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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TALL WATERSPOUTS

The heights of waterspouts vary all the way from a few feet up to a mile or more, in extreme cases; the average height, according to W. E. Hurd, being about 1,000 feet. An extraordinarily high one was described many years ago by the Australian meteorologist H. C. Russell. This spout was one of 20 observed off Eden, New South Wales, on May 16, 1898, and was estimated by one observer to be "thirty times as high as a clipper ship--say 5,000 feet." A mining engineer, D.R. Crichton, viewing it from the shore, estimated from a theodolite measurement that its height was 5,014 feet. The cones at base and summit were each about 250 feet long and 100 feet wide at their greatest diameter. The rest of the long column was only about 10 feet in diameter. In proportion to its height, this was probably the slenderest waterspout ever observed.

A spout reported as being a mile high and 25 feet in diameter was seen in Escambia Bay, Pensacola, on the afternoon of July 21, 1920. It traveled westward for 10 minutes at the rate of 15 miles an hour, and shortly disintegrated after the lower portion had broken up on shore. A spout said to have been 4,000 or 5,000 feet high was observed from the British S.S. "Kaduna" in the middle of the North Atlantic.

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