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"? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HEAVY SNOWSTORMS

Sudden heavy snowstorms create the most excitement and the most inconvenience. In the east they are likely to be accompanied by considerable wind which causes drifting and greatly increased depth in cuts and ^{on} the windward sides of obstacles. We are not often snowbound, but the possibility of a big storm is always present.

What are the heaviest snowfalls experienced in 24 hours in different parts of the country? In the Northeast, 2 or 3 feet of snow may fall in that period, according to Prof. A. J. Henry, of the U.S. Weather Bureau. The storm of January 29 to 30, 1925, gave two and a half feet of snow, mostly overnight, in much of west central New York, and 38 inches was measured in one locality, well-known Skaneateles, in the Finger Lake district. In the Ohio Valley not nearly such heavy storms are expected. Eight inches in 24 hours is about the maximum, though along the lower lakes 18 or 20 inches may occur. People never have much trouble digging themselves out in the South, where 4 to 8 inches are the heaviest snowfalls known.

In the Mississippi Valley the greatest 24 hour snowfalls range from about half a foot at Vicksburg to over a foot and a half at St. Louis. The northern plains and Rockies, though cold, are too dry for such heavy snowstorms as are characteristic of the Northeast. Nine to 17 inches on the plains and 8 to 24 inches in the mountains constitute record falls, while the plateau and northern Pacific coast may get 10 to 20 inches.

If these figures are not so impressive as one might expect, remember that some snowstorms last for three days.

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