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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

WIND-BENT TREES

There is no more striking indication of a decided predominance of the winds from a certain quarter than the permanent bending of trees under their influence. Many remarkable examples are found throughout the world; especially on coasts and at the summits of mountains. These include the timberline trees of the Rockies, bent to the eastward; the Monterey cypresses of California, similarly inclined away from the sea; and the trees of the Rhone valley, in France, strongly inclined down-valley under the effects of the mistral.

The typical forms of wind-twisted trees have been classified as follows by a Swiss authority, Prof. J. Fröh:

1. Trunk vertical, but without branches on the windward side.
2. Top of trunk inclined in the direction of the prevailing wind. Crown unsymmetrical; more developed on leeward than windward side.
3. Whole tree inclined and stunted. When growing in clumps, the trees and bushes almost lie on top of one another. Stunting greatest on the windward side of a forest.
4. Trunk and crown may be inclined in different directions. In such cases the inclination of the trunk was caused by strong temporary winds, while that of the crown shows the direction of the prevailing wind.

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