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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WIND-ROLLED SNOWBALLS

The formation of what meteorologists call "snow-rollers," though not extremely rare, is uncommon enough to arouse much interest and curiosity wherever it occurs, especially as these wind-made snowballs generally appear in large numbers at one time. Thus in a case observed at Davenport, Washington, on the afternoon of January 17, 1913, according to Edward H. Page, "a strong gust of wind from the southeast blowing for a period of a minute and a half rolled thousands of snowballs, from a particle of snow to big ones as large as ordinary barrels, and resembling in every respect huge rolls of cotton batting."

A statement issued some years ago by the U. S. Weather Bureau says of these curious rolls:

"They are formed by a strong wind when the surface of a light, fluffy snow is so run together and at such a temperature (practically the melting point) as to form a coherent flexible covering. Here and there the wind turns a piece of this cover over, then rolls along the obstruction thus formed until it becomes too heavy to move further, when the roll is done."

The rollers are more or less hollowed out at the ends, so that they have the general shape of a lady's muff. Each lies at the end of a long trough in the snow, marking the path along which the rolling occurred.

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