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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 26, 1930.

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THE COST OF WEATHER

The St. Louis tornado of September 29, 1927, cost something like \$50,000,000. Florida suffered losses of \$200,000,000 in the hurricane of September, 1926. The Mississippi flood of 1927 came higher---around \$350,000,000.

A five-day fog over the Thames estuary a few years ago held up all shipping. The time lost was estimated to be worth \$5,000,000.

An estimate of \$200,000,000 a year as the cost of hailstorms throughout the world was formerly current, but is probably too low. The United States Department of Agriculture has recently stated that ten leading agricultural crops in the United States alone suffer from hail to the tune of \$47,500,000 in an average year.

In December, 1924, a severe ice storm prevailed in the middle western United States. In Illinois alone the telephone and telegraph companies figured their losses at \$5,000,000.

According to Prof. J.W. Smith, when the July rainfall in the American corn belt is half an inch below normal, this moderate deficiency reduces the value of the crop by \$150,000,000.

Prof. Ellsworth Huntington estimated the sum total of weather losses of all kinds in a recent year in the United States at \$1,750,000,000.

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