

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed May 3, 1929.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

AN INTERESTING CYCLONE

To W. E. Hurd, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, belongs the credit of having brought to the attention of the world the fact that a small area of the Pacific Ocean lying off the west coast of Mexico is one of the chief habitats of tropical cyclones. The storms of this region are of more importance than formerly, on account of the large volume of shipping passing along this coast to and from the Panama Canal.

Hurd has traced the paths of several of these cyclones. Probably the most interesting of them all was one that was first heard of off Acapulco, Mexico, on September 25, 1921. It traveled northwestward and when halfway up the coast of Lower California--beyond which point the cyclones of this region rarely go--it was still characterized by markedly low barometric pressure, as shown by the report of a steamship that encountered it on the 29th. On the 30th it moved inland at about latitude 31 N., as a weak depression, and entered the semi-permanent low-pressure area over southwestern Arizona, which thereupon developed unusual activity, causing remarkably heavy rains in that normally dry region. At Yuma, Arizona, there was a rainfall of 3.65 in 24 hours, which is more than the normal amount for the entire year at that place.

In the early days of October the cyclonic depression traveled northeast across the continent, which it left by way of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. East of Newfoundland, on the 6th, it increased in energy, but it finally disappeared on the 8th near the 25th meridian.

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