

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HAIL IN THE PHILIPPINES

Hail is not common in the tropics, especially near sea level, but it has been reported a few times from the Panama Canal Zone, and a memoir recently published by Father Selga, director of the Philippine Weather Bureau, gives particulars of a large number of cases in the Philippine Islands, at both high and low altitudes.

At Sagada, which is about 5,000 feet above sea level, three hailstorms occurred during the month of April, 1923, and in one of them hail covered the ground in places to a depth of 4 inches. Near Sabangan, in the Lepanto district, another high-level locality, on April 22, 1871, hail did considerable damage to the military barracks and to the rice crop, which was about to be harvested. Some of the hailstones weighed nearly two ounces. Hail has fallen several times at Baguio, the summer capital of the islands.

Father Selga describes about 40 cases of hail falling near sea level, including five at Manila. In several cases damage was done to tobacco, bananas and other crop plants. The most severe hailstorm hitherto recorded in the Philippines occurred at Indang, Cavite, on May 16, 1927, when crops were extensively damaged, poultry killed and window panes broken by hailstones ranging in diameter from half an inch to two inches. The biggest stones took 15 minutes to melt after reaching the ground.

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