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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

A WINDY LAND

Writing of the great Tibetan plateau, which he recently visited, C. . .
Suydam Cutting says: "The people of this rugged land have literally conquered the
elements. They are the survival of the fittest. Those who could not combat the
severity of the climate of the higher sections have either moved elsewhere or died
long ago."

The most striking climatic feature of this barren country is the terrific
wind. "The greater the altitude," says Mr. Cutting, "the greater is the wind's
severity. In summer, at fifteen to sixteen thousand feet, it starts blowing between
11 and 12 o'clock noon and blows violently all day until sunset, when it dies down to
a dead calm. At higher elevations it starts earlier, and in winter it blows during
all the daylight hours. The tents of the nomads are perfectly adapted to the windy
land in which they are almost the only shelter, and the natives have learned to per-
fection the art of anchoring them with stones, for tent pegs in such a land would be
useless. Taut ropes keep the tents from rattling and also keep that section of the
tent that is to windward from blowing in. No matter how high the wind, these tents
rarely seem to move or rattle."

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