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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 4, 1930

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POSTOFFICE METEOROLOGY

Weather has a finger in every pie -- even in the naming of American towns and villages, as anybody may discover who makes a hasty inspection of the alphabetical list of postoffices in the United States Official Postal Guide. Some meteorological names are, however, conspicuously absent from this huge list, while others turn up in parts of the country where one would hardly look for them.

Only two states of the Union contain Snowflakes, and both are in the Sunny South -- Arizona and Virginia. The sole Snowball is in Arkansas. There are Cyclones in Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Pennsylvania, while West Virginia has both a Cyclone and a Tornado; but neither is found in Kansas. Frosts are scattered haphazard; viz, in Louisiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas and West Virginia. North Carolina has a Frosty, while Florida boasts that one of its communities is Frostproof.

Kentucky, far from the ocean, possesses a Tidalwave. Hurricanes are indiscriminately allotted to Alabama, Missouri, New York, Utah and West Virginia. Georgia monopolizes Thunder and Thunderbolt, while Kentucky is the exclusive possessor of a Dewdrop and a Sirocco, besides monopolizing both Rain and Hail. Virginia is the only state containing a Cloud, but a village in Oklahoma is listed as Cloudy. Oregon and Texas possess Rainbows. Mists prevail in Arkansas, California and Oregon. Localities in Alaska, Kentucky and West Virginia proclaim themselves Windy. Illinois harbors the only Gale.

Three familiar features of North American climate unknown to the Post Office Department are Blizzard, Cloudburst and Drought. Strangest omission of all -- not even California possesses a Climate.

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