rain does not freeze till coming in contact with the cold ground itself we have an ice storm. Whenever either rain and sleet or heavy snow is indicated, then people in the East, for example, may expect rain and sleet when warm southerly winds prevail over the south Atlantic and Gulf States, and snow when those regions are cool. Places that are likely to be south of the track of the storm center may expect snow or sleet at the beginning, changing to rain with air temperatures rising above freezing. Localities likely to be north of the track may expect rain or sleet changing to snow as the wind backs to the northwest.

(Tomorrow: Why Does It Rain)

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