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August 21, 1931

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed August 14, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

LOFTY WINDS

The higher levels of the atmosphere have their characteristic winds, which have acquired new interest and importance with the advent of practical aeronautics. The "prevailing westerlies" of middle latitudes are stronger and more constant at the highest levels attainable by airplanes than they are near the earth's surface. Above the trade winds there are winds called countertrades, or antitrades, which blow from a westerly quadrant, and which can be used to advantage by aviators flying from America to Europe in subtropical latitudes.

Within the tropics, far above the heights at which men fly today -- but perhaps not higher than they will fly in days to come -- are the upper trade winds, or overtrades, blowing from an easterly quadrant some 12 miles above the earth. A supposed easterly wind of the stratosphere, about 15 miles aloft in equatorial regions, has been named the "Krakatoa wind," because it is credited with having carried volcanic dust from the great Krakatoa eruption of 1883 around the globe.

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