

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
February 28, 1927

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Feb. 21, 1927

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COLD IN CHINA

Winter visitors to China are impressed by the coldness of Peking and remark on the "blizzards of dust" that greet one who ventures even a little way toward the interior from Peking. War in China in winter means battles with General Cold who is more relentless than the worst enemy. Recently a draft of 300 coolies from the vicinity of the Great Wall was sent to Peking in open cars. On arrival the frozen bodies of all these men were promptly shipped back. In a cold spell lasting two days, as many as 100 poor Chinese were found frozen to death in Peking alone. And Peking is at the latitude of Philadelphia. Snow has been known to fall at Canton, at the latitude of Havana.

Why is eastern China so cold in winter? When we recall that it is on the eastern margin of the largest continent, facing the largest ocean, and that the piling up of cold air in winter over large land masses tends to make north or northwest winds on the eastern margin, we can understand why China has cold winds in winter and why these are so much more persistent than those of eastern North America.

When this cold wind travels over the sea and then is forced to rise over the backbone of Japan lying athwart the great flow of air, heavy snowfall results.

Ninety-one persons were recently reported killed in the Niigata prefecture by what was called the worst snowstorm in 50 years, while some days earlier 46 were said to have met their death in an avalanche near Takata, in the same region. Takata is near the seacoast on the northwest slope of Komaga Take, a mountain 10,300 feet high. It is but 100 miles northwest of Tokio, and in the latitude of Norfolk.

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