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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 26, 1930.

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NORTH SEA FLOODS

The recent great floods on European coasts and rivers recall memories of the far worse disasters of this character that occurred at intervals during the middle ages on the shores of the North Sea. On November 11, 1099, a violent storm at high tide flooded the coasts of Holland and England as far south as Kent. The loss of life was evidently very great, but the statement of the chroniclers that 100,000 persons were drowned would be more convincing if we did not find exactly the same estimate made in connection with several subsequent floods.

On November 17, 1218, another storm flood is said to have taken 100,000 lives, while two months later one is credited with a death toll of 36,000. Another flood wrought vast destruction in both England and Holland on October 1, 1250. On January 16, 1362, a storm flood drowned 30 parishes in Eastern Friesland and Schleswig and gave the Friesian Islands their present form. On November 19, 1421, a great flood broke over Friesland, Holland and England, in which 72 towns were submerged and 100,000 lives are said to have been lost. In this storm the Zuyder Zee finally reached its present form. A similar disaster on April 10, 1446, is again stated to have drowned 100,000 people.

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