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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ICE STORMS

The ice storm is a beautiful and expensive variety of weather, which probably flourishes in greater perfection in North America than anywhere else in the world. The moisture in these storms falls as rain, but forms a coating of smooth, clear ice on cold objects at the earth's surface. The icy deposit is popularly called "sleet," but the Weather Bureau prefers to call it "glaze," as "sleet" is a word of many meanings.

Glaze deposits are often so light as to do no harm. In many cases, however, they cause enormous damage by breaking down the limbs of trees and the wires and poles of the telegraph, telephone and power companies. In the great New England ice storm of November, 1921, it was estimated that a tree of average size received an icy load amounting to five tons. About 100,000 trees were destroyed, and the wire-using industries suffered losses of millions of dollars. Another storm, in December, 1924, tore down 34,000 telephone poles in Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, and put enough mileage of wire out of commission to girdle the globe.

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