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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AMERICA'S HEAVIEST SNOWFALL

What part of North America has the heaviest average snowfall? No positive answer can be given to this question, because snow is measured at comparatively few places in the lofty mountain regions of the western United States and Canada, where the fall is known to be extremely heavy. So far as measurements go, however, the blue ribbon now appears to belong to the upper slopes of Mount Rainier, in the State of Washington.

Until about ten years ago the greatest known snowfall was that occurring in the High Sierra of California along the line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Summit, Placer County, Calif., (altitude 7017 feet), averaged 428 inches of snow a year for a period of 45 years, and Tamarack, Alpine County, Calif. (alt. 8000 feet), 459 inches for 16 years. In the winter of 1906-07 the snowfall at Tamarack amounted to 884 inches, or $73 \frac{2}{3}$ feet. In 1916 measurements were begun at Paradise Inn, on the southeast slope of Mount Rainier, at an elevation of 5500 feet. Since that time, though there have been some breaks in the record, the snowfall at this place has apparently been considerably greater each winter than at either of the California stations. Moreover, it is likely that even heavier snows occur on the southwest slope of the mountain and at the same or higher altitudes.

Lastly, measurements recently begun at Mount Baker Lodge, at an altitude of 4200 feet on Mount Baker, in northern Washington, even surpass those made at Paradise Inn, but the record is still too short to show what may be expected here in future years.

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