

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A HAUNT OF THE MIRAGE

Some parts of the world are famous for weird exhibitions of mirage. A region that has acquired something of a reputation in this respect is the Red River valley along the boundary between Minnesota and North Dakota. Dr. Warren Upham, the geologist, writes on the subject as follows:

"The mirage, typical of plains country or the ocean, may be seen in the Red River valley almost any sunshiny day in spring, summer or autumn. This queer phenomenon makes the high land at the sides of the valley and the tops of the distant trees and houses appear to be raised a little above the horizon, with a narrow strip of sky between.

"The more complex and astonishing effects of mirage may be seen from the highland on either side. There, in looking across the valley from one and a half to two hours after sunrise on a hot morning following a cool night, the groves, houses, villages and grain elevators loom up to two or three times their true height, and places ordinarily hidden by the curvature of the earth are brought into view. Oftentimes, too, these objects are seen double, being repeated in an inverted image close above their real position and separated from it by a fog-like belt. In its most perfect development the mirage shows the upper and topsy-turvy portion of the view quite as distinctly as the lower and true portion."

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