

Released on receipt
but intended for use
February 24, 1928.

A Science Service Feature

Mailed February 18, 1928.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

THE SNOWS OF CALIFORNIA

California is generally thought of as a land of warmth and sunshine rather than as a region of heavy snow, yet this state comes near to holding the North American record for depth of snowfall. Probably no other part of the continent, with the exception of some lofty slopes of the Cascade Range in the state of Washington, receives as much of the "beautiful" each winter as California's High Sierra.

The heaviest snowfall thus far measured in these mountains occurs at Tamarack, in Alpine County, about 8,000 feet above sea level. The average here is 38 feet of snow a year, and as much as 74 feet have fallen in a single season. Fifty miles southwest of Tamarack, at an altitude of 700 feet, is a weather station at which the yearly snowfall amounts to barely one inch! California is famous for these climatic contrasts.

The mountain snowfields of the state are worth more than all the gold buried beneath the soil, for their gradual melting during the long, dry summers supplies a fairly constant supply of water for irrigation, power-production and municipal use.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.