A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 26, 1930.

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BERG WINDS

Winds that are heated and dried by compression in blowing down a mountain slope have long been known in the Alps as "foehns," and this name is now applied generically to similar winds in other parts of the world. The foehn of the eastern Rocky Mountain slopes in North America is called a "chinook," the wind of the same character blowing down from the Andes in Argentina is called a "zonda," while the hot winds that blow from the interior plateau region of South Africa toward the coast are called "berg winds," the word "berg" being the Dutch for "mountain."

Berg winds sometimes cause a veritable inversion of the seasons, bringing maximum temperatures in winter 15 to 25 degrees higher than those ordinarily occurring in summer. They may blow for only a few hours or for two or three days, and they cause intense discomfort.

On January 22, 1923, a north to north-northwest wind blowing in the Uitenhage Division, in the southern part of the Cape Province, caused a maximum temperature of 117.5 at Uitenhage and 118.0 at Dunbrody. The intense dry heat destroyed crops and caused the death of cattle, poultry, etc., on a large scale.

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