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October 16, 1931

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed October 9, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

ANTARCTIC BLIZZARDS

Though the recent Byrd antarctic expedition was located far from Adelie Land, which Sir Douglas Mawson pronounced to be the authentic "home of the blizzard," the American explorers experienced 37 blizzards in the course of a year. In each of these cases the air was so densely charged with snow that objects could be seen at no greater distance than a few feet, and the conditions were so severe as to bring all outdoor activities to a halt. There were many other occasions when the air contained much blowing snow, but these were not recorded as blizzards.

W.C. Haines, Byrd's chief meteorologist, says in a recent article: "Some of the blizzards were very local in character, while others covered a large area. They would usually last from a few hours to two or three days. The one in which Captain Scott's party lost their lives was in progress over a week. The temperature usually rises during a blizzard but this is not always the case. At Little America on July 3, 1929, during a severe blizzard from the southwest, the temperature fell from 43 below zero to 58 below. A maximum wind velocity of 43 miles an hour occurred when the temperature was at its lowest. This perhaps was one of the coldest blizzards, if not the coldest, that has ever been recorded."

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