

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 17, 1930

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MUD FLOODS

Last August, while a severe drought prevailed over a considerable part of the United States, several local floods, more or less of the cloudburst type, occurred in Utah. In each case quantities of mud, gravel and rocks were washed down from the mountains and spread over lower lands.

One of these "mud floods," on the afternoon of August 2, covered a square mile in an industrial portion of Salt Lake City. Rivers of mud ran down the streets and roads and over the adjacent properties, resulting in damage estimated at \$25,000. On August 9 an immense mud flood rushed out of Cottonwood Creek, Emery County, destroying irrigation works and silting up canals.

On August 11 a roaring torrent of water, mud and rocks issued from Carr's Fork into Markham Gulch, a branch of Bingham Canyon, in the town of Bingham. The flood crushed or half buried about a score of cottages of the Utah Copper Company and a few other residences, piling rocks and slimy earth to a depth of from 1 to 15 feet. The losses here were estimated at \$75,000.

The same day great flows of mud occurred in and near the village of Centerville, Davis County, wrecking many buildings, covering large areas of cultivated fields and orchards, besides highways and railway tracks, and doing damage to a total extent of about \$125,000. Some of the huge rocks transported by this flood weighed from 50 to 150 tons.

Several other floods of similar character occurred in different parts of the state.

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