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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR ON RECORD

Southern California comes forward with another claim for the world's record for the hardest rain in the shortest time. A recent report from Los Angeles says that on the morning of April 5, 1926, at 4:48, 1.02 inches of rain fell in one minute at Opid's Camp in the Big Santa Anita Canyon. It was the water from this heavy downpour of rain that swept down the canyon and caused considerable damage. A total of 23.87 inches is reported for the storm, from April 5 to 8, with 3 inches more added the next day.

Now is this record dependable? It appears likely, for the reporter was Chief Flood Control Engineer Reagan, and the station is a regular Cooperative Station of the Weather Bureau, the observations of which are published by the Government. The station is high in the San Gabriel Range, at an elevation of 4480 feet. It is about 20 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

So far as we know, the only other recorded downpour like this in intensity was that at Porto Bello, Panama, November 29, 1911, at about 2 a.m., when a recording gauge indicated a fall of 2.47 inches in 3 minutes. Southern California apparently holds the world's record also for the most rain in an hour. This was in a couple of cloudbursts on the desert side of the mountains, at Campo, on August 12, 1891. Not less than 11.50 inches of rain fell there in an hour.

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