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Feb. 6, 1926, but  
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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Jan. 30, 1926

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WINTER FULL BLAST

You would scarcely think that such widely separated regions as Mexico, Panama, and Halifax could all be affected by the same inflow of cold air from the north. It is hard to appreciate the grand scale of our weather operations. Towards the end of January a strong cyclone passing across the country and out to sea was marked by a tremendous movement of northerly wind in its rear, causing the temperature to fall from 20 to 50 degrees throughout eastern North America. The cold wind gave central and southern Texas several inches of snow and even carried the snow blanket 200 miles across the Rio Grande into Mexico. It was reported that many adults saw snow for the first time. Less extended snow accompanied the norther of late December.

Near Panama, a "norther" such as this produces dangerous surf; the swell reaches the Canal Zone although the wind may fail to penetrate the tropics so far. In this storm a vessel outside the harbor was reported in distress. Two ships off Halifax, Nova Scotia, were sending out S.O.S. signals. Their troubles were occasioned by the same general storm combination that carried winter into Mexico and rough seas to Panama.

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21st and B Sts.,  
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