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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THUNDERSTORM PILOT CLOUDS

When thundery weather approaches we are commonly favored with the blown cirrus tops from the advancing thunderstorm zone. At first, these are thin clouds of indefinite shape or position, but soon the later clouds, when seen in profile, take on definite outlines of drawn out thunderstorm anvils, locally, decidedly dense in character. They are more or less rounded tufts in well-defined groups of moderate extent, but usually longer than wide.

Finally, when ^{the} thundery zone is at hand, the sunset shadows of some particularly dense cloud may divide the sky into dark and light bands, and definite thunderstorm tops may begin to occupy the sky. Here on the north is a long projection eastward from a solid-looking cloud. In the south, the prow of the pilot cloud of another thunderstorm is making its passage. It may be seen that the storms themselves are some hours behind the cloud front, and that the storms are moving with the free air which has a course virtually in line with the wind that draws the pilot cloud ahead.

So when a dense pilot cloud approaches and passes overhead look out for a shower soon. If you are traveling look out ahead and choose an alternative route according to the prospective path of a shower. It is sometimes practicable to make a short detour while a shower passes.

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