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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 2, 1932

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WEATHER RECORDS IN COURT

The records of the United States Weather Bureau serve as evidence in an immense number of lawsuits, including cases of personal injury, murder, robbery, arson, loss by fire, divorce, delayed construction work, damage to perishable goods, and so on.

Several years ago, in a robbery case, the verdict hung on testimony regarding the occurrence of heavy rainfall. A home had been robbed one night during a thunderstorm. One of the household claimed he had recognized the family's chauffeur as the burglar. The man was arrested, but at his trial it was brought out from official records that there had been a heavy fall of rain at the time. The chauffeur's shoes were not muddy, and his clothing was proved to have been dry shortly after the robbery. He was acquitted.

In another case a man sued the city of Chicago for damage to goods in his basement. He claimed that the street was defective and had allowed the water from heavy rains to accumulate and cause a flood on the premises. The records showed that there had been no rain or snow for a week before the alleged damage and also that the weather had been so cold that even if water had been in the street it could not have flowed into the basement. The judge instructed the jury to give a verdict in favor of the city.

Most of the claims by shippers against railroads for damage to goods by rain or cold are settled on the basis of weather records without recourse to the courts.

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