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A Science Service Feature

March 16

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University.

DUST STORMS

No housewife is secure from dust. Even in the cleanest region dust is always in the air, occasionally imported in large quantities from great distances.

March is the month when dust storms and mud rains or colored snows are most frequent. A great temperature contrast exists between snow covered north and the dry, bare southern plains. Storms are strong and winds high. At the western edge of the High Plains in Colorado and New Mexico, warm winds or "chinooks" descend boisterously from the mountains and cross semi-desert regions where there is little vegetation to protect the soil. Hundreds of thousands of tons of dust are carried up and blown away by these winds. The dust may travel far, as the wind blows out from the mile high plateau horizontally over the air of the lower central plains. As these dusty gales approach the center of the cyclone, of which they form a part, they are elevated and condensation sets in. Cloud droplets and raindrops or snowflakes form on the dust nuclei and the dirt may finally be brought to earth in the Mississippi Valley, Lake Region, or even the lower St. Lawrence Valley.

(Insert one column diagram sent in matrix form herewith.)

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(Tomorrow: Duration of Snow Cover)

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