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December 10, 1930

A Science Service Feature

? THY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 3, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

FOG SUPERSTITIONS

The folklore of fog is not very extensive as compared with the wealth of traditions and superstitious ideas connected with some of the other elements of weather. This seems strange, since no other manifestation of the atmosphere is more impressive or better qualified to be become the subject of picturesque legends.

A few nautical notions relating to this element are recorded in Lieut. Bassett's "Legends and Superstitions of the Sea." He tells of a fog bank that forms at times across a certain cove in Cornwall and is known as the Hooper or Hoola. Its appearance is supposed to portend a storm. He says also that "a mist over the river Cymal, in Wales, is traditionally the spirit of a traitress, who perished in the lake near by; she had conspired with pirates to rob her lord of his domain and was defeated by an enchanter." (The "river Cymal", like many other localities mentioned in Bassett's book, is unknown to geographers.)

The same writer states that a certain lake in Sweden is said, when the sun is warm, to send up a mist like a human form, called "spectre-water."

A distant fog-bank at sea, easily mistaken for land, is known to sailors as "Cape Flyaway." According to a Labrador superstition, fog is produced when a white bear drinks too much water and bursts!

Richard Inwards, in his big work "Weather Lore," records a score or so of weather proverbs relating to fog.

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21st and B Sts.,  
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