

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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CLIMATIC TRAVELS*

In the middle latitudes of North America people may stay at home and yet experience radical changes of climate. This is especially true in winter, when cyclonic storm systems travel most rapidly across the continent and bring the most striking changes of temperature.

J. B. Kincer, of the United States Weather Bureau, has illustrated what he calls "our involuntary climatic travels" in a description of the winter of 1920-1921, which was one of unusual and persistent mildness east of the Rocky Mountains. The high temperatures that generally prevailed were the equivalent of travel over considerable distances to the south.

"The people in central North Dakota," says Mr. Kincer, "climatically speaking spent the winter near the South Dakota-Nebraska boundary line; those at Sioux City, Iowa, at Kansas City; southern Indiana, in northern Tennessee; and Washington, D.C., in southern Virginia.*"

In 1919-1920, an unusually cold winter, Richmond, Virginia, came north, climatically, to Washington to spend the winter, while in 1920-1921 the Virginia capital moved south to Raleigh, North Carolina.

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